

# MARTIE DU PLESSIS NEWSLETTER



*In this  
Newsletter:*

From the Principal's Desk  
Dive into Adventure with Camps and Tours  
Join the Excitement with past Functions  
Empowerment Sessions  
Explore Extracurricular Activities  
With Thanks  
Catch the Latest Buzz with Staff News  
(Preliminary) Term 3 Dates

## Newsletter Team

Felicia Pelser, Janka le Roux, Hene Cilliers, Anli Starke, Andri Henning, Arina Nicolaisen, Kea Mokate & Donovan Enslin



# FROM THE DESK OF *OUR* Principal



Mr. Van Heerden ended his final newsletter message with the words, “For the last time,” I have the privilege of beginning mine with “For the first time.”

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Van Heerden, who handed over the reins of Martie du Plessis on a high note. Through his dedication and leadership, he has helped lay a firm foundation on which we can confidently continue to build. We thank him for his years of faithful service and wish him God's richest blessings in the next chapter of his life.

Since taking up the role of Acting Principal on 7 April 2026, I have come to realise that Martie du Plessis is much more than a school. It is a special place where lives are touched, dreams are rebuilt, and hope is restored. It is a place where learners and staff have the privilege and opportunity to make a lasting difference in one another's lives.

I would like to thank every learner, parent, and staff member for making it possible to live out our motto of “Rebuilding Dreams and Giving Hope.” Your commitment, compassion, and willingness to serve others are what make this school so unique. Every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, and every effort invested in our learners contribute to something much greater than ourselves.

The shortlisting and interview process for the appointment of a new principal has been completed, and we now await the Department's final decision. Whatever the outcome, we are confident that the strong foundation laid over many years will enable us to face future challenges with faith, unity, and hope.

As we come to the end of another term, I am reminded of the words of Isaiah 41:10: “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.” May we continue to trust that God is guiding our path and strengthening us for the journey ahead.

May God bless every learner, parent, and staff member during this holiday. May He keep you safe, grant you rest, and bring you back refreshed and ready for the opportunities that lie ahead.

Together, with God's grace, we will continue to rebuild dreams and give hope.

**P.G. Botha**  
**Acting Principal**



# CAMP TOURS



## Visual Arts Tour

Learners on a Visual Arts educational tour visited South Africa's Golden Gate region, experiencing diverse cultural and artistic influences. The tour included Clarens and Kgodumodumo, where they engaged with local galleries, cultural landmarks, and natural landscapes. This exposure deepened their appreciation for South Africa's artistic heritage and inspired their own creativity

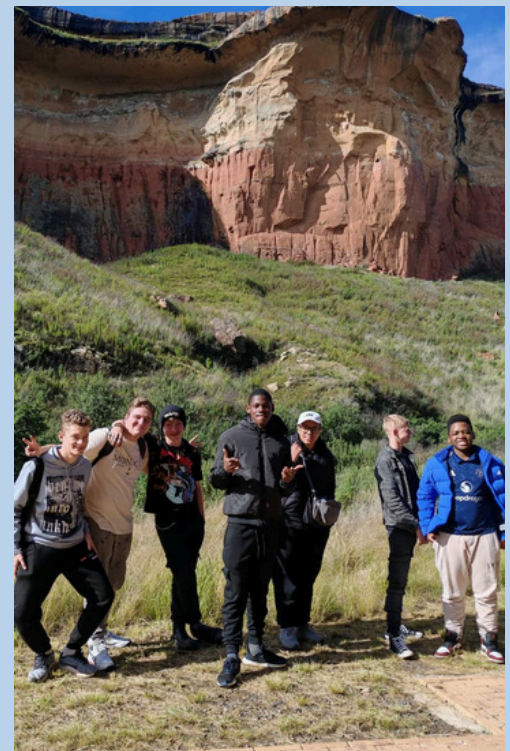


## Hockey Camp

The hockey team-building camp provided learners with an exciting opportunity to develop teamwork, leadership, and communication skills outside the classroom.

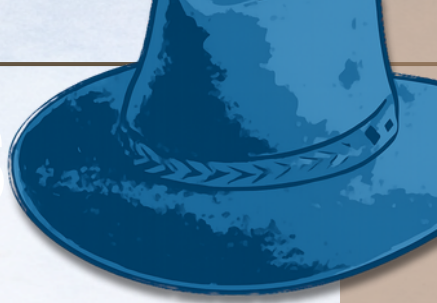
Held at a river camp, learners participated in a variety of team-building activities, including raft building and potjie-making challenges, which encouraged collaboration and problem-solving.

A highlight of the camp was a guided 7 km river rafting adventure, where learners worked together to navigate the river while enjoying the natural surroundings. The experience strengthened team spirit and created lasting memories for all who participated.





# FUNCTIONS



## MR. & MISS. MARTIE



*Congratulations to our winners*



**Miss Martie** - Lehakwe Dumako  
**Mr Martie** - Chris van der Westhuizen

**1st Princess** - Janine Bezuidenhout  
**1st Prince** - Lumumba Mosia

**2nd Princess** - Elri Pretorius  
**2nd Prince** - Reinhard Williamson

**Miss Photogenic** - Eska van Zyl  
**Mr Photogenic** - Lumumba Mosia

**Best dressed Cowgirl** - Elri Pretorius  
**Best dressed Cowboy** - Reinhard Williamson



*Word of thanks*

Thank you to our judges - Annette Kasselmann, Frans Sisita, Jocelyn Holtzhausen, & Sadé Jansen from Fashion Designer

**Our MC** - Laurika du Preez

**Stylists** - Die Manshaarsalon, Chantelle Knipe and Jocelyn Holtzhausen, Well Suited, Monzaan Designs

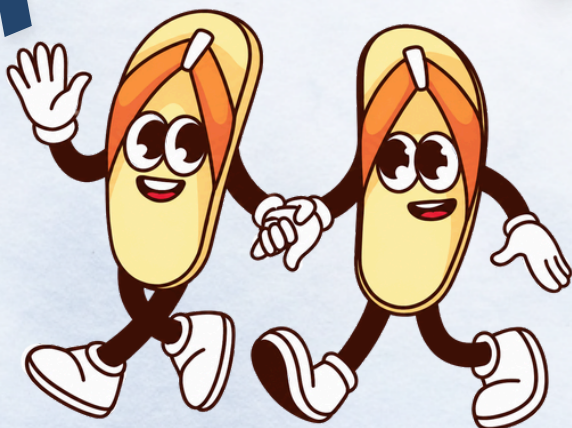
# Happy 69th BIRTHDAY, MDUP!

Our school celebrated its 69th birthday with a gathering of learners and school staff. The event began with a prayer of gratitude for the school's history and success. A former student shared how the school's values and support shaped his life, reinforcing its positive impact. Learners greeted parents and visitors at the gates, showcasing the pride, unity, and hospitality that have characterized the school for 69 years.



The Foundation Phase Concert 2026 featured "Flip & Flop's South African Adventure," showcasing learners' talents through music, dance, and storytelling. The performance highlighted South Africa's provinces, celebrating their beauty and diversity. The event was a success thanks to the hard work of students, dedicated staff, and supportive parents.

# Flip & Flop



# Empowerment

## Nurturing Resilience



Thank you to all who attended the workshop on Nurturing Resilience for children, held on 18 May.

With 41 attendees, the session created a valuable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding on how to

support, strengthen, and nurture resilience in children. Thank you for your commitment in making a positive change in the lives of our children!

## Accommodation and concession

On 25 May, an accommodation empowerment session brought together educators and support staff from schools across Bloemfontein and the greater Free State Province.

Approximately 50 participants attended the event, with some joining in person and others online.



The session focused on the effective implementation of accommodations and included practical examples to support understanding. The aim was to equip attendees with the knowledge and skills needed to implement accommodations confidently and effectively within their schools, ensuring that learners receive the support they need to reach their full potential.

The session created an opportunity for learning and the sharing of ideas. Participants engaged positively throughout the session, demonstrating their commitment to inclusive education and to supporting learners who require accommodations.

**Cora Smit**  
**Support Teaching**

# #DoorTalk

Door Talk is a therapeutic initiative where members of our multidisciplinary team share practical, informative, and easy-to-understand insights with our school community. Through these sessions, we aim to educate, empower, and provide support on topics that matter to learners and their families

This term's Door Talks focused on the opening of our Sensory Garden and how our senses influence the way we experience and interact with the world.

Our Occupational Therapy Department (Green Door) explored the eight senses and their role in learning and regulation, while our Physiotherapy Department (Blue Door) shared practical activities that can be done at home to support muscle development, movement, balance, and body awareness.

Our latest Facebook post from our Speech Therapy department focused on the building blocks of communication, highlighting areas such as stuttering, phonology, voice, articulation, language, and comprehension, and the important role these skills play in helping learners communicate effectively and confidently.

## Giovanni Africa

Giovanni shared his personal story with our CIA (Christians in Action) and primary school learners, reminding them that a broken relationship with a father does not determine their future or limit their potential. Through faith, healing, and perseverance, it is possible to overcome pain, break generational cycles, and transform personal challenges into a source of strength, resilience, leadership, and a lasting legacy.

## Kwêla

The well-known singer and presenter, Willem Botha, together with the production team of the popular television programme Kwêla, visited Special Blends to film footage for a feature segment on the show.



# ScanmarkerPro Pen Project

As part of the funds raised through our Evening of the stars project, Martie du Plessis School procured 30 ScanmarkerPro Pens to support learner access and independence in the classroom.



The ScanmarkerPro Pen is a portable assistive technology device that can scan and read printed text aloud. It also provides word definitions and supports learners who experience difficulties with reading, decoding, or accessing printed information, as well as spelling through the use of voice-to-text software.

Our primary goal is to use the ScanmarkerPro Pen as a classroom support tool to promote the highest possible level of learner independence. By providing immediate access to printed text, learners can participate more actively in learning activities while relying less on adult assistance. The pens are not intended for formal assessments, as the school has more comprehensive text-to-speech systems available for concession and assessment support.



During Term 2, staff members received training on the effective use of the ScanmarkerPro Pen, and several focus groups have already begun using the devices. From Term 3, the pens will be introduced more broadly across the school. As we currently have 30 pens available, they will be distributed among different sections according to learner needs.

The Pen Project forms part of our ongoing commitment to creating accessible learning environments where our learners have the opportunity to engage, participate, and achieve success as independently as possible.

**Helena Vermeulen**  
Occupational Therapist



On 16 April 2026, an ADHD workshop titled **Unlocking Potential: Understanding and Supporting Learners with ADHD** was presented for parents, educators, and neurodivergent attendees.

The workshop focused on recognizing and understanding the ADHD learner, while highlighting the importance of normalizing, embracing, and supporting learners with ADHD. Discussions explored the unique strengths, challenges, and potential of these learners, as well as practical ways to foster inclusive and supportive environments that enable them to thrive.

# EXTRA - Curriculars



## Judo

Our judo athletes delivered an exceptional performance this term, bringing home a total of 19 medals. Of these, an impressive 12 were gold medals, highlighting the dedication, discipline, and hard work of our competitors.



## Chess

Our Grade 4–7 chess learners participated in a chess league this term, where they competed in a total of five matches. The learners represented the school with pride, demonstrating excellent concentration, strategic thinking, and sportsmanship throughout the competition.



## Rugby

We are proud to announce that 2 of our U/18 rugby players and 6 of our U/16 rugby players were selected to represent the LSEN Rugby Team. This achievement reflects their dedication, hard work, and talent on the rugby field.



## Girls Hockey First Team

Our First Team girls' hockey had an outstanding season, winning 3 of their 4 matches. Their determination, skill, and teamwork contributed to an excellent campaign.



## U/18 Hockey Boys

Our U/18 boys' hockey team enjoyed a successful term, winning 4 out of their 6 fixtures. Their hard work, dedication, and excellent teamwork were evident throughout the season.



## SA Athletics Championships

A total of 17 athletes from our team represented the Free State at the championship. Our athletes proudly secured 7 medals, and the LSEN team finished in 4th place overall.



## SASAPD Championships

We had a total of 18 athletes in the Free State team that went to the national championships. They came home with a total of 42 medals and 10 new SA records.



## Archery

Archery participated in four competitions, bringing home medals from each event with spectacular results.

# Gymnastics

Kayleigh Stroebel (Grade 4) participated in the Central Finity club competition for gymnastics and was awarded a gold medal for her artistic, level 2, performance.

# Bloem Show & our LSEN class

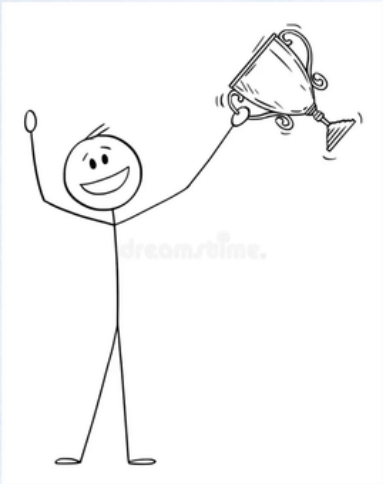


Congratulations to our LSEN classes (SO1+2 & SO5) who did exceptionally well during this years Bloem Show.

They achieved first place and we are incredibly proud of their hard work, team work and creativity!

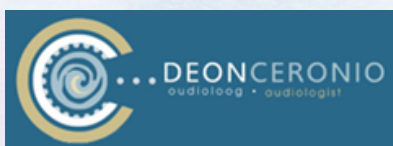
*Well done, to those celebrating in silence*

We are proud of every learner who shares their extracurricular achievements, as well as those whose efforts often happen quietly and without recognition. Every learner's journey matters, and we value the hard work, dedication, and perseverance shown in all forms. We continue to support and celebrate each child's unique strengths and contributions, and we pray for continued growth, confidence, and success in all that they do.



# Mediclinic Bloemfontein

April was dedicated to raising autism awareness. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Bloemfontein Mediclinic for their generous donation to our school. Their contribution helped support our learners on the autism spectrum, as well as those experiencing sensory challenges. We deeply appreciated their commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of our learners.



A big thank you to Deon Ceronio Hearing Centre for their willingness to always assist with our children's hearing aids, from batteries to repairs! We sincerely appreciate your generous and caring support.

# WITH THANKS



## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF LEARNERS (RCL)

Our school's RCL members are now proudly equipped with beautiful new shirts to wear at school functions and events, helping them present a united and professional image. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors for their generous support in making this possible. Thank you for investing in our learners and helping to foster a sense of unity and pride among our RCL members.

## LETTIE FOUCHE FUN RUN



Learners, Teachers and Therapists Proudly Represent Our School at the Lettie Fouché Fun Run

## CONTRIBUTIONS

We love celebrating the accomplishments of our learners, both inside and outside the classroom. If your child has participated in or achieved something special in sport, culture, academics, or any other extracurricular activity, we would love to hear about it!

Parents are invited to share photos and a brief description of their child's achievement for possible inclusion in our school newsletter and social media platforms.



Facebook / Instagram /  
Newsletter

Please send your contributions to  
Bib@mdup.co.za

# STAFF NEWS



Congratulations to Mrs. Marie-Louise Erasmus on her outstanding achievement in representing the Free State at the Ladies Over 30 Action Netball IPT Tournament, held in Cape Town from 26 to 30 May 2026. We are proud of her dedication and commitment to the sport, and we celebrate this remarkable accomplishment with her.



*Welcome, Ms Carla Badenhorst*



It is a pleasure to officially welcome Ms. Carla Badenhorst to the Martie team.

Although Carla has already been part of our school for some time, this marks her first full term with us, and we are delighted to celebrate and acknowledge her as part of our team. May you continue to grow, thrive, and live out your passion here with us.

*With Gratitude and Appreciation*

It is with sincere gratitude that we honour Mr. Abe Venter from our Psychology Department as he retires after 23 years of dedicated service to our school.

Thank you, Mr. Venter, for the invaluable contribution you have made over the years. Your commitment, wisdom, compassion, and unwavering support have left a lasting impact on countless learners, families, and colleagues. Your legacy will continue to be felt for many years to come.



As you embark on this new chapter, we wish you a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement. May the years ahead be filled with joy, rest, new adventures, and precious time with loved ones.

Thank you for 23 remarkable years of service. You will be greatly missed, but warmly remembered.

(PRELIMINARY)

# TERM 3 CALENDAR

## July

- 21** - School starts
- 27 & 29** - Grade 9 subject choice assessments
- 28** - Book exhibition with Wendy Maartens
- 30** - Spelling competition words are sent out, Science Expo Bloemfontein
- 31** - Spelling competition is being written, Science expo Bloemfontein, Parent Forum cake sale

## August

- 1** - Science Expo Bloemfontein, Autism awareness workshop
- 3** - Foundation phase continuous assessment starts, Spelling competition results and sponsorforms are given back to learners
- 4** - Landybrand cross country league 1, Grade 10 career dress up, parent evening
- 5** - Positive rewards evening (Grade 7-12)
- 7** - Design outing
- 10** - Public holiday
- 11** - FET open day, Bethlehem cross country league 2
- 12** - Positive rewards evening (Grade 4-6)
- 13** - Pre-primary parent evening
- 14** - Spelling competition winners are announced
- 17** - Accommodation training to schools
- 18** - Bohmer cross country league 3
- 20** - Staff concert
- 21** - Spelling competition winners are announced
- 22** - Sportsday LSOB, FSSAPD classification, Behavioral challenges of children workshop
- 24** - Grade 12 exams start
- 25** - Fakkels school cross country league 4
- 28** - Dog show

## September

- 1** - Free-State cross country Johan Slabbert
- 2** - Foundation phase formal assessments start
- 4** - Casual day & Grade 7 Entrepreneurs' Day
- 7** - Grade 7-11 exams start
- 14** - Grade 4-6 exams start
- 17** - Evening of the stars
- 23** - School close & South-African cross country League