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NEW STORIES EVERY TERM!!!
THE SNUFFELS
FREE
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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ANNOUNCEMENT

VRL KAMP

Katryn Dixon - Graad 12

"The ability to learn is the most important quality a leader can have." - Padmasree Warrior

Op 8 Januarie 2026 het die leerlingraad van 2026 die voorreg gehad om te leer oor leierskap by die beste van die beste. Ons was by Camp Genesis in Tulbagh. Die program was vol leierskapontwikkelingsaktiwiteite soos river rafting en BMX. Daar was ook 'n obstacle course wat ons as 'n span saam moes aanpak.

Dit het ons werklik geleer om in die moeilike tye en die minder lekker tye mekaar deur te trek en selfs geluk in daardie oomblikke te vind.

Ons het saam herinneringe gebou soos karaoke night, dodgeball, nagmars, ensovoorts. Die kamp het ons leerlingraad goed saamgetrek en voorberei vir die jaar
om ander HSH-leerders te dien.

MATRIC SUNRISE

THE START OF THE END

Carla Conradie - Grade 12

It was the first day of school. For some a scary, new experience or even one filled with excitement. For others it was the very last, first day of a new school year.

At dawn, all the matric learners gathered at the sportsground, filled with the anticipation for the start of this bittersweet year. The morning air was buzzing with laughter, in contrast with the fatigue, that was still felt deep in our bones from the holidays. We captured the memory with photos. Later, we all made ourselves comfortable on the pavilion, coffee warming our hands. We listened to a few heartwarming speeches then watched the sun rising, while the world around us was getting painted an orange hue, signifying the start of our final year.

After this meaningful moment, the celebration continued as we were driven around town. With music blasting and spirits high, we proudly waved to passersby and cheered together. The experience unifying us as the Class of 2026.

When we returned to school, we were welcomed with a standing ovation from the rest of the learners and staff as we made our way to our seats for assembly. This warm reception made us feel honoured and reminded us of the responsibility we now carry as the senior class of the school. One which we will try our best to fulfil.

As the sun rose on our final year, it also illuminated the memories we have made and the future that awaits us. The Matric Sunrise reminded us that although this chapter of our lives is coming to an end, the bonds we share and the lessons we carry, will last far beyond our school years.

GRAAD 8 ONTGROENING

WAAR VREEMDELINGE VRIENDE WORD

Jessica Kotzé – Graad 12

Angs, opgewondenheid en nuuskierigheid - so kan 'n mens die graad 8's se eerste dae tydens ontgroening beskryf. By Hoërskool Hopefield vorm hierdie jaarlikse program 'n belangrike deel van die verwelkoming van nuwe leerders. Oor 'n tydperk van twee weke het die graad 8's aan verskeie aktiwiteite voor skool en tydens pouses deelgeneem, onder leiding van die matrieks, natuurlik.
Ontgroeningsdag was 'n besondere hoogtepunt. Van prettige uitdagings tot kreatiewe opdragte, het hierdie dag gesorg vir baie lag, spanwerk en onvergeetlike herinneringe - 'n dag vol "scavenger hunts", watergevegte en talle "thank you's".
Die terugvoering van die graad 8's was dat hulle die bangste vir "Your Royal Highness" Chloé en "Your Majesty" Wijan was! Tog het selfs dié vrees gou plek gemaak vir lag en respek. Die matrieks het deurentyd seker gemaak dat hierdie ervaring positief en opbouend bly.
Vir die matrikulante self het ontgroening 'n dieper betekenis. Dit simboliseer nie net die begin van 'n nuwe hoofstuk vir die graad 8's nie, maar ook die begin van die einde van hulle hoërskool reis. "Dit is ongelooflik om te sien hoe leerders wat aan die begin onseker was, uit hul gemaksone klim en elke dag meer selfvertroue kry", sê lede van die VRL.
Die doel van ontgroening strek egter verder as bloot tradisie. Dit mag dalk aanvanklik soos 'n vreesaanjaende tydperk voorkom, maar mettertyd besef 'n mens hoe lekker en betekenisvol dit werklik is. Dit leer jou die skool se waardes en kultuur ken en maak jou deel van die HSH-familie. 'n Hartlike welkom aan 2026 se graad 8's.

DONKERGAT

Ewout Oosthuizen and Wikus Redelinghuys – Grade 12

At the start of 2026, the Hopefield rugby boys in the u/19 and u/16 teams, took part in a demanding teambuilding camp at Donkergat that tested body, mind and character. For more than 24 intense hours, based at Donkergat military facility, players pushed through the cold night, early morning and tough drills designed to strengthen their skills, unity and resilience.

Teams were split apart and faced different challenges throughout the evening, night and cold morning, doing PT-drills, carrying heavy objects and facing tough challenges.

Players were taught how to perform as a team and were challenged to step out of their comfort zones through exercises led by navy soldiers. Each part of the visit to Donkergat was a journey on its own, creating memorable experiences and stories that could later be shared. Stories that would both entertain and intimidate the juniors facing the same trials in years to come.

The iconic 10+ meter jump off the tower was nothing but thrills, with each member having to make the jump. A moment of pure excitement, uncertainty, and fear raced through every boy standing at the top, confronted with the reality of having to jump down...

The Donkergat teambuilding camp was not an easy weekend — it was intentionally tough. But for the under-19 and under-16 rugby squads of Hopefield, those demanding 24-plus hours at the military base delivered exactly what the camp set out to achieve: tougher bodies, sharper teamwork, and a generation of young men better prepared to meet challenges on the rugby field, and in life.

BOKKIE SOKKIE

Maddison Goddard - Grade 11

On 21 January, HSH hosted its annual 'Bokkie Sokkie'.

While the 'sokkie' was only compulsory for Grade 8s and Matrics, the dance floor was jam-packed. Even with the large number of attendees, the Grade 8s certainly stood out. With knee-high socks and clothing worn inside out, blending in was never an option. However, the unique appearances of the Grade 8s did not stop anyone from dancing the night away.

That is the beauty of a HSH 'sokkie'. No matter how out of place you look, or whether you have two left feet, all insecurities and worries are put aside to enjoy the night alongside your friends.

The 'Bokkie Sokkie' of 2026 was a high-energy reminder that despite our differences, we are all part of the same family: The HSH family.

INTERHOUSE ATHLETICS

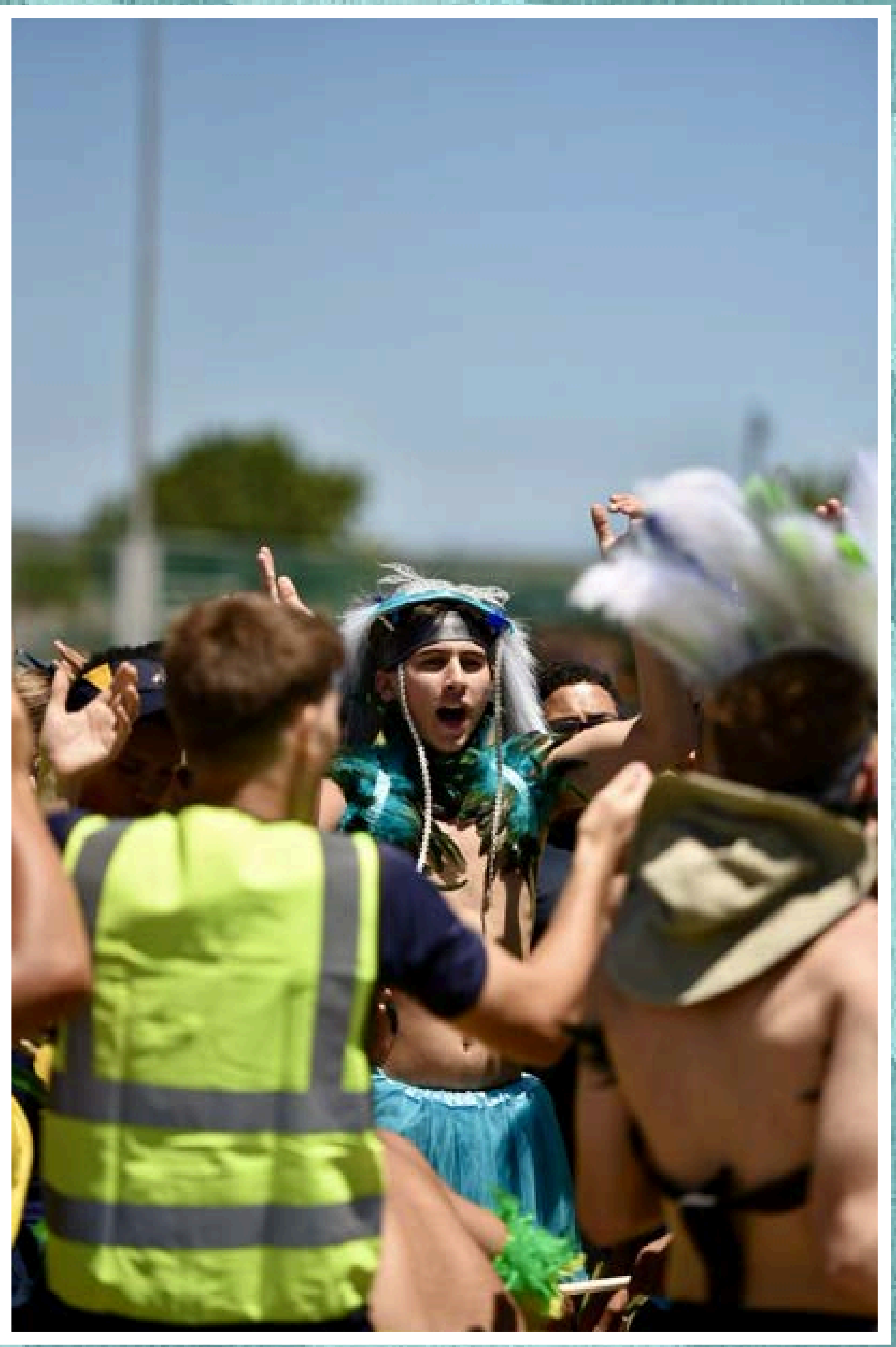
Maritza Harmse - Grade 12

Two days. One field. An explosion of energy and school pride. Interhouse Athletics 2026 had arrived - and the learners of HSH went big.

The Blue team embraced their Avatar theme, transforming the sports grounds into their own version of the magical planet Pandora. The Gold team brought wedding vibes and showed absolutely no signs of getting cold feet. Both teams looked incredible, both gave it their all... and both felt the adrenaline.

On the track, it was speed without brakes: sprints that you could miss in the blink of an eye, relay batons being passed with lightning speed, and every athlete using every second with determination. On the field, it was an explosion of power and skill: high jumpers reaching for the sky, long jumpers pushing the limits, and shot putters giving it everything they had. Point by point, jump by jump, metre by metre, the battle intensified and the excitement only grew.

After a mighty contest, the Blue team claimed the Interhouse Athletics title. But they didn't stop there. Their energy, co-ordination, and constant support also earned them the Spirit Cup. Double victory, double pride.



FOUNDERS DAY

FUN HSH HISTORY FACTS

Maritza Harmse - Grade 12

DEFINING MOMENTS:

· 1923 – A High School is born. Hopefield officially becomes a high school
· 1928 – The boys' hostel started as a hostel for underprivileged learners. It eventually got renamed Voorreg and finally Huis Walters.
· 1939 – Huis Eureka opened, giving girls a proper home-away-from-home.

Did you know the first official teacher, Mr J. H. Janssen, only got paid R150 a year?

WATTER VAKKE SOU JY GEHAD HET IN 1974?

o Standerds 8, 9 10 (of Graad 10, 11 en 12)
-Afrikaans
-Engels
-Biologie
-Wiskunde/Tik/Houtwerk/Geskiedenis/Naaldwerk/ Bedryfsekonomie/Wetenskap/Rekeningkunde/Letterkunde
o Standerd 7 (Graad 9)
-Afrikaans
-Engels
-Wiskunde
-Wetenskap
-Geskiedenis-Aardrykskunde
-Rekeningkunde/Naaldwerk/Houtwerk/Tik
o Standerd 6 (Graad 8)
-Afrikaans
-Engels
-Wiskunde
-Geskiedenis-Aardrykskunde
-Wetenskap
-Rekeningkunde
-Houtwerk/Huisvlyt (Tegniese Oriëntering)

GRYNTJIES GOUD VAN HSH SE 50 JAAR GEDENKSBLAD:

o 'n Opregte vriend is iemand wat jou troos as jy ongelukkig voel.
o Sodra jy sien jy gaan kwaad word, hou jou mond dig, sodat hulle nie jou bloed kan sien kook nie.
o Om iets te ontdek, is om nog 'n las op jou skouers te plaas.
o Een van die sterkste bewyse van vriendskap, is om aan jou vriend al sy foute in die oor te fluister en sy goeie eienskappe onder sy oog te bring.

INTERHUIS SWEMGALA

HSH-SWEMMERS IN AKSIE

Niena Viljoen en Anya Nel – Graad 10

Hoërskool Hopefield se jaarlikse swemgala is sonder twyfel 'n hoogtepunt gevul met aksie, pret en onvergeetlike oomblikke. Met elke duik en sprong, het Hopefielders beslis hul "HSH Guts" vertoon.

Die middag het begin met die matrieks se dapper duike om munte diep onder die wateroppervlak te soek, 'n prettige en spesiale oomblik om hul laaste HSH-swemgala in styl af te sluit. Die graad 8's het hul gees ten volle uitgestal, deur almal te vermaak met vrolike sang en energieke danse langs die pawiljoen.

Volgens Mnr Francios Schippers, het die swemgala sy verwagting oortref, veral met die hoeveelheid leerders wat aan die Tweekamp item deelgeneem het. As gevolg van uitstekende deelname en uithouvermoë het die GOUD-span gewen!

WESKUS ATLETIEK

Juandre Corrie – Graad 12

Dit was Vrydag, 6 Februarie, en tyd vir Weskus atletiek. Terwyl van die hoërskool kinders geslaap en gedroom het van vakansie, het die atlete vroeg opgestaan om hul harde werk en talente te gaan uitbeeld by Veldrif se sportgronde. Nie hitte of dorings kon die Hopefielders stop nie. Soos 'n golf het hul eerste, tweede en derde plek in al hulle items gewen.

Weskus atletiek is die tweede stap op pad Boland toe, dus was dit 'n belewenis om Hopefield se deursettingsvermoë en gees te sien op daardie Vrydag. Daar is nie 'n amptelike wenner nie, maar as ek moes raai dan sou ek sê dat Hopefield verseker wegstap met al die bekers en pryse.

Ster atlete van die dag was onder andere Danré Briel wat 'n derde van 'n rugbyveld gooi met 'n spies, Izabella Schnetler wat die 3kg bal gewig so maklik soos 'n tennisbal gooi en Angell Pholman wat gedomineer het in al haar hardloop items sodat haar kompetisie slegs die stof kon sien.

Hopefielders oorvloei met gees en energie, maar die vriendelikheid en groet het soos altyd uitgestaan.

Die atlete kon daai dag moeg, maar tevrede vertrek omdat almal geweet het dat dit eintlik 'n Hopefield wen was.

Foto's op hierdie bladsy deur Francois Schippers

INTERSKOLE ATLETIEK

Almari van Niekerk – Graad 11

Interskole atletiek se atmosfeer is een van sy soort. Die sweet en harde werk van die atlete, die ligte wat helder op die atletiekbaan weerkaats en stemme wat eggo deur Hopefield se strate. Alles is topklas en 'n fees om te beleef: die atletiek, gees, spanwerk en aflos: Topklas.
HSH's athletes were incomparable with their endless victories, countless podiums and astounding records. All eyes were on Hopefield. These statistics made the final result inevitable, a testament to all our athletes' dedication and Hopefield guts.
HSH se gees vorm deel van 'n ongelooflike tradisie. As Graad 8's word jy vertel dat dit jou plig as 'n bokkie is om die paweljoen lewendig te hou. Daar was altyd die uitdaging gestel dat die gees só goed moes wees dat jy die paweljoene by Porterville moes verpletter. Daar was altyd gepraat van die legendariese Graad 8's van 2022 wat die hout kapoet gespring het. (Spesiale vermelding aan die Graad 11's wat hulle graad ag jaar nie een, maar twee planke halveer het!)
Now the Interschools are no longer held in Porterville but on our home field. The legendary Grade 8's of 2022 are grown-up Grade 12's and leading the newcomers in their chants! A lot has changed, but the unity and spirit of HSH is unwavering. The pavilion was on fire, electric and astonishingly crowded with HSH students singing with one voice.
Die klimaks van die byeenkoms was wel ons asemrowende aflosspanne. Selfs die wat niks van atletiek geweet het kon Hopefield se oorheersing waardeer. Die eerste been het alle fokus op die wegspring gehad asook wie daardie eerste indruk bewerkstellig. Die oorgee na die tweede been het opgebou tot onvergelykbare spoed. By die derde been se draai het atlete gewerk om gapings te behou, en hul span in die beste posisie te plaas. Dan het die anker gekom. Suiwer talent, spoed en vasberadenheid. Die pawiljoen was op hul voete en het gejuig vir die atleet, of hulle nou eerste of laaste die stokkie ontvang het, want teen die einde het almal geweet: die wen is verdien. Die Hoërskool se goed-geoliede masjien het verseker dat al ons hoërskool spanne eerste plek verower het. Veral ons o/19-aflosspanne, wat vermaaklike naelbytwedlope gelewer het.
Die atletiek, gees, spanwerk, aflos: Topklas.

VALENTYNSDAG

Bianca Pieters - Graad 11

Die ligte is af en die blad is weer stil,
maar die herinneringe van daardie aand gee ons steeds 'n “thrill”.

Weg is die saal se mure onder die beskerming van 'n dak,
die Valentynsgees is reg in die vierkant uitgepak.

Die rooi ligte het geglinster op die grys van die blad,
terwyl die ritme van die musiek sy eie pad vat.

Skoene is uitgeskop en eenkant toe gegooi,
op die growwe teer was die gees eers mooi.
Geen hout vloer kon die pret van daardie aand wen, terwyl ons die ritme in ons voete weer herken.

Die ouens was aantreklik, die meisies was mooi,
die atmosfeer was lekker en die mense het die dans "moves" gegooi!

Tussen die klaskamers en die kantoorgang,
het die reuk van parfuum en goeie tye gehang.

Skoene het dalk geskuur op die growwe klippe,
maar die glimlagte was groot op almal se lippe.

Van "slow dances" onder sterre tot 'n vinnige vasdansdraai,
die heupe op daardie teer het behoorlik geswaai.

Die leerders het gewys ons het energie en gees,
dit was definitief die plek om daardie aand te wees.

Die teerpad is leeg, die musiek is nou klaar,
maar die Valentynssokkie was die hoogtepunt van die jaar.

OPEDAG

Behn Shepherd – Graad 11

Die Opedag. Laat ek gou 'n prentjie skep. HSH lyk op sy beste; toergidse is oral besig om potensïele nuwe leerlinge in te lig. Kinders ontdek meer oor hul passies en in die agtergrond, wys die Geeskom met trots die ware HSH-gees.
There were stalls showcasing everything that HSH has to offer – and what a showcase it was! From rugby and athletics to Chill and even a stall dedicated to Varia. I personally realised how unbelievably privileged we are as learners of HSH. We have so much that is offered to us.
Die Opedag was 'n reuse sukses en ek is seker dat almal wat daar betrokke was saam sal stem. Dit is duidelik gemaak dat HSH 'n plek is waar leerlinge kan leer, groei en hul drome nastreef.
Hopefully we can top this one next year!

WATERKASKENADES

Shezelle Burger – Graad 11

Op 20 Februarie het HSH sy jaarlikse Waterkaskenades gehou, waar leerders vanaf vroeg die middag, in die somerson kon baljaar, hul soet eet aan vrugte en sopnat terugkeer huis toe nadat daar na hartelus gespat en gegly is.

Die dag het sterk afgeskop nadat die matrieks vir ons die vloer geopen het. Die matrieks het hul wilde oomblikke van vryheid geniet, deur nie in enige toue te staan en wag nie. Hulle kon onmiddelik vet pret hệ en die waterglybane bestorm.

There were brand new activities available for everyone to enjoy this year, like the paintball station where kids could take out all frustrations on the targets. There were more water slides, where everyone could slide like penguins, and also a new addition to the fruit stall. Everyone could eat their fill of juicy watermelon and could not get enough of the dragon fruit either.

Die dag het verskeie maniere gebied om van die hittige Hopefield son te ontsnap.

Kom ons vra vir sommige van die leerders wat hul gunsteling deel van die dag was en hoe hulle probeer afkoel het.

Jonty (Gr.8): “I enjoyed the paintball activity the most. Mostly because it was new, but also because it wasn’t something to do completely with the water. It was a nice change.”

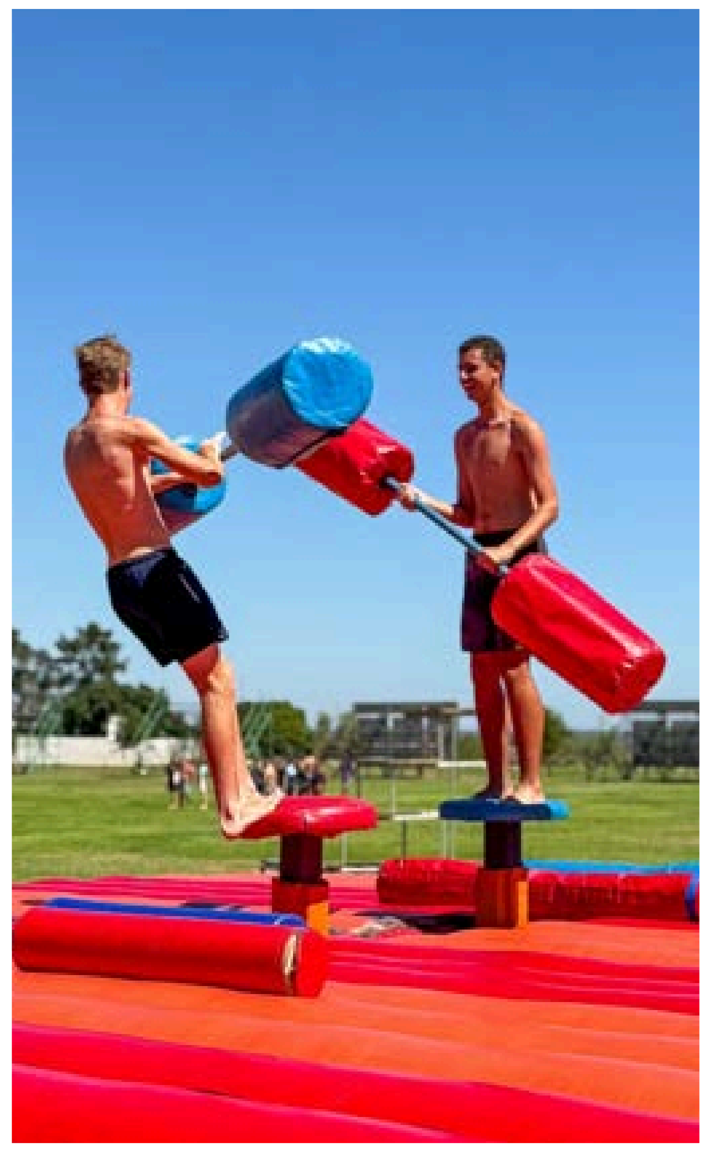
Taylor (Gr.9): “I definitely enjoyed the foam room the most! It was chaotic, but so fun!”

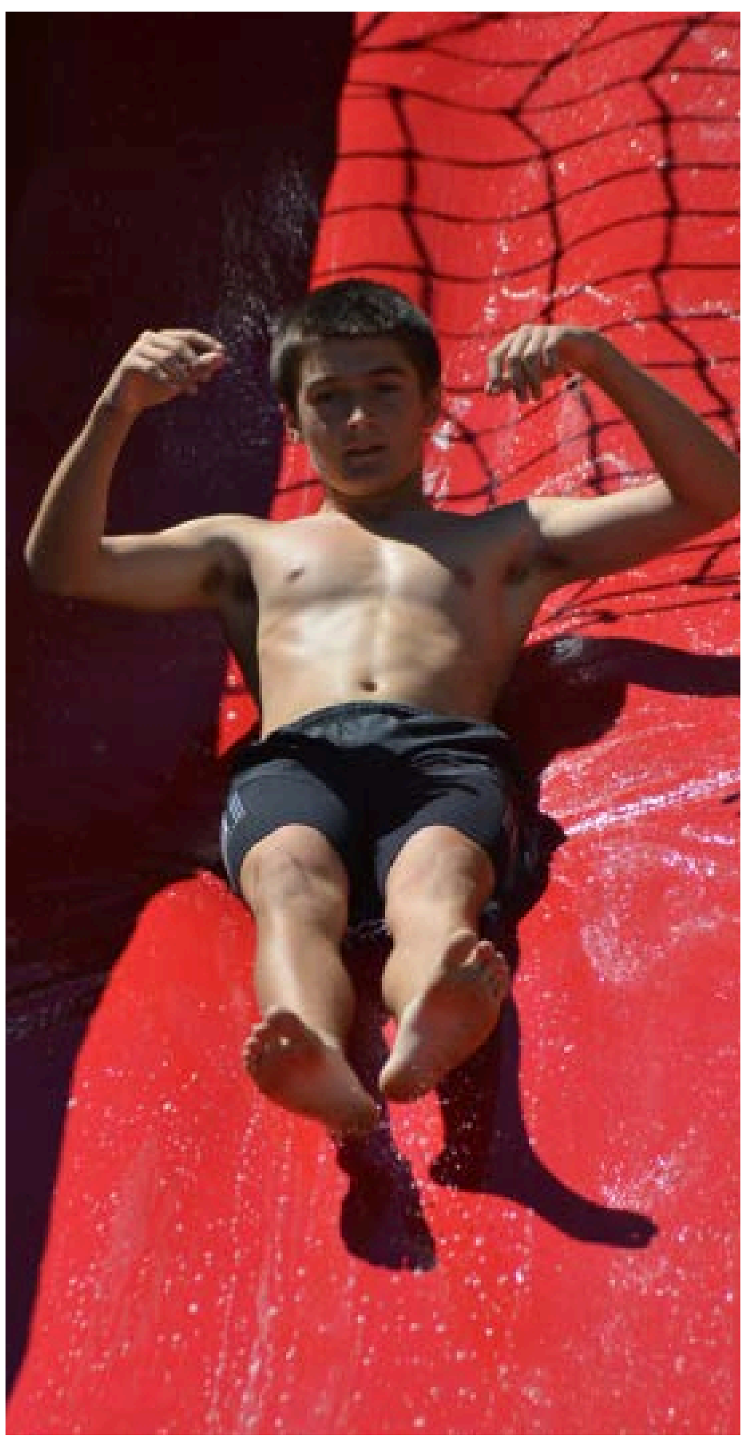
Amika (Gr.10): Die heel lekkerste deel van die Waterkaskenades vir my was die groot slide, met al die skuim, borrels en water. Die gevoel wat ek gekry het toe ek afgegly het, het my sommer opgewonde gemaak om weer-en-weer te gaan.”

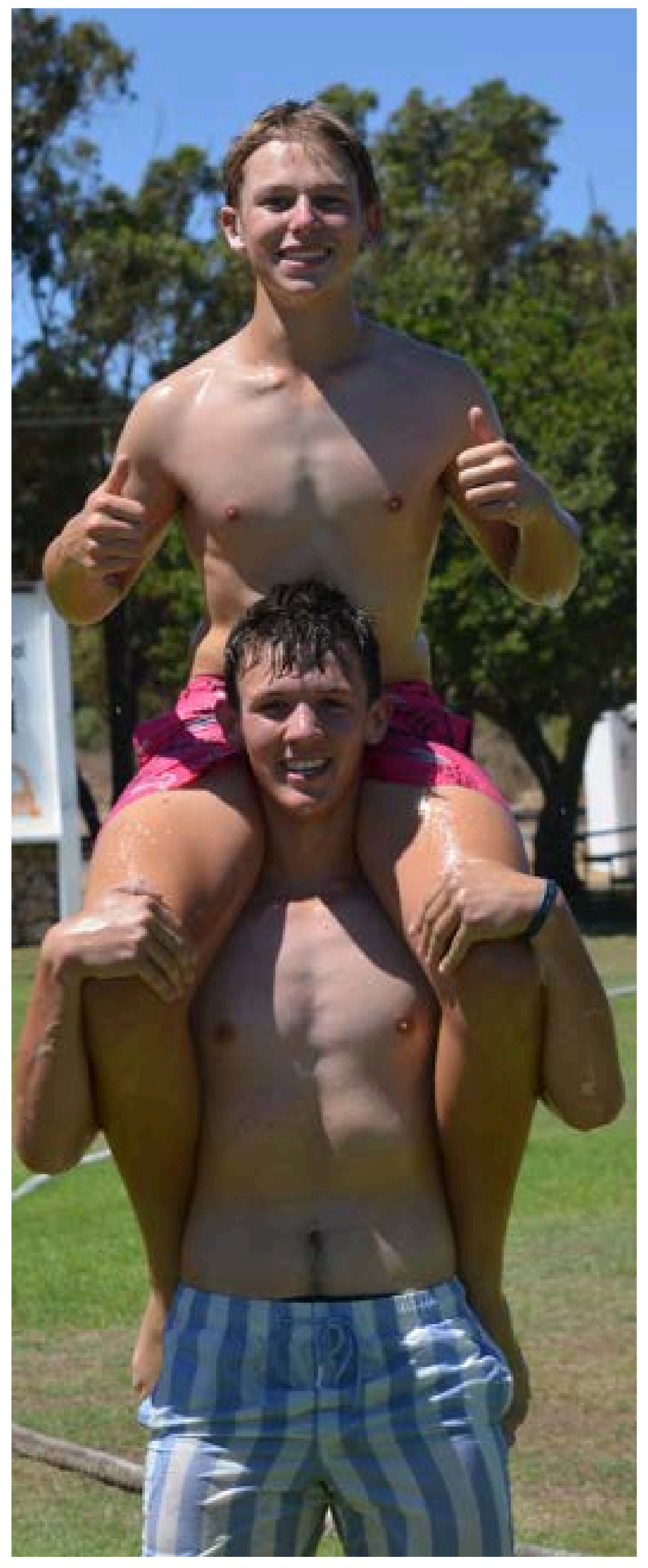
Peter (Gr.11): “Dit was defintief die volleyball. Dit was vet pret en ek dink almal het dit geniet.”

Nanita (Gr.12): “My hootepunt by die Waterkaskenades was beslis met die aankoms, toe ons matrieks vir ons laaste keer voluit kon gaan in elke afdeling. Natuurlik was die grootste slide en die waatlemoen vir my die grootste treffers. Die dag was wel elke oomblik werd en dit was defintief vol pret, lag en adrenalien!”

Die dag was ’n reuse sukses nadat elke liewe persoon, insluitend Meneer Jacques en van ons onderwysers, saam met die res van die skool kon rondspat en duik. Die dag was nie net groot pret nie, maar ons het ook ’n groot bedrag ingesamel wat ons almal verras het. HSH sê dankie aan elke leerder se bydrae en entoesiasme!





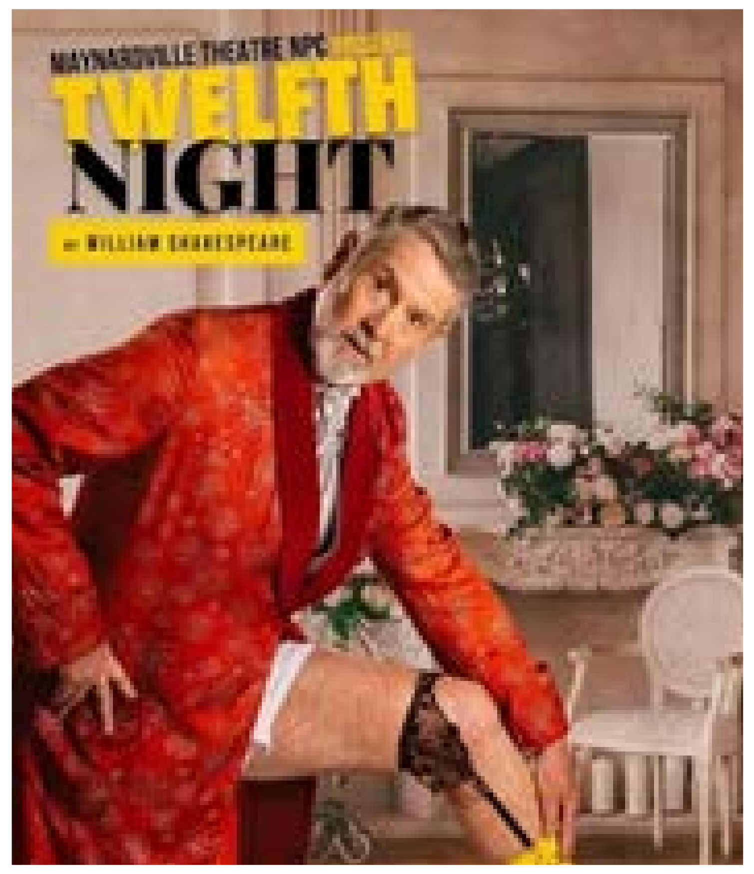
HOËRSKOOL HOPEFIELD


MAYNARDVILLE

DIE WIELE ROL NA MAYNARDVILLE

Amika Joubert en Anya Nel – Graad 10

Wiele wat rol, Oom Porra se musiek wat kliphard speel, 3 busse van 200 Hopefielders wat op reis is na Maynardville Opelug Teater in Kaapstad:
Wat 'n BELEWENIS!
Maynardville Opelug Teater is 'n gekoesterde juweel en binne die weelderige omgewing van Maynardville Park in Wynberg, Kaapstad, geleë. Dit is 'n betowerende beligte park, perfek vir 'n piekniek en 'n unieke teater wat gehore al vir dekades betower.
This year was the largest group of learners ever to be brought by buses from Hopefield to Maynardville: 200 learners! What an achievement! Yet more proof that at HSH we do ordinary things extraordinarily. Even the production team at Maynardville was amazed by our school's love for culture.
Almal was opgewonde, selfs na 'n lang dag van sport. Almal het hulle beste Engels bymekaar geskraap, en die busse gevul met entoesiasme. Elke jaar is Maynardville die hoogtepunt van almal se eerste kwartaal, want wie hou nou nie van 'n uitstappie Kaapstad toe met al jou vriende nie? Veral een met lekker kos en vermaak.
Daar was interessante kosstalletjies wat die lekkerste kosse verkoop het. Definitief nie wat jy in Hopefield se Spar kan koop nie... Die ligging was asemrowend veral met skemer. Die liggies in die bome, oral in die park en die gebabbel van opgewonde leerders vanaf diverse skole, het bygedra tot 'n feestelike atmosfeer.
After everyone had taken their seats and a silence had fallen, Shakespeare began to speak...
Twelfth Night was a life-changing event that captured the hearts of everyone with its romance and humour – the perfect rom-com! The actors were outstanding and you could see that they loved working at Maynardville.
Kom ons hou so aan om ons liefde vir kultuur uit te leef. Almal wat al die geleentheid gehad het om na Maynardville se Opelug Teater te gaan, sal vir jou sê jy móét dit ervaar. So doen dit – skryf nou al jou naam op vir volgende jaar... want dit is definitief 'n BELEWENIS!



CHILL CAMP

Keoratile Monnanyane – Grade 11

The Chill Leaders Camp proved to be an unforgettable experience. Over three inspiring days, participants took part in bible studies, fun activities and meaningful discussions that encouraged personal growth and confidence. The learners formed new friendships while learning valuable things not only from each other but from the Bible too.

Evening activities filled with music, laughter and reflection created a strong sense of unity among everyone present, with the amazing Mrs Marinda van Rooyen, and Mrs Sandra, who were pillars of strength for the girls there. By the end of the camp, many were left motivated and ready to become positive leaders for HSH, ready to not just love and serve, but to spread God's word.

As 1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

CWL BAARD

Johanné Visagé – Graad 11

Die jaarlikse CWL-Baard Sportdag was 'n groot mylpaal op die skoolkalender en ons HSH-leerders het baie geesdrif saamgebring. Altesaam 27 skole het bymekaargekom om teen mekaar te speel, wat die dag gevul het met goeie sportmangees en baie energie.

Oral op die terrein was daar stalletjies met heerlike kos en opkikkerende musiek. Oudleerlinge en toeskouers het langs die velde byeengekom om hul spanne aan te moedig, terwyl vrolikheid en geselsies die lug gevul het.

Die hokkie-, rugby- en netbalspanne het baie deftig gelyk in hul nuwe geborgde klere en het trots die skool se kleure – goud, blou en groen – vertoon.

Hierdie jaar was ook 'n spesiale hoogtepunt, aangesien dit die eerste keer is dat hokkie by CWL-Baard gespeel word, wat die dag nog meer merkwaardig gemaak het.

Dié CWL-Baard Sportdag was nie net 'n sportgeleentheid nie, maar ook 'n dag van eenheid, trots en onvergeetlike herinneringe.

Huis Eureka

Hlonela Ndeleni, Keoratile Monnanyane and Melissa Rust - Grade 10, 11 and 10

From late-night laughter to unforgettable adventures, hostel life keeps surprising us every single day!

Grade 8 Orientation

This term we warmly welcomed all our grade 8 girls to our Huis Eureka family. They participated in many hostel activities creating unforgettable memories and many new friends. We wish the girls all the best during this new journey they began at Huis Eureka.

Valentynspiekniek

Ons is 'n koshuis wat Valentynsdag met groot entoesiasme vier. Ons het saam 'n heerlike Valentynspiekniek gehou en die dag met baie lag en vreugde gevul. Almal het hulself in pienk, rooi en wit geklee, wat 'n feestelike atmosfeer geskep het. Dit was 'n spesiale dag vol liefde, vriendskap en onvergeetlike herinneringe.

Walk

Huis Eureka's girls embarked on an unforgettable adventure hike together. The hostel girls enjoyed a bonding afternoon walk, sharing laughter and stories, and the best of all, the playground. The calm breeze and quiet pathways created an absolutely peaceful atmosphere, helping everyone to relax, connect deeply and return refreshed.

TOP ATHLETES

TOP 6 VIR TOP 1: VINNIGSTE IN DIE SKOOL

Kristina Jonker - Graad 10

Interhuis atletiek is een van die grootste hoogtepunte van die jaar en die hele dag druis met opwinding. Elke jaar is daar een wedloop waarvoor almal wag. Die skoot klap, die paviljoen bars uit in gejuig en hoendervleis kruip by jou bene op soos jy kyk wie hierdie jaar die titel sal gryp van die vinnigste meisie en seun in die skool gaan inpalm.

In die meisies se wedloop het Mieka Blom (graad 10) die hele skool verbaas met haar verstommende wedloop. Vanaf 2025 waar sy nie eers in die top 6 was nie, na 2026 waar sy loshande die resies wen, dink ek ek praat vir almal wanneer ek sê... Wow! Dit is duidelik dat sy ongelooflik hard gewerk het om te kom waar sy is vanjaar. Ons is so trots op haar en baie opgewonde om te sien waarheen sy op pad is.

The boys' race, however, was a different story. From beginning to end the athletes who were battling for first place were neck and neck, keeping us at the very edges of our seats, until, at the last second, Cameron Samuels (gr. 12) broke the front line and claimed the title.

What a title to have and what an inspiration for all of us. Cameron, we are excited to see what heights you will reach next. En Mieka Blom... Jy's die bom!

Hierdie foto is geneem deur Lizmari de Waal.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Maritza Harmse - Grade 12

I have wanted to do an exchange trip since Grade 8, and I have wanted to travel outside South Africa for as long as I can remember. When the opportunity to go to Italy came along, I knew it was the perfect way to experience a country as if I were actually living there and not just visiting.

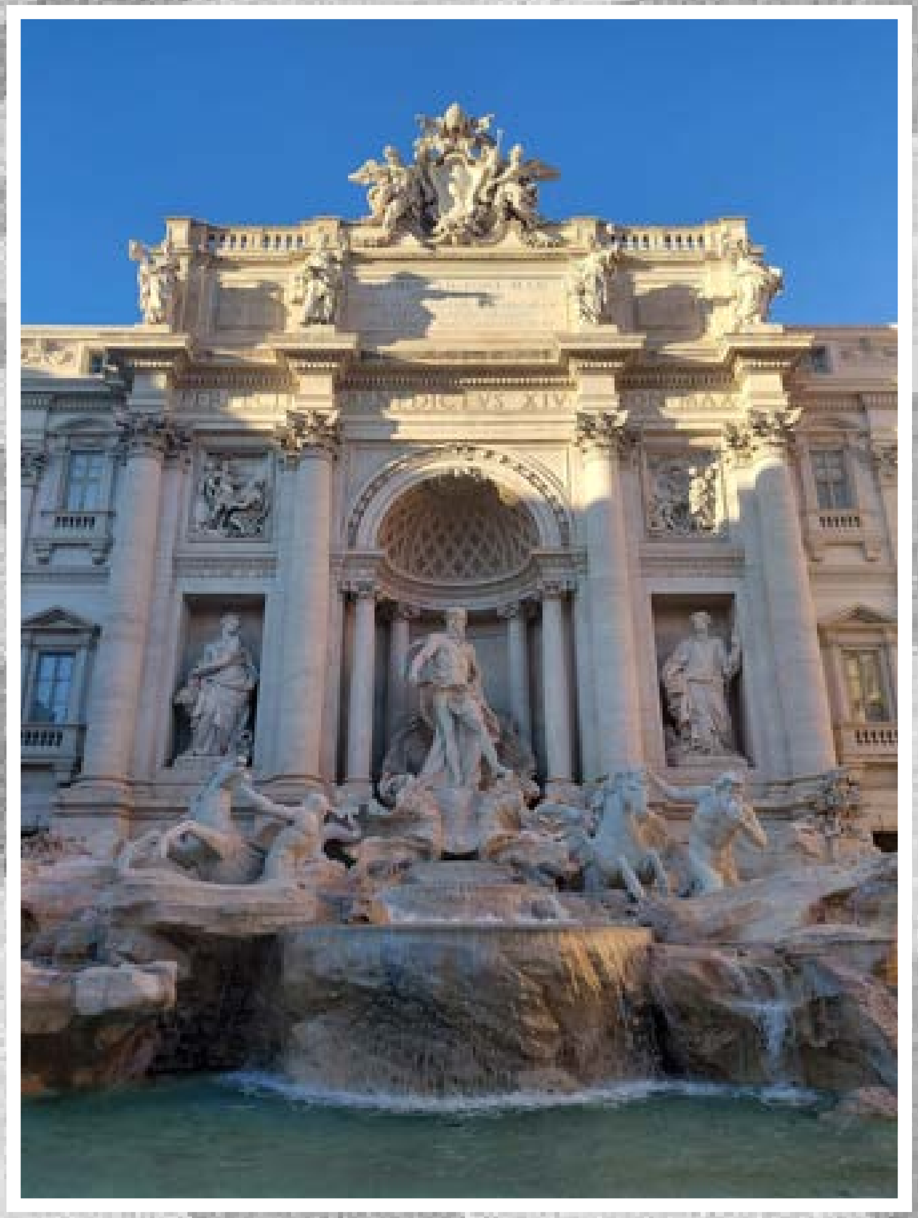
The first few days were tough. I didn't fully register where I was until I met my host family, and then, in the car, I noticed people driving on the other side of the road - a small moment, but my first glimpse that life there was different. I was excited but nervous: meeting new people, figuring out routines, and navigating a completely new environment.

Time made it easier. My host family shared their traditions, their history, and made me feel part of the family. Slowly, routines became natural, and I even became a bit more open and social than I expected.

Italy itself was unforgettable. I visited Verona, Montagnana, and went down south for Christmas, where we explored Matera. One of my biggest dreams came true when we visited Pompeii, and later Rome. Venice was magical too. Every city, every view, every meal felt like a story I was living.

The food was off the scale delicious - pizza and pasta that I will never forget – and, enjoyed with breath-taking scenery. One evening in Verona, climbing a castle at sunset with my host sister and her friends, I realised: I was actually there. And the people? So welcoming and friendly! Very eager to share their culture and traditions.

If anyone is considering an exchange trip, I cannot recommend it enough. It is challenging, yes, but it is also life-changing. Even now, looking back at my photos, it still feels like a dream, but one I will never forget.



SANTAM ART

SANTAM SCHOOL ART COMPETITION 2026 – "ONE MORE TIME"

Eva Daniels – Grade 10

Our school is proud to be participating in the Santam School Art Competition 2026. This year's theme, "One More Time," has encouraged learners to think deeply about second chances, special memories, repeated moments and opportunities to try again.

We are especially excited about the impressive number of entries. More learners than ever have taken part, showing enthusiasm, creativity and dedication. From expressive paintings to detailed sketches, each artwork reflects thoughtful interpretation of the theme.

As a school, we are proud of the progress we are making. Not only has participation increased, but the overall quality, exposure and confidence in our learners' work have grown significantly. Students have challenged themselves creatively and developed new artistic skills throughout the process.

The competition has highlighted the incredible talent within our school community. We look forward to seeing how our entries perform and celebrate every learner who embraced the theme and gave it their best.

santam

UIT DIE KANTOOR

Voorwoord van die Hoof

Hallo almal!

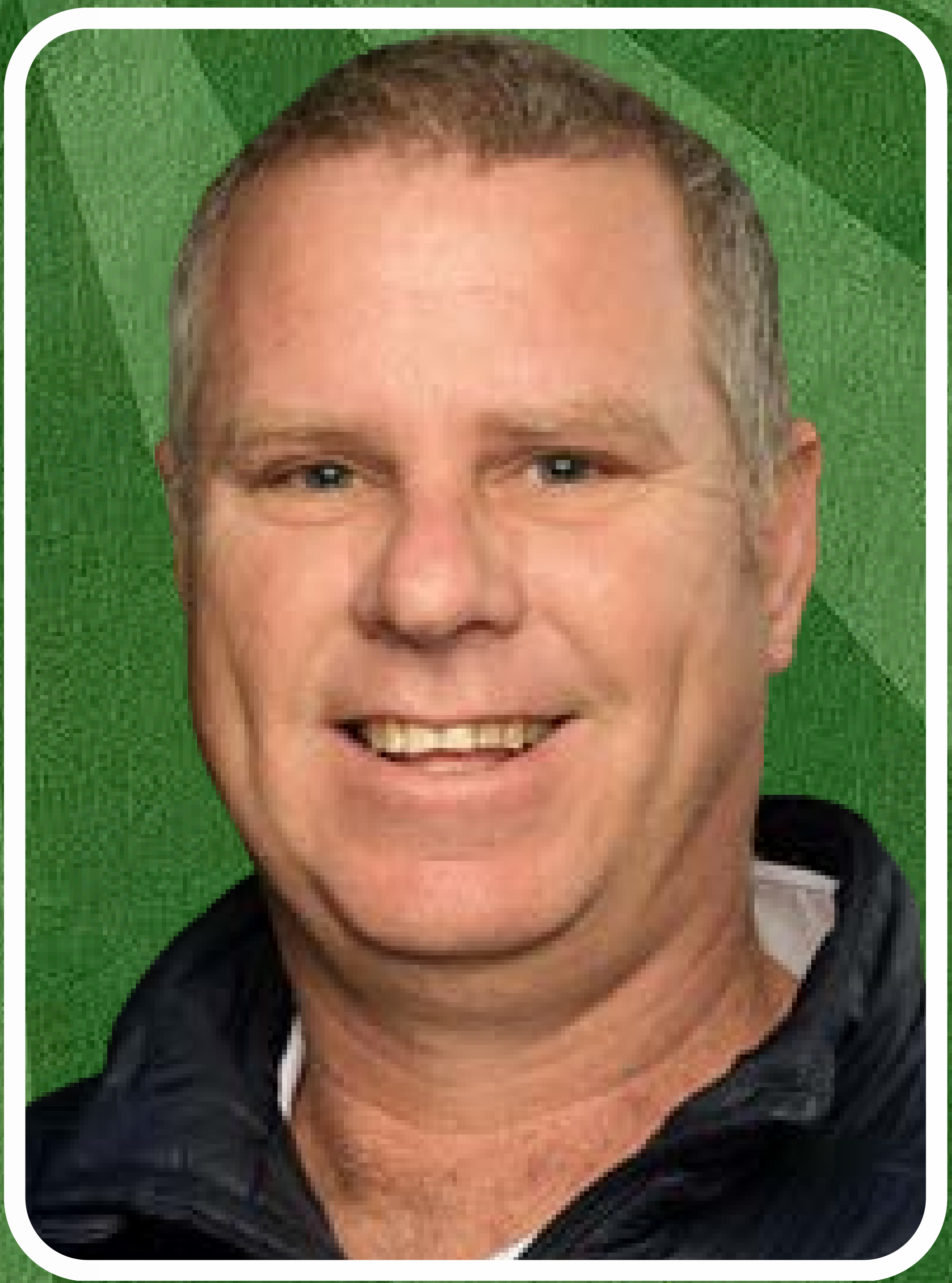
Wat 'n ongelooflike kwartaal was dit by Hoërskool Hopefield! Van die eerste dag af was daar soveel gees, deelname en pret – julle het almal regtig gemaak dat elke oomblik tel.

Ons het gesien hoe leerders saamwerk, nuwe uitdagings aanpak, en hoe sport, kultuur en klasse almal laat skitter het. Dit is sulke oomblikke wat ons trots maak op ons skoolgemeenskap.

Dankie aan elkeen van julle – leerders, personeel en ouers – vir die bydrae tot hierdie fantastiese kwartaal. Julle energie en entoesiasme is aansteeklik, en dit maak ons skool net 'n wonderlike plek om te wees.

Geniet hierdie uitgawe van Snuffels, en hou aan skitter en deel die gees!

– Jacques Rossouw
Hoof



ANNOUNCEMENT

YOUR VOICE MATTERS - WRITE IT

We are creating a special Literature Issue of the Snuffels next term - and we want YOUR voice in it.

What to submit:

- Short Stories (max 450 words)
- Poems
- Any Creative Writing

Gr.8-12

You may submit with your name or anonymously.

A Google form link will follow for submissions.

DEADLINE: 20 April

Selected works will be published alongside Issue 2.

The Google form link, as well as a copy of this poster, will be shared on the Learners' Whatsapp Group.