



The Newberry News

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Message from the Head of Newberry

Dear Newberry Community,

Although Term 2 started off with a devastating storm, it was such a joy to witness the incredible resilience with which our community bounced back. Day one began with middle schoolers helping to clear storm debris, and Newberry families very generously donated much-needed supplies to affected communities. This was a great example of our greater mission at Newberry House in action, which is to showcase what is possible through quality, authentic Montessori and Cambridge **education**, within a healthy **environment**, through real-life learning **experiences**. We are excited to share a few more examples of these three pillars in action over the following pages:

Education: A massive congratulations for the quality educational outcomes of two of our learners who have been at Newberry for many years: Lu-Chè Stoltz, who was awarded Top in SA for Cambridge IGCSE Environmental Management, and Anna Monametsi, who won first prize for the nationwide Kingsmead College Book Fair Young Writers' Competition. We also celebrate the everyday learning experiences across the school that lay foundations for lifelong learning and make outcomes like these possible.

Environment: We reached a significant milestone through the Eco Schools Diamond Award, which acknowledges the value that Newberry attaches to its environment. Highlights from the past term include our whole-school Earth Week, as well as learners from Elementary, Middle and High School presenting at the national SAMA conference about Newberry's earth stewardship programme.

Experience: There were plenty of opportunities for real-life learning experiences this past term. A few highlights include the year-long journey of the Snack Sisters fulfilling their dream of going on an overseas hockey tour, our Middle Schoolers experiencing what life was like on Robben Island, the Upper Elementary camp at Soetwater and our Pre-primary children enjoying their first sports day.

Regardless of the stormy start to the term, it has been a joy to witness so many examples of resilience and excellence as we continue to embed and live out our mission at Newberry. We wish every person from our community a blessed and restful winter holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in Term 3.

Best regards,





Eco Schools Diamond Decade Year Award

Congratulations!

This special recognition celebrates 10 years of dedicated environmental education, aligning with the Eco-Schools curriculum, which aims to teach environmental education and give learners the opportunity to understand how ecosystems rely on all their organisms to function successfully.

Eco-Schools is the largest global sustainable schools programme, starting in the classroom and expanding to the community by engaging the next generation in action-based learning. This perfectly aligns with our Newberry pillars of Education, Environment and Experience, where our aim is to encourage a lifestyle of environmentally-friendly values across all our age groups, from Toddlers to High School students.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Melanie, who leads this initiative on behalf of Newberry and is pictured here receiving the award.

To find out more, feel free to browse our Eco Schools coffee table book at School reception, which highlights our journey over the past 10 years, or read more about our award in the March 2024 Helderberg Nature Reserve newsletter (page 7).



Outstanding Cambridge Learner Award Nov 2023

A massive congratulations to Lu -Chè Stoltz, who was awarded Top in South Africa for Cambridge IGCSE Environmental Management!

The Cambridge Top Achievers evening was held on 23rd of May at the Westin Hotel in Cape Town to acknowledge top achievers in the November 2023 examination series.

Lu-Chè, a dedicated student, exemplifies remarkable perseverance in her academic pursuits. She firmly believes in enduring short-term discomfort to propel herself toward long-term goals, a mindset that truly pays off. Her unwavering work ethic is commendable; she consistently goes above and beyond what is required. When not at school, Lu-Ché indulges in her passions for music, dance, and drama. Additionally, she serves as a leader in the Voortrekkers organization. Inspired by her mother, Lu-Ché aspires to contribute to the medical field - whether as a doctor, occupational therapist, or in another related role. Her ultimate goal is to make a tangible difference in the world by helping others through her work in healthcare.

Lu -Chè is pictured with her parents and Marelè (EM Teacher) and Pete (Deputy Head).





Kingsmead College Book Fair Winner

Anna Monametsi, one of our Grade 10 learners, is currently making waves in the world of writing and recently brought home first prize for the nationwide Kingsmead College Book Fair - Young Writers' Competition. Here is some feedback from the judges:

"An exceptionally well-written piece set in an intriguing world I'd love to read more about, Anna Monametsi's story is original, pacey and vivid" - **Kristien Potgieter, Author and editor**

"In a short span of time, Anna Monametsi pushes the reader right into a new world, new words, new imagery. As the pace builds, the reader can't help but gulp it up, eagerly waiting for more. This story holds the kernel to a whole book, I hope she pursues it" - **Verushka Louw, Children's Book Sales Manager, Jonathan Ball**

"The opening words ... pull you right into the story, even as you're wondering what they're talking about. This is a skill, as often when authors create futuristic worlds, you risk losing the reader's attention... You create the atmosphere of the stage and the stage personas and outfits, perfectly... Well done - I feel this needs to become a book or a movie!" - **Corinne Rosmarin, writer and organiser of KYW Competition**

As educators we are privileged to witness greatness unfold in our students and I will never forget the first time I read one of Anna's writing pieces. Her work grips your attention from the first sentence you read and leaves you always wanting more. Her striking ability to write with such prowess has left me in a state of awe and still catches me off guard when reading a new piece of hers. I have always been sure that she will go far as an author and I am so proud of her for taking the leap to enter this competition - I never doubted her winning for a second." - **Demi Campbell, Middle School Educator**

Anna, congratulations, we wish you well as you continue to shine a bright light forward for young South African writers!

Snack Sisters Go on Tour!

This year, two young learners (age 15) pursued their passion of playing in an overseas Hockey tour. For those SA's travelling on the Rand currency makes an international adventure a costly affair. These 2 ladies, Hannah and Anna-Rose realised that being able to go on tour would take GRIT and combined their passions for hospitality and hockey.



They started a small business called, 'Snack Sisters' where they made weekly meals for their fellow scholars and educators. This little business soon grew and started catering and baking for parties and celebrations! Each week, these two would combine their studies with physical training and building a small business to fund their adventure. Alongside this, they engaged with individuals who supported their dreams and little by little their dream became a reality.

A year later they boarded a plane along with their team, proudly wearing their kit and beaming as they set off on a 2 week adventure of playing Hockey in Holland and Belgium. There are so many life lessons one can learn through tenacity and GRIT and for these two incredible adventures there are lifelong memories, friendships, community and adventures that speak of the value of holding on and working for your dream.





Out and About

Middle School: Robben Island Visit

Our Newberry Middle School learners have been learning about SA history in their Humanities lessons.

They have held their own democratic elections (for mock parties which they created in class), and learnt about the life and imprisonment of Nelson Mandela, which led to a memorable field trip to Robben Island. Robben Island stands as a place of exile, imprisonment and the struggle during apartheid. After the ferry ride from the V & A Waterfront our learners were able to visit various historical sites around the island. The highlight of the tour was a visit to the Maximum Security Prison, where many of South Africa's freedom fighters were incarcerated for years. Students also got to see Nelson Mandela's cell, a powerful reminder of his resilience and the fight against injustice.

Overall, the experiencing of history and engaging with ex prisoners and guides created a lasting memory. Another example of real-life learning in action!



Upper Elementary: Camp

Upper Elementary embarked on a 3 night and 4 day camp at Soetwater Environmental Centre in Kommetjie recently. It was an unforgettable experience! Over 4 days in the great outdoors, our children had the chance to bond and connect with each other in a whole new way, away from the classroom.

New friendships blossomed as they worked together in their teams to accomplish and conquer all the challenges and activities that came their way. Laughter filled the air as they played games, sang songs, worked together with each unique character in the team, planned and discussed solutions to activities.

Teamwork was essential as they faced challenges like hiking up a steep sand dune, obstacle courses, bird watching, creating team logos on the sand etc. But with encouragement from their peers, each student conquered their fears and accomplished things they didn't think possible.

The fresh air and beautiful natural surroundings were a welcome change from the class. The children had an awesome time exploring the great outdoors and sparked their curiosity and sense of adventure.

This camping trip was a highlight of the school year, creating lasting memories and strengthening the bonds of our school community. We can't wait for next year's adventure!





Out and About

Earth Week

In celebration of Earth Day, we arranged an “Earth Week” across all planes to raise awareness of environmental issues. Some of the initiatives from each of the planes are shown in the photos:

- Our **Toddlers** actively engage with their environment every day. You can often see them raking leaves, caring for indoor plants, and nurturing seeds. These activities foster gross motor skills, boost confidence and encourage ownership of their environments.

- Our **Lower Elementary** students created “Earth Mobiles” using recycled materials. This activity not only highlighted the beauty that can often be found in discarded items but also reinforced this year’s Earth Day theme of ‘Planet vs Plastic’.

- Our **Upper Elementary** learners had the privilege of having a “Going Out” to the Earth Box on Lourensford Estate. It is an immersive experience that brings together artistry, geology and engineering 6 metres under the earth. The learners had the following to say: “We had an awesome time at the Earth Box for Earth Day! It was so cool to go underground and feel the rocks and walls—it felt peaceful and calm. Walking through the long tunnel was fun, especially with our audio headphones guiding us. After the tour, we loved stepping barefoot into pebbles in the water. It was a great Earth Day adventure!”

- Additionally, 5 of our Newberry learners had the honour of presenting one of the main sessions at the national South African Montessori Association (SAMA) Conference held at the Sustainability Institute in May. Our learners, hailing from **Elementary, Middle School** and **High School**, were interviewed and shared their experiences from the Edible Curriculum being implemented at Newberry.



Lower Elementary: Movie Night

The recent outdoor movie night with our Lower Elementary children was a huge hit, where they watched ‘The Lorax’ under the night sky on the Newberry campus.

As the sun set, they gathered on blankets and lawn chairs, armed with popcorn and lots of “gees”!

What a fun way to connect outside the classroom and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors.





Sports Talk

Pre-Primary Athletics Day

We recently held our first Newberry Pre-Primary Athletics Day!

Our Pre-primary children had a fun morning which included relay races, jumping over hurdles and playing ring toss.

Parents came out to support their little ones and cheers were heard all round. The focus of the Athletics Day was on having fun whilst moving. Thank you to every member of the Pre-primary team and parent who supported the morning!



Soccer Appreciation

The Newberry House Soccer teams have been fortunate to collaborate with a dedicated coaching staff led by Robyn Johannes, with support from Yann du Bois and Louw Burger. These coaches diligently nurture our young teams, helping them develop strong skills and team spirit. Robyn, a former Bafana Bafana and Cape Town City Captain, conducts Coerver skills coaching clinics for our students on a weekly basis. His lessons are grounded in the World's Number 1 Soccer Skills Teaching Method.

We express our deep gratitude to these coaches for their patience, unwavering dedication, and expertise in working with our students.





Community Upliftment

As many of you may have heard, the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation recently rescued over 200 critically endangered turtle hatchlings who were stranded in the storm a few weeks ago. Turtle heroes from up and down the coast brought these precious animals to the aquarium, and their turtle team has been working around the clock to stabilise, treat, and feed them. They will need to keep them there until after winter, so they can safely release them into the ocean in summer.



As an eco-school, Newberry families stepped in to make a donation to this cause and help with the survival of the young turtles.

Following on from the storm, we would also like to thank the Newberry families that supported and donated much needed supplies, clothing, food and academic materials to the families in need in our community. Zola, Nomzamo and Asanda Village were badly effected by the storms of last week and seeing the kindness of others makes a positive impact to the lives of our community, schools and educare centres.



Thank you to all the Newberry families for their speedy response and kindness to these causes.



At the start of Term 2 our beautiful campus was full of branches and leaves from the incredible storm that hit the previous day. Our students were reminded again that despite the challenges and obstacles of life, you can still bring yourself and make a positive impact. They not only brought themselves to campus but spent time clearing, cutting, raking and tidying their physical space.

A reminder that kindness goes a long way and makes a big impact, literally one branch at a time. The physical damage takes effort and hard work to fix, so too does making a lasting impact!



Lourensford Community News



LOURENSFORD

ANNO 1700

Food Truck District - Weekends during Winter

A new Food Truck District is being offered at Abru. Come and visit us!
Fridays 15h00 - late, Saturdays 11h00 - late & Sundays 11h00 - 17h00

Ghenwa's Culinary Club

Saturdays 15 & 29 June: Cooking Workshops with Ghenwa's Culinary Club.
Book at info@ghenwasculinaryclub.co.za or whatsapp on 072 952 3348

Artjamming

15 June (Saturday) - 5 July (Friday): Kid's Holiday programme at
Artjamming. Email swstudio@artjamming.co.za or 082 560 3866

Earthbox

15 June (Saturday) - 7 July (Sunday): Special family hour at Earthbox
between 9 & 10 am during the school holidays where kids under 5 enter
free (open Thursdays to Sundays)

Poetry Evening

21 June (Friday): An intimate Poetry Evening in front of the fire with
Dorian Haarhoff. Your R200 ticket includes a bottle of wine! Book through
Activitar

Millhouse Kitchen

27 June (Thursday): A French Affair Wine dinner where old vs new
vintages of Lourensford wines will be shown alongside exquisite French
Bistro fare by Chef Gustaaf from Millhouse Kitchen.
R550pp | bookings@millhousekitchen.co.za

Earthbox

29 June (Saturday): Play by Nature returns to Earthbox to host another
nature inspired workshop.



Newberry House

MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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