



## ST DUNSTAN'S PREPARATORY NEWSLETTER

EASTER TERM | ISSUE 3 | 19.02.2026

### A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Schools have long recognised the importance of reading. Fostering a love of reading is a crucial role that teachers and parents play in the lives of children.

Researchers have discovered that reading is not simply a mechanism to acquire knowledge; one of the significant ways in which reading positively impacts our thinking is through perspective-taking. When reading, we find ourselves thinking about characters in books with perspectives very different from our own, which allows us to grow in emotional intelligence and empathy. Our brains show significant increases in activity when we read, not just in the language centres.

According to Marianne Wolf, a literacy scholar and professor of childhood development, deep reading nourishes our capacity for attention and empathy. Other crucial skills developed include:

**Language and Literacy Skills:** Reading daily, even in infancy, stimulates brain development, aids language acquisition, and strengthens communication skills.

**Cognitive Development:** It enhances concentration, critical thinking, and logical reasoning.

**Emotional and Social Growth:** Books help children understand and manage emotions, develop empathy by experiencing different perspectives, and foster social skills.

**Imagination and Creativity:** Reading sparks creativity and allows children to explore new worlds, ideas, and cultures.

**Academic Success and Knowledge:** Early exposure to books improves academic performance, helps children learn about the world, and prepares them for school.

**Bonding Time:** Reading together provides a quiet, shared experience that strengthens the emotional bond between parents and children.

**Mental Wellbeing:** It promotes relaxation, reduces stress, and fosters a lifelong love of learning.

Without doubt, a focus on reading is beneficial for all children. In 2025, the Preparatory School embarked on a drive to focus on reading and improve this skill across the grades. Introducing the **'Time to Read'** Programme was a crucial first step. The same system is being used by the St Dunstan's Pre-School. This cohesion between the schools allows for more rapid acquisition of reading skills. In addition, the library has been upgraded and a part-time librarian employed.

We are excited about the positive benefits these changes will bring. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage parents to work in partnership with the school by encouraging their children to read. My hope is that the Half-Term break will prove to be a time of recuperation, relaxation, and perhaps time spent reading a good book. School reopens on Tuesday, 24 February.

God bless,

*Matthew Moolman*

# **CULTURAL HOUR: CROCHETING**



**EVERY  
THING  
MATTERS**



# **CRICKET VS HURLYVALE**



Enhancing our standing as a leading independent, co-educational Christian school.

**EVERY  
THING  
MATTERS**



# **ATHLETICS AT FARRARMERE PRIMARY**



Enhancing our standing as a leading independent, co-educational Christian school.

# **SWIMMING AT ST DOMINIC'S**



# SWIMMING AT COLIN MANN



# SWIMMING AT COLIN MANN



# **CRICKET VS ST CATHERINE'S**



## **U9 CRICKET**



**EVERY  
THING  
MATTERS**

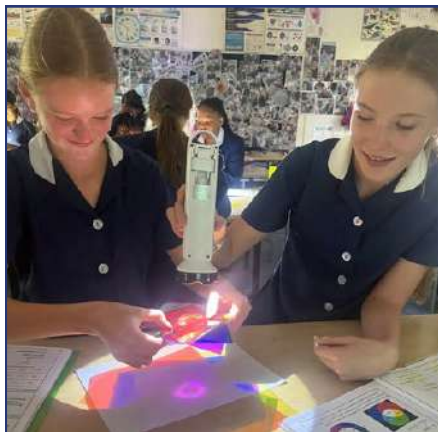
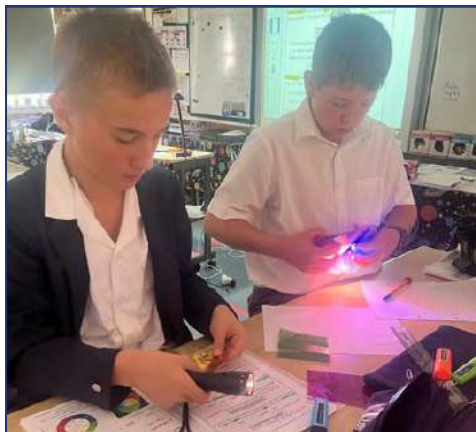


# **INTER-PRIMARY ATHLETICS**

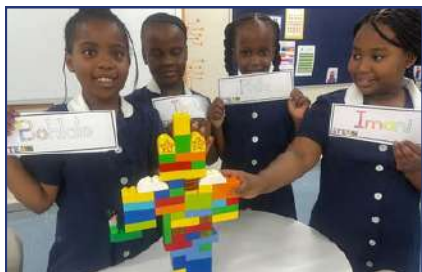


Enhancing our standing as a leading independent, co-educational Christian school.

# GRADE SIX: SCIENCE



# GRADE THREE: STEAM



# VALENTINE'S DAY



# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



**EVERY  
THING  
MATTERS**



# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



Enhancing our standing as a leading independent, co-educational Christian school.

# **GRADE FIVE: INTEGRATED LEARNING**



# GRADE 5: SCIENCE



# SHROVE TUESDAY

Thank you to all the moms, dads, guardians, aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends who helped make over 2000 pancakes for every student, teacher and staff member at St Dunstan's College. (more pictures on Facebook)



# PANCAKE RACES



# LEARNING TO SWIM



## **DATES TO DIARISE**

Tuesday, 24 February	Return from Half-Term Break
Thursday, 26 February	Athletics - District Meeting
Friday, 27 February	Reading Picnic (Grade 1-4)
Monday, 2 March	Community Service Day (Grade 1-7)
Friday, 6 March	Swimathon
Friday, 13 March	International Pi Day
Tuesday, 17 March	Grade 6 and 7 Informal Music Evening
Wednesday, 18 March	Sexuality Education (Parents Information Evening)
Thursday, 19 March	Grade 4 and 5 Informal Music Evening
Friday, 20 March	Grade 4-7 Quiz

## **PLEASE NOTE:**



### **SECOND HAND SHOP**

Our second hand shop is located at **51 Baines Street**, and is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 13:00 to 14:30.



Please remember that St Dunstan's College has implemented a cashless system since the beginning of the year. If you would like your child to make purchases from the Tuck Shop please provide them with either a Karri card or a bank card.  
Thank you for your support and understanding.



### **ST DUNSTAN'S COLLEGE IS CASHLESS**

*(Bank cards accepted)*

## **BIRTHDAYS**



Happy Birthday to the following staff and pupils who celebrate their birthdays from 7th February to 19th February 2026.

Suvaan Moonsamy, Mihle Mabuza, Gus McLeod, Charlotte Sammons, Khumo Mngomezulu, Lingo Mfimi, Khutjo Raseala, Senamile Malinga, Claudia Pereira, Dhanav Singh, Logan McGill, Lionel Takawira, Fallon Blake, Finley Blake, Viaharen Naidoo, Nathan Mc Donald, Nina Roos and Tumi Sebela.