



# UPLANDS PREPARATORY SCHOOL MAGAZINE 2023



*Today's thinking child is tomorrow's achiever*



# Preparatory 2023

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# Chairman's Report

It's hard to believe a year has passed since I last penned a note for the annual Uplands Magazine. It has been an eventful year and the spirit of change at Uplands has not abated. Upon reflection, I'm proud to say that the transformation has consistently been overwhelmingly positive, and our school truly is in great shape.

The school's Executive and our team of Educators have gained steady momentum on the strategic objectives we're working towards for our 2028 vision for our school. It is easy to sit in the Lowveld sunset and envisage the school in 2028: Uplands, a beacon of excellence. A kind, happy learning environment where high expectations and deliverables extend to our pupils, our parents, our teachers, in academics, sport, culture, and through the entire institution, reaching as far as the aesthetics of the campus. An institution that is truly transitioning from 'Good' to 'Great'.

In August 2023, we celebrated our Centenary. It was a joyous celebration and what was clear is that this school is built on community.

Our Matric results for 2023 were outstanding, again attaining a 100% pass rate. However, most notably, a staggering 96% of the graduating pupils met the requirements for Bachelor's degree studies. For me, this solidifies our commitment to excellence in education.

Highlights from our termly board meetings for me, include the School Mentors' attendance and feedback which paints a picture of a group of excited, committed pupils, focused on creating a sense of belonging in a school which they are clearly very proud of. Their goals and ambitions are very much in alignment with the school's overall objectives too.

The presentation by the Academic Innovation Committee was another stand-out for me. Our children are in good hands and education at Uplands is being re-imagined beyond our expectations.

As I engage with our team of educators, there is tangibly a consistent focus amongst them all to cultivate a highly professional, yet warm and informal culture, and they all embrace a reflective stance that prioritises high expectations and continuous improvement, one of transformation and excellence.

Uplands Outreach continues to make the world a better place, day after day. Under the passionate leadership of Viola, fondly nicknamed Mama V, the organisation consistently makes virtuous impact, and we are, as we should be, incredibly proud. The teachers who participate in our programmes write journals and these are compiled into a keepsake for them on completion of the programme. I would love to publish them all, but I'll share one short excerpt:

“ From attending this programme, I have witnessed significant improvements in my leadership and management skills. Initially, I struggled with understanding my role and responsibilities as a leader within the school, often feeling inadequate. However, through the programme I have learnt to lead from the front, eliminating many fears and uncertainties I once had. One crucial realisation was the lack of induction processes in our school. ”

There is a golden thread throughout our school, of a great sense of desire to raise achievement. Achievement for the pupils. Achievement for the teachers. Achievement for Outreach. Achievement for all. As a parent, I couldn't ask for a better school.

**Mr Greg Dane**

**Uplands Chairman of the Board**



Greg Dane



# Executive Headmaster's Report

## *Celebrating a Milestone Year at Uplands: Reaching for New Heights*

As our 95th academic year unfolds in 2023, I am delighted to share my reflections in this special milestone year for our beloved school. In 2023, Uplands Preparatory School commemorated ninety-five years of nurturing generations of bright young minds within our magnificent grounds. We also honoured the centenary of Webster House, which has stood proudly for 100 years as our institutional cornerstone since 1923. On top of this, 2023 marked a quarter-century since the founding of Uplands College! 2023 was truly a milestone year for all Uplanders.

Beyond the celebrations, these milestones underscored how our school has flourished over time - by preserving tradition while embracing evolution and progress. Despite the ever-changing backdrop of local and global affairs, our campus remains a place rooted in belonging and buoyed by a sense of community. Our culture of uplifting one

another, especially during challenging times, enables our pupils to develop grit, resilience and determination. I am proud of all our pupils for demonstrating our core Uplands values during this 95th year – Relationships, Respect, Integrity, Faith and Excellence.

As our talented, multi-national pupil body grows increasingly diverse, we continue embracing inclusion to ensure each child feels seen, valued and heard. Our staff members have heeded the call for professional learning and growth and have continued excelling in their daily classroom practices. Simultaneously, we have implemented more sustainable ecological practices on campus, upgraded technical capabilities, improved our infrastructure, and excelled in academics, sports, culture and community service. The SMILE literacy programme turned 25 in 2023 and produced a special illustrated storybook to commemorate the occasion.

Our Uplands Outreach team continues to make a meaningful and measurable difference in our surrounding communities with our partner schools. Our alumni and the Uplands Foundation continued to give back to the school in countless ways. In doing so, we all collectively drive our school forward while honouring the long-ranging vision of those who came before us.

Just as our lovely campus trees stand tall through the seasons, our Uplands values root us – and provide strength during uncertain times. I sincerely thank our community of committed educators, families, alumni and supporters for enabling our school to continue thriving for decades to come. No matter what the coming century may hold, the Uplands spirit will shine brightly as our pupils embark on life-long journeys to positively impact our world.

**Mr Sean Carlisle**  
**Uplands Executive Head**



# Preparatory Headmaster's Report

*As reported from the end-of-year Prizegiving*

At the end of 2023, we reflect on a year filled with achievements, growth, and countless moments of inspiration. The end of the year is a time to celebrate not just the passing of time, but the remarkable journey that each and every one of you has undertaken.

This year has seen changes on all fronts - including academic staffing. It was with mixed emotions that we bade farewell to Kristina Rubino and Braam Smit. Both have been an integral part of our school family, and we are grateful for their exceptional contributions to our pupils' education and well-being. A special thank-you goes to Kristina. Kristina began her career at Uplands in 1997 as a Grade 2 teacher and she consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to her pupils' growth and development. I know she has had a lasting impact on all those she has taught over the last 25 years. I trust she is enjoying the farming life, and we thank her for being our special guest at our 2023 Prize Giving event.

During this year, we continued to see significant improvements on the academic front. I would like to thank our dedicated teachers who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to innovation in teaching. This year, we have witnessed the implementation of various new teaching methods, incorporating more innovation, and streamlining our Inquiry-based learning and collaborative approaches that cater to our pupils' diverse learning styles. Our teachers have not only embraced change but have also inspired a love for learning amongst our pupils.

To the parents who have played a pivotal role in guiding and supporting our pupils and the school, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your dedication has been instrumental in shaping the future leaders, innovators and compassionate individuals sitting at this school

tonight. I thank you for all your positive comments and support throughout the year. It is reassuring to know that we have your support.

The message I want to leave with our pupils is a personal journey that I have been through in the last few weeks. I was lucky enough - or stupid, some might say - to enter the Sky Run which is a 100 km race that takes place in the Eastern Cape over the Lesotho mountain range. This is an event I have always dreamed of competing in for a number of years. Now the normal story would be that I trained hard, the race went well, and I completed it easily - showing that if you believe in something, then nothing is impossible. But this went differently: I got to 58km and 12 hours into the race - at the compulsory medical check - the doctors pulled me from the race. There I sat, hugely disappointed. I felt I had let my running partner down, my family and all those at Uplands who had believed in me. All the months of training now felt worthless. I must admit it took me a couple of days to "Get over myself", as my wife said. Now in this situation, I could continue to blame the doctors, the conditions, what I ate or drank, or I could reflect on myself and see what I could do differently next time. It made me realise, once again, that only we are in charge of our own destiny, and it isn't always going to be full of success. Similarly, some of you will not receive awards, but rather than blame external influences, you must look internally to see what you could change and at the same time continue to celebrate the successes of those around you.

As Thomas Edison said, "I haven't failed. I've just found 10 000 ways that won't work."

As I come to the end of my address, it would be remiss of me not to thank the Executive Team, led by Sean Carlisle, and the Board, led by Greg Dane. With your continued support



and strategic guidance over this year, I have felt that nothing is unachievable.

I would like to conclude by wishing our Grade 7 class of 2023 all the best for their time at the College. You have all worked so hard this year and I know you all will continue to do so in your future endeavours. You are a very unique group of pupils, with unwavering bonds, which was evident at the graduation dinner. Tonight, let us remember that the end of one chapter marks the beginning of another, as you embark on new adventures, continue to pursue your passions, embrace challenges, and strive for excellence. Your journey doesn't end here; it evolves into a new and exciting phase filled with possibilities. So, as Mr Müller once said, "You must stay positive and continue to dance your way through life and embrace all the opportunities that lie ahead."

**Mr Scott Hauptfleisch**  
**Head of Uplands Preparatory School**



# Chaplain's Report

2023 proved to be a very busy year, with many celebrations which had previously been halted due to Covid, being added again. In April, 19 of our young Uplands Prep scholars were baptised in a service held at the Prep. It was a special service, as they were supported by parents and godparents, as

well as some of their grandparents. The children were able to make this important commitment in their Christian walk, surrounded by the most important people in their lives. Those baptised, as well as a few who had been baptised previously, were admitted to their First Communion. It was a wonderful celebration of our

young children making their own commitment to God.

In preparation for Lent, we enjoyed a lovely Shrove Tuesday function, which was incredibly well supported by parents and children alike. Ash Wednesday was a very special day, with the Foundation Phase and Senior Phase having their own Eucharist services and every child receiving the sign of the cross in ash on their foreheads. In May, the Senior Phase joined the College scholars for a wonderful Ascension Day service held at the College Oval.

Before we knew it, Advent was on us and it was time to enjoy the Jesse Tree service. Unfortunately, the elements played against us and, although there was no rain, the lightning alarm sent us home early, so we were unable to truly enjoy the special family time celebrating the birth of Jesus. It is a blessing to be a part of the wonderful Uplands family and to watch faith grow as we live our Christian values.

**Rev. Bronwyn Nortje**  
**Uplands School Chaplain**



# Uplands Outreach

Uplands Outreach had another busy year in 2023, leading up to our wonderful 30th anniversary which will take place in 2024. Since our inception, the Uplands Outreach team has shared an enduring belief that education equips all our children with options, driving the economy and individual destinies forward. Quite simply, a quality education positions children to tackle any challenge in life, with brighter and healthier future outcomes.

For school children, the adult in front of the classroom is the most important person in this process during the school day. Behind the scenes, the person who unlocks talent and work engagement each day for teachers is the school leader. This is why Uplands Outreach focuses on evidence-based professional development of school leaders and teachers. The evidence about teaching and learning is abundantly clear, as is the importance of school leaders.

Part of Uplands NPC, Uplands Outreach is a dynamic team operating in several school circuits in Mpumalanga, with an original and enduring focus on Insikazi. We were established in 1994 by Uplands in order to boost educational outcomes in rural Mpumalanga, South Africa. Uplands Outreach works collaboratively at the circuit level, and with school leaders, teachers, and pupils in an empirically-proven approach known as 'systemic alignment.' We track impact over time, not just outputs, and we are committed to continuous learning. We build our programmes and impact on three pillars: relationships, depth, and durability.

Uplands Outreach team members in 2023 consisted of Violah Moya, Katia van der Merwe, Joanne York, Tumelo Nkambule, Memory Sithole and Charity Magagula. They were joined by Sibusiso Nkosi and Andile Khumalo as interns, along with Nancy Nkosi and Nicky de Bruyn as consultants. Violah Moya was appointed the Head of



Uplands Outreach in June 2023, to much applause and delight. The Uplands Outreach Executive Committee continues to guide us, chaired by Miles Japhet. We were profoundly saddened by the loss of our longest-serving staff member, Beauty Mashego-Mthambo, who passed away from cancer in 2023. We will miss her dearly. Her 20 years+ service and warm legacy is honoured by a bench in the Japhet Outreach Centre gardens.

On a very happy note, in 2023 we also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the SMILE programme at Uplands, and produced our own English/Siswati storybook in honour of this milestone. The SMILE storybook was written by Nicky de Bruyn, Violah Moya and Sharon van Reenen, and was illustrated by Wendy Paterson. The SMILE storybook handover was a long-lasting highlight of 2023. Thank you to all our donors and supporters who encourage our work at Uplands Outreach and give us wings to fly.

**Mrs Violah Moya**  
**Head of Uplands Outreach**





# Uplands Foundation

Reflecting on the year 2023, I remain filled with gratitude as we recount the successes and milestones achieved together. Your unwavering support and dedication to Uplands has played a vital role in making this year an exceptional one for our community.

One of the highlights of 2023 was the return of the Uplands Off-Road Duathlon. This event brought together athletes, enthusiasts and families from across the Lowveld, fostering a sense of camaraderie and healthy competition. This year's event was not only to offer a challenge for the Friends of Uplands, but also with the funds raised, we were able to financially support the Uplands Legacy Fund together. This fund provides for development at Uplands and finances the most critical

of all projects, our bursary programme. We believe in the power and value of education to change lives and change the world. Our incredibly generous sponsors Ezigro Seedlings, MTO Trails and Lowveld Powersports were the backbone of our event. It is a real privilege to be a part of a school with such a reputation, one which would not be possible without the generosity of our community. Through your generous contributions and enthusiastic participation, the Uplands Foundation Off-Road Duathlon once again became a beacon of sportsmanship and vitality in our community.

Our Partnership Projects have flourished and expanded, thanks to your continued support. The Uplands Foundation has been fortunate to be working in



collaboration with Coolmore Farms and Green Farms Nut Company. Each week we received a consignment of Coolmore Avocados, Coolmore Honey and Macadamia Nut Oil to sell to the Uplands Community. Most notably, our shoppers were supporting the Uplands Legacy Fund. Together, we have forged meaningful collaborations that have had a profound impact on strengthening the Uplands Legacy Fund. These partnerships exemplify the power of collaboration and the importance of working together towards common goals.

I am also delighted to share the success of our Giving Back in Matric Campaign. Every year, our Matrics leave Uplands as young women and men ready to embark on the next chapter of their lives. The Uplands Foundation invites them to pause, glance back and reflect upon the road they have travelled at school. Each family finds a unique opportunity to give back, whether in the form of thank-you letters to their favourite teachers or by way of an Uplands Legacy Fund donation. Our Matric families are asked to consider donating their full deposits, or a portion of their deposits, back to Uplands. Your support has enabled us to instill values of empathy and social responsibility in the next generation of leaders.

This year, Webster House celebrated its Centenary! On Saturday 26 August at 17:00, friends of Uplands joined together to celebrate the 100th birthday of our Uplands grand old dame! The love of Webster House and the traditions developed in her hallways are the thread that weaves generations together, creating a tapestry of shared experiences and values. Celebrating the Webster House Centenary reminded us that tradition is not a relic of the past but a vibrant force that enriches our lives and brings us together. We become the custodians of a cultural treasure, guarding it against the tides of change while allowing it to evolve and adapt to the needs of each new generation. This

cultural celebration provided an opportunity for our community to connect, learn and grow. Your presence and involvement made this gathering truly memorable.

None of these events and accomplishments would have been possible without the generosity and commitment of our donors and supporters. Your belief in our mission has been the driving force behind our success, and we are profoundly grateful for your continued partnership.

As we look ahead to the possibilities and opportunities that the future holds, we carry with us the lessons and achievements of 2023. Together, we have made a meaningful difference, and I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to inspire positive change in the years to come.

Together, we are making a difference.

**Mrs Sally Greathead**  
**Head of Uplands Foundation**





# Uplands Parent Teacher Association



The PTA had a wonderful 2023 with lots of events that highlighted the amazing community spirit of Uplands.

As we look back, we are grateful for the continued support at the Used2BYours second-hand clothing shop, the beautiful Art Card Project, the Uplands Classifieds and the stationery packs, as well as the Uplands Merchandise.

The Christmas Market has become a highlight on the annual calendar with lots of family fun, delicious food and gorgeous Christmas shopping.

This year we decided to include the children in our annual burger and quiz night. The evening was enjoyed by children, parents and teachers alike.

Founders weekend was a festive event with young and old coming out to support our sports teams. The Sunday morning MTO mountain bike event was well supported and our barista could hardly keep up with the freshly brewed coffee.

With much excitement, the PTA offered sushi and curry at all the school plays. It was a wonderful opportunity for our parents to enjoy a delicious meal under the trees

while getting to know each other better.

In 2023, some of our projects included a donation towards the artificial grass in front of the Pre-Prep classrooms. The College also benefitted from an upgrade at "The armpit".

The School library received close to 3000 books donated by our children during our "Woodlands" book drive competition.

As we look forward to a jam-packed 2024 we would like to give our thanks to the Uplands community for their support. What a special school we get to serve.

**Ms Sarah-Marie Snyman**  
**Chair of Uplands Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**





# Tribute to Tracey Russell

## *A true friend to Uplands*



Amy and Bryce. Initially settling in Steiltes, they eventually relocated to White River in 2005.

Tracey's involvement as a pivotal figure in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at Uplands began in 2008 when she was invited by Brenda Archdeacon to a PTA meeting, soon finding herself nominated as Chairlady. Her commitment to the school led her to deeply engage in the Uplands culture, dedicating her time and skills to numerous events. Notably, she took over the Uplands Festival, an event that flourished, drawing past pupils, community members and families to participate in activities during Derby weekend, which traditionally coincided with the Founders Day celebrations. The Festival, prior to the onset of Covid-19, raised substantial funds for various school initiatives, attracting up to 12,000 visitors over the course of the weekend.

**Tracey Smith Russell** has been an integral part of the Lowveld community since she was seven years old, fondly recalling fishing at Klipkoppie on her birthdays. After completing her education at Lowveld High in Nelspruit, she pursued a degree in software development at KZN University. In 1997, along with her husband Richard, Tracey made the decision to move back to Nelspruit to raise their two children,

Sally Greathead, Head of the Uplands Foundation, has commended Tracey for her instrumental role in establishing the One School PTA committee in 2014. Her extensive knowledge of Uplands facilitated the accomplishment of numerous milestones, making her an invaluable asset to the school. Sean Carlisle, Executive Head,

has praised Tracey as an apolitical leader, a problem solver, and a visionary whose presence has been a blessing for Uplands over the past 15 years. Angela Kent, Tracey's steadfast companion at various events, fondly recalls their collaborative efforts, emphasizing Tracey's dedication, hard work and reliability.

Tracey's service extended beyond the PTA, encompassing roles as a Board member from 2010 until her decision to step down in March 2022. Her balanced perspectives and strategic guidance played a pivotal role in the school's evolution, contributing to numerous events and initiatives, from UPPA activities to meticulously planned Christmas markets all aimed at raising funds for charities and the school.

Her departure from official roles within the PTA and Board leaves a void, and her absence will be felt across the campus. As she moves forward, Tracey's aspirations for the future are vast, and the entire Uplands community extends its heartfelt wishes to her, expressing profound gratitude for her unwavering dedication and service to the school, staff, pupils and the community throughout the years.





# Uplands Past Pupils Association (UPPA) News

UPPA's predominant goal this year was to reconnect and rekindle relationships with past Prep Leavers and College graduates, many of whom we have not seen for a long time.

"With all our events, we felt we have achieved that"

**Rowena Tyson**  
Head of UPPA



Mabuza, both Prep Leavers), Rachel Guthrie (dad David Guthrie, Prep Leaver) and Reeza Flores (step-mom Cathy Mackintosh, Class of 2002). We enjoyed getting to know them a little more, and wished them well for their College years.

The Uplands Pre-Prep children were also welcomed, and each received a children's booklet, with an UPPA message. Those welcomed were Owen and Jenna Snyman (dad Joshua Snyman, Class of 2009), Luca Gallier (parents Darius Gallier, Class of 2006, and Kelly Gallier, Class of 2008), and Zara Leslie (mom Megan Leslie, Prep Leaver). Thomas Fair (dad Timothy Fair, Class of 2006) was also welcomed.

**Rowena Tyson**

(Chair, Prep Leaver 1984)

**Malcolm Deacon**

(Treasurer, Class of 2000)

**Elaine Taylor**

(Secretary, past Staff)

**Gemma Fry**

(Class of 2012)

**Dave Greathead**

(Prep Leaver 1983)

**Murray Johnstone**

(Prep Leaver 1991)

**Cliff Mabuza**

(Prep Leaver 1991)

**Une Magagula**

(Class of 2006)

**Mark Ponting**

(Prep Leaver 1987)

**Lisa Slabbert**

(Class of 2003)

We commenced the year with a welcome invitation to a Coffee and Cake date with Mr Allan Laing (Head: Uplands College) for Old Uplanders' children who started at Uplands College. This event included some of our current Old Uplanders' children, who also welcomed the newcomers. UPPA has decided that all Old Uplanders' children need to have this special welcome, so this will become an annual event.

The children welcomed in 2023 were Michaela Möhle (mom Nicola Möhle, Prep Leaver), Bruce Nel (dad Craig Nel, Prep Leaver), Keira Knight (dad Bruce Knight, Prep Leaver), Rex Notten (dad David Notten, Prep Leaver), Nicole Mabuza (parents Cliff and Marcia



Old Uplanders' children welcomed to Uplands





## The 10- and 20-Year Reunions

As is the norm, the event was held during the Founders' Derby Weekend in May. The Class of 1999 were invited as special guests, as they had not yet had a Reunion celebration.

The evening was full of joyous laughter, as the groups reunited and reminisced with one another - 'being the same - but not the same.' For each Class group, a table was laid with memorabilia, as well as a screen displaying a collage-video of photos, which scrolled throughout the evening. A remembrance table for those having sadly passed on displayed framed photos of Robert Clarke, Marisa Longuinho and Sifiso Mahima, with lit candles. The UPPA Champions for the Classes of 1999, 2003 and 2013

were thanked for their role in encouraging the Old Uplanders to attend the special evening. These were Bernadette Vieira, Megan Tozer and Mpho Mokoena, respectively.

Lisa Slabbert (Class of 2003), gave a hearty welcome to all the Reunion groups. Sharon van Reenen, staff member since the year 2000, entertained us all with her humorous - and long forgotten - memories, with much ensuing laughter. Darius Gallier (Class of 2006, and renowned Lowveld chef) provided us with a scrumptious meal of fully-laden harvest platters, of an immense variety.

The celebrations lasted well into the night, and it was clear that these renewed relationships will continue until infinity.



## UPPA Golf Day and Ladies' Afternoon

The annual UPPA Golf Day was held during the Uplands 95th Celebrations weekend. The course was filled to capacity with sponsors on tee boxes, with 128 players on the field. The Committee would like to thank Brenda Archdeacon for handling this event with her usual aplomb. The Ladies' Afternoon at Oliver's abounded with prizes and lucky draws. We thank Lisa Slabbert for organising the successful Ladies' Afternoon, an event which is open to anyone and everyone.

## Old Boys Fun Cricket

The Uplands 95th Celebrations also included an Old Boys' Fun Cricket game in the morning. Malcolm Deacon rallied together Old Uplanders - young and old - who teamed up for an exciting match. Photo: James Sheard (past UPPA Chair) replaces his old UPPA cap with a new one.



Photo: Golfer Sean van Wyk (Class of 2022)





## Careers Day

For the first time, Old Uplanders were invited to engage with Grade 11 pupils at Careers Day.

Grade 11s had the opportunity to meet Old Uplanders face-to-face, and not merely hearing about them from older siblings or other sources.

Old Uplanders who attended:

**Une Magagula** (Class of 2006),  
Uplands College Teacher

**Kyla Hamer** (Class of 2018),  
Uplands College Sports Intern

**Graham Wiggill** (Class of 2016), Maths Intern, Uplands College

**Hyla Moffett** (Class of 2004),  
Physiotherapist, Nelspruit

The interactions worked well and the Old Uplanders spoke to everyone who exited from the hall. Most of the interactions were



initially given by the Old Uplanders, finding out whether pupils had decided on a career choice, and what their post-Matric plans were. Kyla, Une, Hyla and Graham all agreed that their time spent was worth it, and that we should plan for this again, for future Careers Days.

## Cliff Mabuza (Prep Leaver 1991) shares his memories of Webster House

One Saturday afternoon at Uplands, lunch was over and we heard the call for the tuck shop. A group of us walked through Webster House to get to the tuckshop. When we got to the stairwell, we heard a noise towards the back of the staircase on the side that was covered with wood panels. At the end of this space was an open cavity covered by a thin, black curtain.

We heard the noise again, and quietly approached the black curtain. Now let me tell you, it was dark in that corner because there is no window there.

Being young, fearless and curious, one of us pulled back the curtain, and there in the dark we saw two red eyes gleaming at us, and whatever it was let out a loud bark. Not a dog bark, but a different type of bark. We dropped the curtain and ran for our dear lives. As fast as we could, we bolted to the safety of Selby Taylor Boarding. Everybody was convinced it was Mabel the Ghost.

Cliff and his wife Marcia (née Cole, Prep Leaver 1993) met as children at Uplands Prep. They now have four children at Uplands.

## Champions of UPPA

Each Matric Class group has a volunteering Champion, who remains in contact with their classmates as they move through their new lives as alumni. Most of our Champions have remained in this role for quite a few years. We are so grateful for their involvement and dedication in staying connected.

**Eden Izeboud**  
**Champion for Class of 2023**

“University is on the horizon and, although I have not decided which course to register for, I am grateful for various opportunities in the field of Commerce and Economics. I would like to continue playing hockey, be actively involved in a local church and make new friends. I look forward to staying in touch with my Class of 2023, and to see them back on the Uplands campus in the years to come. “

We so appreciate the UPPA Committee’s efforts and ongoing commitment to ensure that our events go well. Without the massive support of parents and sponsors, we would not have had the success that we have enjoyed this year. On this note, a firm and huge “Thank You!” shout-out goes to you all.



Photo: Marcia and Cliff Mabuza

# Sports Report

*Celebrating a Year of Unbridled Sporting Enthusiasm*

As we reflect on the sporting achievements of 2023, it brings immense joy to recount the incredible journey we've had, marking the first full year of sporting opportunities post-COVID without any restrictions. This year has been a testament to the resilience and spirit of our athletes, coaches and parents who have supported us unwaveringly.

## **Farewell to a Beloved Colleague**

In bidding farewell, we acknowledge the departure of Bronwen Erasmus from the Foundation Phase set-up after a fantastic and dedicated stint. Her influence on child development was truly remarkable, and her absence will be keenly felt. We extend our deepest gratitude for her passion and commitment in shaping the young minds of Uplands.

## **Embracing New Horizons**

This year, we expanded our horizons by participating in the prestigious St Stithian's Sports Festival for the first time. Our athletes showcased exceptional skill, determination and sportsmanship, leaving a lasting

impression on the broader sporting community. It was an invaluable experience that enriched the lives of our pupils and further solidified Uplands Prep School's standing in the sporting arena.

## **Historic Squash Team Tour**

Another noteworthy milestone was achieved as our squash team embarked on their first-ever tour in the history of the school. This endeavour not only fostered camaraderie amongst the players but also opened up new avenues for growth and development in the realm of squash. We commend the team for their trailblazing efforts and look forward to more historic moments in the years to come.

## **Facing Hardships for Growth**

To our parents, we express our heartfelt appreciation for your continued support. It is important to recognise that allowing our children to face challenges and hardships is an integral part of their growth journey. Just as in sports, where resilience is built through overcoming obstacles, life's challenges provide opportunities for character development and maturity. Your

encouragement and understanding play a crucial role in nurturing well-rounded individuals.

## **Welcoming the Return of Dylan Badenhorst**

As we bid farewell to one exceptional individual, we welcome back another. We are delighted to announce the return of Dylan Badenhorst to the sports department. His expertise and passion for fostering athletic excellence will undoubtedly contribute to the continued growth and success of our sports programme.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the future of sport at Uplands Prep School. The enthusiasm and dedication of our pupils, combined with the expertise of our coaching staff, promise a year of even greater achievements.

Thank you for being an integral part of our sporting family.

**Mr Ryan McCarthy**  
**Director of Sport**





# Preparatory Staff



Angie Harrison



Asanda Mkhonto



Ashleigh Smart



Bev Carlse



Braam Smit



Brian Dengler



Bronwen Erasmus



Bronwyn Nortje



Cassandra Mönning



Claudia McCarthy



Clayton Tait



Danielle Steenkamp



Debbie van Rooyen



Desire Delpont



Diphenyo Machaba



Dylan Badenhorst



Estie Smit



Gabsile Nkosi



Gary Viljoen



Jacques Müller





Janet Tecklenburg



Jayde Clarke



Jo-Anne Choonara



Kristina Rubino



Ladya van Antwerpen



Laura Squires



Loraine Codd



Marischa Landman



Michelle Barry



Minette Collins



Moné Gates



Nolwazi Hlabangane



Nombuso Mashego



Nthabiseng Nkuna



Phumzile Mabandla



Piers Cruickshanks



Prince Ndlovu



Ryan McCarthy



Sally Wiggill



Sam Arntzen



Sean Barry



Siphokazi Macingwane



Suné Minnie



Taryn Berry



Thulani Mngomezulu



# Grounds Staff



Ben Matsane



Bongani Gumede



Calvin Lekhuleni



Chris Joubert



Clifton Baloyi



Derick Gumede



Dewey Benside



Eddy Mathabela



Elias Ngwenya



Elson Mathonsi



Eugene Du Preez



Freddy Chave



Freddy Ndlovu



Jeffrey Matsani



Joaqeem Pequinino



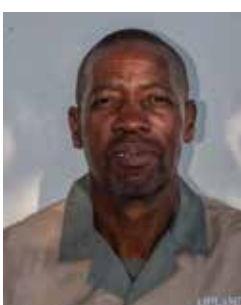
Joseph Tamele



Katlego Molimi



Mandla Mabuza



Meshack Mathebula



Michael Maloka



Moses Zulu



Sam Zenas



Somandla Sithole



Sifiso Malumane



Sifiso Mdhuli

# Grounds Staff

# Housekeeping Staff



Cindy Maluka



Elizabeth Matsane



Leah Mshwane



Lucia Mkhathshwa



Millecent Maluka



Nomsa Sehali



Precious Khumalo



Pretty Makhabane



Pretty Selepe

# Kitchen Staff



**Absent:** Kgaogelo Mashaba

## Front Row:

Maria Moeltsie, Busi Mgwenya

## Back Row:

Mapule Nhlanhla,  
Marikie Chiloane, Susan Mabuza,  
Molly Robberts (Catering Manager)



# Senior Phase Academics Report

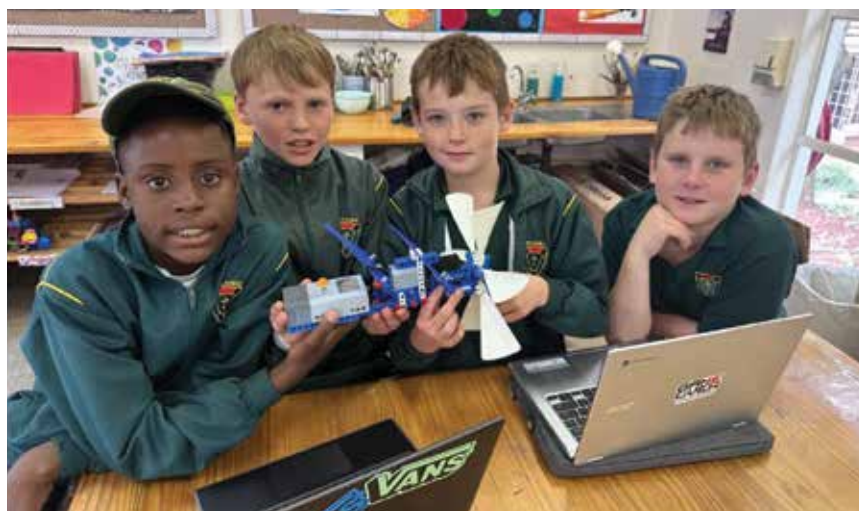
Uplands Academics continued to contemporise during the course of 2023. More opportunities were found to take pupils outside, to teach skills in a real-world context and to give them the opportunity to solve real-world problems through their own creative thinking and expression. Project-based work, through the Inquiry-Based Learning

programme, which was built into the timetable for the first time, saw pupils grappling with problems which are not book-bound, but which they see and recognise in the world around them.

**Mr Piers Cruickshanks**  
Deputy Head



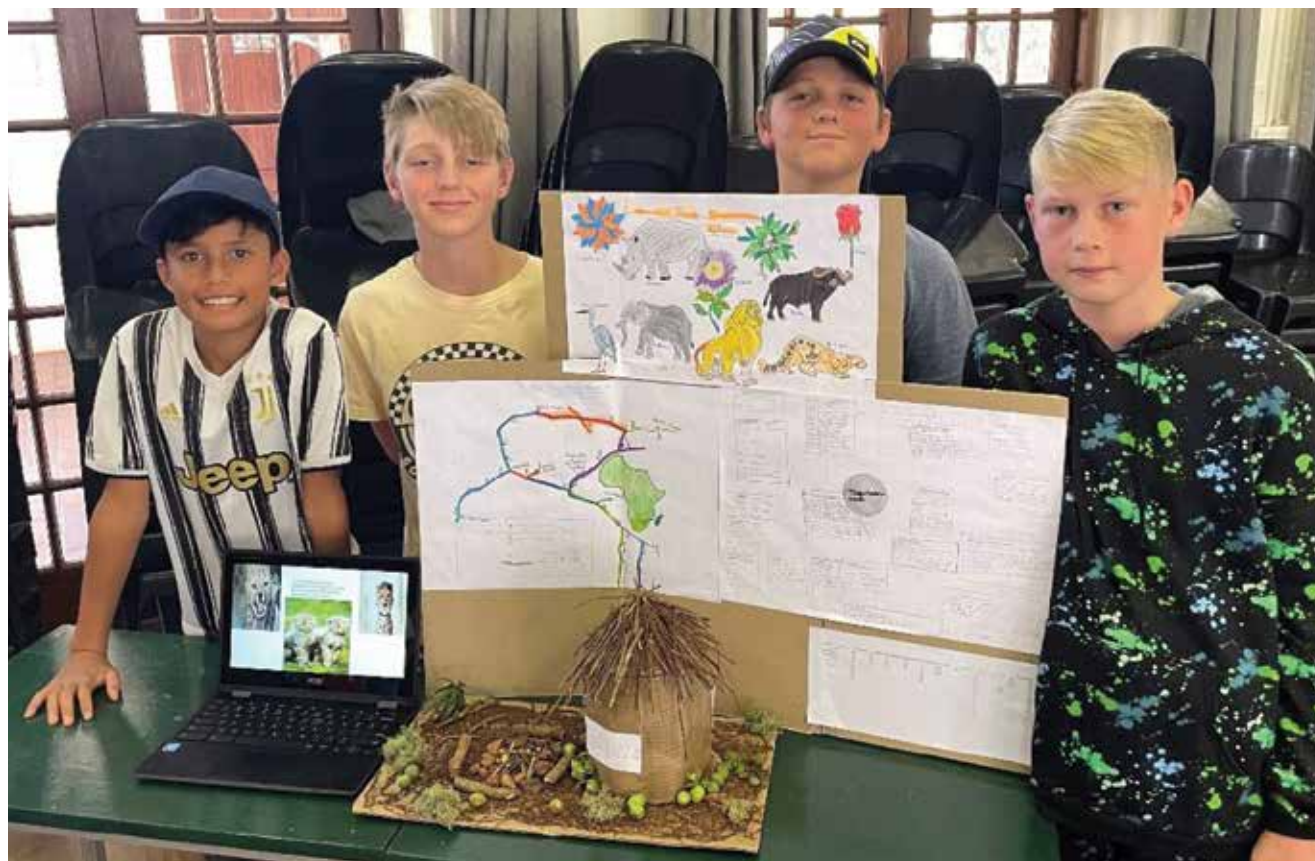
Grade 4s searching for story elements in the swimming pool, and rebuilding them



Grade 5s show off their Lego robots



Grade 7s enjoying working on their IBL projects outdoors



Grade 6s presenting their Lowveld Tourism proposal

# Foundation Phase Report

The Foundation Phase years are where we see immense development and metamorphosis.

I came across this powerful story that highlighted how growing can sometimes be hard, but our difficulties or challenges in life form our greatest strengths. Sometimes we have the best intentions to help others through something that they find tough, when really all they need is to know that they can handle it on their own.

The story goes like this. There was once a man who came across a butterfly cocoon. Curious to see the butterfly emerge, he sat and watched for many hours as the butterfly struggled to force its body through a small hole in the cocoon. Then the butterfly appeared to stop making any progress. It seemed to the man that the butterfly had gone as long and as far as it could, and was not able to push through the cocoon.

So with the best of intentions, the man decided to help the butterfly. He grabbed a pair of scissors and cut off the remaining part of the cocoon. With the cocoon cut open, the butterfly no longer had to struggle and emerged easily. As it emerged, the man noticed it had a swollen body and small, shrivelled wings. The man continued to watch, expecting the butterfly to fly away. However, this did not happen.

The butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around the ground, unable to fly because of its small wings. Although the man had the best of intentions, what he failed to understand is that the cocoon's job is to provide the struggle and resistance the butterfly needs in order to grow. The resistance from the tiny cocoon is exactly what is needed because it forces fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings which enables the wings to grow and prepares it for flight, once the butterfly earns its way out of the cocoon.

There is a powerful life lesson here: our challenges give us strength. Sometimes the hard things we go through are exactly what we need to grow and develop. Sometimes we have to show grit and determination in a given moment, and it is this grit, resilience and determination that help us to grow or, in essence, fly.

Parents, it is in our nature to want to help our children, but don't do everything for your child that it in fact hampers them from flying. When you say "I'll do it for you", it gives our children the message that they can't and they most certainly can. Our role as a parent is not just to solve problems for our children, but to equip them with the skills and mindset to navigate life's complexities. Encourage them, be their support system,

but also trust in their capabilities. Let them know that you believe in them, by allowing them the space to grow independently.

To the Foundation Phase team of teachers, the class teachers, specialist teachers and intern teachers, you are the cocoon that allows the butterfly to fly. You are selfless, caring and passionate, and give your all to each child in your care. You instil in each child a sense of independence and a sense of belief in themselves and for that I am so incredibly grateful.

Boys and girls, if something is tricky in life, don't give up, but keep persevering because with determination you will grow those strong wings which enable you to fly. Believe that you can do it and you will fly. Remember, just like the caterpillar transforms into a beautiful butterfly, you too are capable of incredible change and growth. Spread your wings, explore the world, and always remember the power of your uniqueness. May your days be filled with joy, learning and endless possibilities. Fly high and embrace the adventure that awaits you.

**Mrs Claudia McCarthy**  
**Deputy Head: Foundation Phase**

## Boarding Report

2023 saw 25 boarders in Prep Boarding.

The increase in numbers meant new beds had to be installed in Webster House to accommodate all the girls. With so many boarders, new friendships were waiting to be created and many new adventures awaited them.

Top amongst the new adventures was an opportunity to go camping

once a term. Tents, sleeping bags, mattresses and all the other camping paraphernalia, along with the boarders, were packed into the buses as we departed for Merry Pebbles and Mankele. These camping trips proved very entertaining and much fun was had by all.

Rugby took over from soccer and netball as the boarders enjoyed their free time on Webster Lawn

before supper was enjoyed and prep completed.

2023 saw the common room in Selby Taylor increase in size as we continued to provide a family feel to the boarding houses. 2024 will see even more changes in this regard.

**Mr Sean Barry**  
**Head of Boarding**





## Cultural and Music Report

In the cultural realm of Uplands Preparatory 2023, an enchanting tapestry of creativity and talent unfolded, painting the halls with vibrant hues of artistic expression. At the forefront of our cultural endeavours was the spectacular major production titled "The Greatest Show," a masterpiece that seamlessly wove together the diverse talents of our pupils. The Eisteddfod, a cornerstone of our cultural engagement, once again provided a platform for our pupils to showcase their exceptional dance, musical and drama skills, and artistic prowess. In the

competitive arena, Uplands pupils demonstrated their commitment to excellence and their ability to collaborate and compete on a broader cultural stage. External performances by professional companies graced our school, bringing with them a wealth of artistic diversity. Pupils were treated to various performances, expanding their cultural horizons and instilling an appreciation for various artistic forms.

**Mrs Marischa Landman**  
Head of Culture



# Learning Support Unit

*"Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be"*

- Rita Pierson

Uplands Preparatory School takes pride in its commitment to nurturing every pupil's potential, and at the heart of this dedication lies the Learning Support Unit (LSU). This dynamic, professional and multi-disciplinary team is comprised of an Educational Psychologist, Remedial Therapists, Speech and Language Therapist, and Occupational Therapists who tirelessly work together to provide invaluable support to pupils requiring extra assistance.

The LSU at Uplands is not just a department; it is a compassionate community of professionals who go beyond the conventional boundaries of their practice. Their

commitment extends beyond academic realms, delving into the emotional frontiers of each pupil's journey. This compassionate approach ensures that every pupil feels supported, not only in their studies but also in their emotional well-being.

The primary objective of the LSU is to nurture each pupil, helping them reach their full potential. It is not just about overcoming academic challenges; it is about transforming these challenges into successes. The LSU takes pride in celebrating the victories, both big and small, of every pupil who has worked exceptionally hard throughout the year.

The LSU is delighted to announce the addition of two outstanding therapists to its team. Pat McCreedy, a familiar face at Uplands, has joined the remedial therapy team. Pat's wealth of experience and familiarity with the

Uplands community make her a valuable asset to the LSU.

Additionally, the Occupational Therapy team welcomes Rachel Forword. With her expertise and passion for occupational therapy, Rachel adds a fresh perspective to the LSU, contributing to the holistic support provided to Uplands pupils.

As we reflect on the year gone by, the LSU is proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of Uplands Preparatory School's pupils. Their hard work, resilience and determination have not only overcome challenges but have also paved the way for a future filled with promise and success.

**Mrs Lorin Hauptfleisch**  
**Head: Learning Support Unit**

## Choir Sleepover

The Senior Choir had a wonderful time at the choir sleepover to kickstart 2023. They used this time to start practising their repertoire for the year and to bond as a unit. Choir members worked hard in order to play hard later, having fun in the pool. Delighted cheers and spirited shouting emanated from the hall as they participated in fun games into the evening.

**Mr Braam Smit**

## Inter-House Poetry

Poetry was elevated into an inter-house showdown in 2023. Poets competed against each other for house bragging rights as to who the winner would be. Grade by grade, the poets strutted their stuff with many poems being about food, keeping the audience hungry for more performances. Teachers also competed against each other in Nursery Rhymes with "Little Boy Blue" and "Little Bo Peep" getting a serious re-write. Laughing, rhyming, singing, cheering, clicking and fun was had by all.

**Mr Brian Dengler**

## Sound and Lights

The sound and lights crew worked hard throughout the year, providing assistance at various events, including weekly Eucharist services and assemblies, the Senior Phase play, the Foundation Phase play, Uplands Has Talent, and the Pre-Prep play. Being part of the crew provides Grade 7s with the opportunity to learn about the foundations of sound engineering.

**Miss Cassandra Mönnig**





# Art Report

## Grade 3

In a Henri Matisse-inspired art unit, Grade 3 pupils developed their fundamental art skills and knowledge by working on organic and geometric shapes, creating 3-D vases, and producing scissor drawings. The introduction to clay was a highlight, promoting fine motor skills, self-esteem and problem-solving abilities. In the second semester, pupils explored warm and cold colours for Zebra drawings and jellyfish watercolour paintings, experimented with bubble-making techniques, and learned etching with scratchpads. They also created simple line drawings of local bird species, emphasising creativity and diverse artistic techniques.



## Grade 4

In a Picasso-inspired art unit, Grade 4 children enhanced their fundamental art skills by focusing on the elements of line, shape and form. Using chalk pastels and oil pastels on black paper, they created an abstract rooster, exploring shapes and colours for a striking modern art piece. The unit also delved into Cubism with the creation of sculptural masks. In the second semester, Grade 4 pupils continued their artistic journey by exploring movement in paintings, creating Koi Pond pieces, and using unique techniques like toilet roll prints and the bleeding technique for bubbles. The collaborative effort on papier-mâché food sculptures showcased both artistic talent and teamwork. Observational drawings of familiar locations displayed



attention to detail and a growing connection to their surroundings. The pupils' creativity, enthusiasm and willingness to experiment were commendable this year.

## Grade 5

In a Georgia O'Keeffe-inspired art unit, Grade 5 children advanced their fundamental art skills by creating large-format paintings of flowers or seashells using black glue and water paint. They explored watercolour techniques like wet-on-wet and watercolour salt, resulting in vibrant artworks. The unit also involved drawing basic 3D forms and shading based on light sources, demonstrated through pencil drawings of animal skulls combined with delicate objects.

In Semester 2, the focus shifted to





honing drawing and observational skills for Grade 5 pupils. They explored movement in paintings, creating impressive Koi Pond pieces, and used oil pastels to detail enlarged animal eyes, employing layering techniques for texture. Observational drawings of familiar campus locations showcased attention to detail and a growing connection to their environment. The semester concluded with a project on figure sculptures, where pupils manipulated wire and used papier-mâché to bring their creative visions to life. Overall, the semester provided diverse artistic experiences, fostering both technical skill development and a deeper appreciation for the pupils' surroundings



## Grade 6

In a Michelangelo Buonarroti-inspired art unit, Grade 6 children developed fundamental art skills by creating mixed-media paintings, giving their unique interpretations of the "Creation of Adam." Styrofoam printing was explored, producing landscape scenes with silhouetted objects reflecting on water.

In the Grade 6 Art class, pupils learned pencil drawing proportions for portraits and explored oil pastels to create intricate, enlarged animal eyes with layering techniques. Observational drawings of campus locations showcased meticulous attention to detail and a growing connection to their surroundings. The year concluded with a mixed-media still life drawing, incorporating an etching technique for the background and adding depth and colour with colored pencils. Overall, the pupils explored various mediums and techniques, honing their artistic skills and fostering a deeper appreciation for art and their environment.

## Grade 7

In an Egyptian-inspired art unit, Grade 7 children advanced their fundamental art skills by creating cartouches with hieroglyphs and self-portraits, using oil pastels and watercolour paint. They explored Egyptian art further by crafting animal mummies with papier-mâché, resulting in unique pieces decorated with acrylic paint.

In Semester 2, pupils continued exploring movement in paintings with impressive Koi Pond pieces, followed by a study of artist William Kentridge, focusing on charcoal as a medium. A project



featuring an animal of their choice allowed pupils to express their creativity. The curriculum also included a mixed media project using monochromatic colours on old book pages, showcasing the successful combination of various art elements.

As the academic year drew to a close, pupils honed their drawing proficiency, concentrating on the intricacies of the human eye. They delved into the art element of value, placing a strong emphasis on mastering shading and contrast. Additionally, they ventured into the techniques of nature monoprints.

## SABIO

To commemorate World Bee Day, Uplands pupils engaged in an art competition organised by the South African Bee Industry Organization (SABIO), showcasing their talent with chalk pastels to illustrate bees and experiment with a vibrant colour spectrum. Holly Ferrier secured the first position in the photography category. In the Grade 3-5 division, Arianna Tecklenburg claimed the second spot. Additionally, in the Grade 6-8 category, Tanith Gebhardt clinched second place, and Elson Oliveira secured third place.

**Mrs Janet Tecklenburg**





# FAL Day

During Heritage-themed IBL week, we celebrated FAL Day, a delightful occasion filled with isiZulu and Afrikaans games. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to explore diverse traditions. We set up 16 stations, each featuring unique games such as Diketo, bokdrolletjie spoeg, and various other traditional games, providing a rich cultural experience for the children.

**Mrs Marischa Landman**







## Crazy Hair Day

The Uplands Preparatory School has hosted a Crazy Hair Day to raise funds for the Uplands Preparatory Senior Phase play. Our staff and children did not disappoint and some extravagant hairstyles were displayed! Well done and thank you to all the parents and pupils who supported us in this initiative.

**Mrs Marischa Landman**





# Foundation Phase Marimba Band

The Grade 3s had lots of fun learning to play the marimbas. A select few were chosen to play as part of the Foundation Phase concert, 'ABBA in Africa', giving Mamma Mia an African twist. They were also showcased at the end of year Prizegiving, as they bade farewell to the Foundation Phase.

**Miss Cassandra Mönnig**



# Senior Phase Marimba Band

The Senior Phase marimba group excelled throughout the year, performing at several events, such as the end of year Prizegiving. The Senior marimba band brought much joy and excitement to their playing, and practised multiple repertoires throughout the year.

With the departure of Mr Braam Smit, the group performed an uplifting and rousing piece to bid their mentor a fond farewell.

**Miss Cassandra Mönnig**





# Valentine's Day

We celebrated Valentine's Day by embracing the spirit of friendships. Children came dressed in pink, white or red, spreading cheer throughout the school. Goodies were sold, contributing to the Grade 7 leavers' dinner fund, fostering a sense of community and support. It was a heart-warming day filled with love and laughter!

**Mrs Marischa Landman**





# House Family Fun Day



Our first-ever House Family Fun Day was an “explosive” success! Over 300 eager and excited participants lined up at the start line and emerged at the end, covered from head to toe in colour! Our families then enjoyed some quality time out on the Prep Oval, in the form of a picnic.

The colour explosion was a highlight for many of the children, as well as one or two parents! A huge thank-you to our parents for supporting us, the Grade 6 Fundraising Committee, in putting delicious picnic “baskets” together and, last but not least, the Heads of House team for their organisation of the event.

**Mr Brian Dengler**





# “Thank you for the Music” ft. Abba in Africa

Our Uplands Preparatory Foundation Phase children put on a spectacular concert, “Thank you for the Music” ft. Abba in Africa. Our children showcased their amazing talents in singing, dancing and performing with passion and vibrancy. The audience joined in the fun by singing

along to familiar songs and even a few parents were caught dancing in their seats. Well done, Foundation Phase children - we are so proud of you!

**Mrs Claudia McCarthy**





# The Greatest Show



Uplands Preparatory School's performance of *The Greatest Show* was a magnificent display of the acting, dancing and singing talents of the Senior Primary phase. The pupils dedicated themselves wholeheartedly to the show and gave outstanding performances on both nights. The story follows PT Barnum's relentless pursuit of success and recognition, which leads him to lose sight of what truly matters as he becomes consumed by wealth and status. It is, however, through a moment of tragedy that he discovers the true meaning of importance and learns valuable lessons about life.

**Mr Braam Smit**





# Uplands has Talent



Uplands Preparatory School hosted a spectacular talent show on the 7th of November, featuring singing, dancing, comedy, karate, musical instruments and gymnastics. The Foundation Phase winner, Colton Hearn, showcased his remarkable Karate skills, while the Senior Phase winners, Sasha Paulsen, Amber Paulsen and Karla Masinga, wowed us with their dance performance. But the talent did not end there! We also had a fantastic staff section, where our amazing teachers and staff members displayed their hidden talents. It was an evening of incredible performances and heart-warming moments.

**Mrs Marischa Landman**





# World Book Day

“Books are a uniquely portable magic”

– Stephen King

What magical places did we travel to and whom did we meet? There was Charlie from the Chocolate Factory, Spider Man, Jack and the Beanstalk, Wizards of Oz, Mr Stink and a whole host of Harry Potters – just to mention a few. A book-themed treasure hunt, a quiz and a “Drop Everything and Read” session made our celebration of World Book Day one to remember!

**Mr Brian Dengler**





# Books2You Book Fair

The recent Books2You Book Fair was an enchanting literary event that celebrated the magic of books and reading. Hosted by Books2You, this fair showcased a captivating collection of books, providing an opportunity for book lovers to immerse themselves in the world of literature.

At the heart of the fair was a diverse selection of books, spanning various genres and age groups. There was something to

pique the interest of every reader. The fair was a true literary treasure trove. Children were treated to an array of age-appropriate books and interactive activities, fostering a love for reading from a young age.

The presence of Siya, a friendly member of the Books2You team, added a warm and welcoming touch to the event. The fair brought together a community of book enthusiasts, a reminder of the

power of books to connect people.

The Books2You Book Fair was a delightful celebration of literature that left a lasting impact on all who attended. It reinforced the enduring love for books and the joy of reading. We extend our appreciation to Books2You for curating this wonderful literary experience.

**Miss Moné Gates**





# Travelling Bookshop



Uplands Preparatory School was once again privileged to welcome The Travelling Bookshop to the library. There was an amazing selection of high-quality books catering for all ages and tastes. Many eager book lovers came to the shop and left excitedly with their purchases.

Miss Phumzile Mabandla





# Foundation Phase Choir

The Foundation Phase choir performed at several events throughout the year, including Uplands Founders' Evening, the Nelspruit Eisteddfod, and Carols by Candlelight. Their repertoire ranged from light music to an African song. They achieved a Silver at the Eisteddfod, and had a wonderful, fun-filled year of music-making.



**Miss Cassandra Mönnig**

# Senior Phase Choir



The Senior Phase choir had a tumultuous year, with the mid-year departure of their conductor, Mr Braam Smit. However, they

performed a rousing rendition of Pink's 'Cover Me in Sunshine' at Uplands Founders' evening and further showcased their talents

at both of the Uplands-Penryn Cultural Derbies.

**Mr Braam Smit**



# Eisteddfod

The annual Nelspruit Eisteddfod took place in August. Many Uplands pupils partook in this event across multiple categories, including dance, art and music. Uplands pupils left the Eisteddfod with wonderful results, predominantly achieving Silver, Gold and Prestige awards.

**Mr Braam Smit**





# Inter-House Chess



# Sacristans



**Front Row:** Gabriella Mason, Luthando Mlombo, Allisa Sibiya, Nseki Mkhonto

**Middle Row:** Rev Bronwyn Nortje, Lia van Niekerk, Hillary Murenzvi, Wetsembekile Thwala

**Back Row:** Guy McCarthy, Lanner Reilly, Carter Cruse, Joel le Roux, Lloyds-Junior Sambo



# House Captains



## **Fuller House Captains and Vice House Captains**

Luqmaan Adham, Thembisile Mncina, Wetsembekile Thwala, Mr Brian Dengler, Nseketelo Mkhonto, Obakeng Manana, Tarique Bülter



## **Ogilvie House Captains and Vice House Captains**

Joel le Roux, Megan Prinsloo, Bryn Gilmour, Mrs Minette Collins, Hillary Murenzvi, Gabriella Mason, Jared Gilmour



# House Captains



**Webb House Captains and Vice House Captains**

Jasmine Loram, Nathan White, Sebastian Scorgie, Mr Thulani Mngomezulu, Shelby Trollip, Lia van Niekerk, Ethan White

## Charity Drive

Each term, the Preparatory School holds a Civvies Day that raises funds for a different charity. The Civvies Days are wonderful ways of raising donations and awareness of the different charities that we support. The focus of our charities is supporting our local communities. In the first term, we focus on animals. The SPCA is often in need of food at the end of the first term, as they have an influx of animals over the December holidays. We must teach our children to look after those who cannot speak for themselves. In Term 2, it is our winter blanket drive. By donating blankets to the local orphanages, we encourage our children to be grateful for what they have. We often combine this with a Barefoot Day in the middle

of winter. If you want to understand someone's point of view, walk a mile in their shoes (or without any shoes, in this case). In Term 3, we donate to Hospice, showing our children that the frail and elderly need support and care as well. Our final charity drive in December is the Rotary Christmas Gift Drive. A small donation on our part makes a big difference in the lives of those who have nothing. Charity begins at home, but to get that right we need to teach our children to be grateful for what they have, mindful of those who do not have much, and generous in our support of them.

**Mr Gary Viljoen**  
**Deputy Headmaster**  
**Pastoral Care**

## SPCA Report

At the end of the first term Uplands Prep held their annual SPCA pet food drive. Not only does the end of Term 1 coincide with International Wildlife Day, but it is also a busy time at the SPCA, with many animals being abandoned or lost during the festive season. Once again the Uplands community showed their generosity and care for our furry friends through their wonderful donations. A special thank-you must go to the Christie family for their outstanding support of this initiative. As Paul McCartney once said, "You can judge a man's true character by the way he treats his fellow animals."

**Mr Gary Viljoen**  
**Deputy Headmaster**  
**Pastoral Care**









## Founders' Evening

The Uplands Founders' Evening this year certainly showed the true Uplands "can-do" spirit and resilience where everyone pulled together after an unseasonal storm rendered the outside venue unusable, just half an hour before proceedings were due to start. Pupils and staff rallied to carry equipment, chairs and musical instruments to the indoor hall, bypassing fallen trees in the way. After all, "The show must go on" - and it did!

Founders' Evening celebrates our rich 95-year history with a candle-lighting ceremony where the "Light of Knowledge" is symbolically passed on from grade to grade. It was an exciting evening that showcased Uplands' exceptional art, dance and musical talent.

In the words of our Chairman, Mr Greg Dane, "Today we celebrate our Founders, who created the platform 95 years ago for this special place that we are all

privileged to be a part of. At Uplands, we have the vision of creating a school with a relaxed happy feel, as well as high expectations and deliverables." He further added, "You can be proud of your school as it continues to move in the right direction. Not everyone appreciates change, but without change one cannot become 'Great'."

**Mr Sean Carlisle**





# Back our Boys!

Our blood is green and gold.  
Uplands supports our National  
Rugby team, the Springboks.





# Webster House Centenary

Early in the evening on Saturday, 26 August, Mr Sean Carlisle, Uplands Executive Head, hosted a Cheese and Wine event to mark the occasion of the Centenary of Webster House – the magnificent mansion which was built in 1923 and is the heart of Uplands.

Mr Carlisle reminded us that Webster House has always stood as a symbol of unity, diversity and inclusivity, and urged guests to commit to upholding these values stepping into the future. An exquisite sculpture, called The Cartwheel Children, was also unveiled by Mr Scott Hauptfleisch, Preparatory Head, at the Centenary Celebration. It was created by our past pupil and talented sculptor, Robert Rorich, who matriculated from Uplands in 2013.

A delightful poem encapsulating the history of Webster House, titled “The Tale of Webster House” and penned by Mr Gavin Sinclair, past Preparatory Head, was read at the event by Mrs Frances Hyson, past staff member and parent. Mrs Marcia Mabuza, née Cole, shared her enchanting memories of Webster House. Mrs Rowena Tyson, née Kirk, donated two beautiful Burmese Teak Morris chairs back to the verandah of Webster House where they originally sat 100 years ago! These chairs were originally purchased by her grandfather, Mr Leslie Kirk, at the first Uplands fundraiser.

A little later, Uplands Past Pupils Association (UPPA) hosted a celebratory dinner on the lawns in front of Webster House, which was a truly memorable occasion where so many guests, young and old, shared their love of Uplands.



**Mrs Sally Greathead**



# Cartwheel Children Sculpture

Robert's vision for the Cartwheel Children was inspired by children's unconditional love, freedom and truth. The thought of just "being" love in an ongoing circle of being both separate and together:

"The truth of the divine light behind existence and all experiences underpins the understanding of the exceptional, diverse and physical experiences possible. The freedom of movement and expression demonstrated by these two children encompasses their full expression.

To me, this sculpture is of 'unconditional love'. When you think about it, it's a condition to think that you and I are separate from one another, and it's also a condition that we need to be together. In reality, we can, just simply, "be" love. So in this sculpture, these two children are just absolutely enjoying simply being love, together. It's also about 'truth' – specifically, the truth of the divine light that is behind all of existence, and all of experience. The truth in the understanding of this light source that makes our exceptional, diverse, physical experience possible.



Robert Rorich with the sculpture

And it's about 'freedom'. Freedom of movement. Freedom of expression. The freedom to be what we've come here to be, which is the freedom to each express our fullest self. Just like these two are doing in this moment... and this moment, and this moment. They're still, but they're constantly in full self-expression. It's what these two children are doing. And what we're

doing, and what our children are doing too.

Also there are gemstones in the feet and hands, which are the main colours of the rainbow, so that as the children spin in the cartwheel it creates a rainbow."

**Mr Robert Rorich  
(Matric Class of 2013)**





# Ascension Day



Thursday 19th May was celebrated by Christians worldwide as Ascension Day. Ascension Day is forty days after Easter and marks the end of the Easter season. We celebrated with our combined Uplands Preparatory (Senior Phase) and Uplands College Eucharist service held at the College Oval. Through the readings and prayers, we were reminded that "while he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven."

(Luke Ch 24)

**Rev. Bronwyn Nortje**





# Uplands Preparatory Baptism and First Holy Communion Service

On Saturday 15th April, 19 of our young Uplands Preparatory pupils were baptised in a service held at the Prep. It was a special service, as they were supported by parents and godparents, as well as some of their grandparents. The children were able to make this important commitment in their Christian walk, surrounded by the most important people in their lives. Rev. Mark Spratt assisted Rev. Bronwyn Nortje. These children, as well as a few who had been baptised previously, were then admitted to their First Communion. It was a wonderful celebration of our young children making their own commitment to God.

**Rev. Bronwyn Nortje**





# Shrove Tuesday



Shrove Tuesday was enjoyed by families from the Prep and Pre-Prep as well as the College boarders on Tuesday 21st Feb. Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. The expected storm thankfully stayed away and much fun was had by the children,

while their parents got to socialise and enjoy the family atmosphere and delicious pancakes. The catering department turned a whopping 90 litres of batter into pancakes to be enjoyed by all!

**Rev. Bronwyn Nortje**





## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. On this special day of reflection, many Christians around the world wear a mark of the cross in ash on their

foreheads. The ashes symbolise our mortality – “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

**Rev. Bronwyn Nortje**





# Uplands Christmas Market

What an amazing day it was yesterday for our Christmas Market! We have had great feedback from shoppers and stallholders alike. People loved the layout of the stalls within the College gardens and there was an incredible vibe. Our seasoned stallholders have said this was their best one yet! From the Uplands Christmas Market elves - we thank you for supporting us and we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

**Mrs Tracey Russell**





# Grade 1 Overview

Grade 1 is always a year of excitement, fun and learning opportunities. Not only do the children grow physically, but also academically, socially and emotionally. Learning to navigate “big school” and all that it entails can be daunting, but this year the Grade 1s took it in their stride. The children quickly progressed in reading and once they knew how to read, a whole new world opened up for them. NumberSense and phonics programmes provided

the building blocks for Maths and Spelling this year.

The Grade 1s enjoyed many theme-based days like Storytelling under the Stars, the Grade 1 Tea Party, Twins Day, Transport Day, Book Day, Bike Day, a visit to the White River Garden Pavilion and a visit from The Hazyview Reptile Park. All the children had their moment on stage in our Foundation Phase play, “ABBA in Africa.” Sport and culture form an integral part of our

day and they participated in many events. The Grade 1 teachers were assisted this year by Miss Carlisle, Miss Machaba and Miss Delpont. Thank you to the Grade 1 parents for all their support throughout the year and congratulations to all the boys and girls for an amazing Grade 1 year.

**Mrs Claudia McCarthy**

**Mrs Sally Wiggill**





# Grade 1



**Grade 1W Boys**



**Grade 1W Girls**

# Grade 1



**Grade 1M Girls**



**Grade 1M Boys**



# Visit to the White River Garden Pavilion

The Grade 1s went to the White River Garden Pavilion to learn about waterwise plants and how to plant a seedling in a pot. The children got the opportunity to walk around the nursery and to play on the jungle gym. A big thank-you to Mrs Alice de Beer and the staff at the White River Garden Pavilion.

**Mrs Sally Wiggill**





# First Day of Big School



With skirts and shorts reaching to their knees, school bags that are too big for them and shiny shoes, the Grade 1s arrived for their first day of 'Big School.' There were some nervous expressions, but also many excited smiles from both parents and children. The 2023 Grade 1s were welcomed by Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Wiggill, their class teachers. Soon their brand-new stationery was unpacked, parents were hugged and kissed good-bye, and they were ready for their journey in the Foundation Phase.

**Mrs Claudia McCarthy**





# A visit from Mr Jason Stewart from the Perry's Bridge Reptile Park



The Grade 1s had the privilege of a visit from Mr Jason Stewart, from the Perry's Bridge Reptile Park in Hazyview. Jason brought a large snake skin, a Bearded Dragon and some snakes to show the children. They learnt many interesting facts about snakes and other reptiles during a captivating demonstration. Some of the children challenged their fears and touched a python, a first for many of the children. It is always lovely learning through real-life experiences.



Mrs Sally Wiggill





# Transport Day



The Grade 1s came to school dressed according to the theme of 'Transport' for the annual Transport Day at the Uplands dam. Amongst others, we had pilots, air hostesses, cyclists, safari guides, road workers, astronauts and sailors. They used Thinking Skills to make boats from recycled materials with a partner. It was great fun sailing these boats down the canal and retrieving them once they had passed the

end point. Having a picnic is always the activity the Grade 1s enjoy the most and the beautiful surroundings at the dam made this even more special.

Thank you to the parents who went to so much effort to procure such appropriate outfits and to provide some really delicious picnic snacks.

**Mrs Claudia McCarthy**





# Storytelling evening under the stars



Our Uplands Preparatory Grade 1s recently enjoyed a storytelling evening under the stars, with Mr Carlisle and Mr Hauptfleisch joining in the fun. A special evening was had by all, celebrating books and drinking hot chocolate with friends.

**Mrs Sally Wiggill**





# Twins' Day



The Grade 1s were allocated a partner and came dressed as twins, to re-inforce counting in twos. They had a fun day, engaging in counting in twos, with activities like designing their own pairs of socks, counting in twos using an ice-cream stick and washing peg. We also played bingo games, jumping on a number line, classifying animals according to how many legs they have by using a tree map, and counting all the eyes/ears/hands/feet in the class.

Thank you to the parents for organising the accessories for the sets of twins.

**Mrs Claudia McCarthy**





# Grade 1 Classes



## Mrs Claudia McCarthy's Class 2023

Miss Desire Delpont, Anna Forword, Mitchell Adendorff, Nadia Smit, Avalyn Christie, Lucia Leoni, Grayson Clark, Makomborero Munanga, Sophie McEwan, Tungamiraishe Ngwerume, Alexa Rottcher, Rachel Luyt, Aiden Pollard, Imani Mabuza, Reikemetse Moripa, Alexander Dimitriou, Avethandwa Nhlapo, Talia Steenkamp, Robert Louw, Madison Pretorius, Moshopiadi Mabowa, Axel Pinker, Luke Herring, Mrs Claudia McCarthy



## Mrs Sally Wiggill's Class 2023

Miss Diphenyo Machaba, Kyra Stephen, William Whitfield, Khumo Mogane, Pippa Herring, Sakhumzi Maluka, Nava James, Alina Taylor, Troy Taljaard, Stella Whyte, Wyatt Stevens, Lilian Ikekhuah, Peyton Dillon, Madison Bennett, Sven Galliers, Charlyn Mutanda, Amahle Mhaule, Khulasande Ngomana, Emma Hamilton, Tiyani Grove, Kimberly Khosa, Caterina Rodrigues, Colton Hearne, Mrs Sally Wiggill







# Grade 2 Overview

Grade 2 was certainly a happy, busy year. It has been full steam ahead with sports sessions and fixtures. We had our spectacular musical, "Abba in Africa", where we enjoyed learning our dance routine. We are incredibly blessed to be able to give children so many opportunities to showcase their

unique and diverse talents.

We included The Wonders of the Lowveld as our teacher in our themes and outings. We had a live snake talk, and went to Wild Fig Estate for our mini-hike and picnic by the dam. We spent the morning looking for mini-beasts and birds.

We have many fun dress-up days with loads of different activities. Our innovation lessons, epic and reading eggs have also continued to be a highlight.

**Mrs Sam Arntzen**  
**Ms Laura Squires**



## Exploring Nature's Wonders:

### *A Day at the Dam*

The Grade 2's embarked on an exciting adventure to the school dam, ready to immerse themselves in the marvels of nature. They had no idea what would be waiting for them when we got there. However, the highlight of the day awaited

them in a shaded grove near the dam's edge – a live snake talk by a local wildlife expert. As the children gathered around in a circle, their eyes widened with curiosity and a hint of apprehension. The expert introduced the pupils to a variety

of non-venomous snake species. The children also had a photo opportunity with a snake or two. And then of course, a delicious picnic.

**Mrs Laura Squires**





# Explorers' Day at Wild Fig Estate

The Grade 2s were so lucky to have their Explorers' Day at Wild Fig Estate. We had some expert field rangers (some dads) join us on our hike. We saw many new insects and some beautiful birds. Throughout the hike, the Grade 2s had the opportunity to expand and test their wildlife knowledge by finding and attempting to identify spoor and animal tracks. We also had a delicious picnic next to the dam and then did a second hike up to a huge lookout point. It really was an informative and exciting Explorers' Day! Nature really is the best playground!

**Mrs Sam Arntzen**





# Grade 2 Classes



## Mrs Sam Arntzen's Class 2023

Ubukhosi Nkosi, Valentino Thulare-Smith, Rebekah Blew, Fletcher Webber, Devlin Raidoo, Alice Kay-Zoltowski, Matthew Skinner, Sizolwethu Tubane, Mawusi Nyoni, Payton Watt, Sienna Wagner, Sienna Watt, Thomas van Aswegen, Mrs Samantha Arntzen, Tayla Ratshitanga, Sean Sawunyama, Matthew Lea, Abby Jambaya, Leo Fourie, Hanru Stoltz, Katryn van Rooyen, Babusisiwe Sithole, Rosie Deacon, Jeslyn Ojo, Heinrich Berends, Taylor Höft, Joshua Tecklenburg

**Absent:** Miss Jesse Joubert



## Ms Laura Squires' Class 2023

Craigén Naidoo, Kamogela Maimela, Amyoli Zwane, Eike Wilkens, Rhulani Zwane, Nicholas Josten, Yishai James, Emily Skinner, Phillip Snyman, Siyamthanda Thabethe, Ivy McGee, Daniel Voigt, Ms Laura Squires, Edwin Green, Uphakeme Thwala, Joshua Tychsen, Tino Shongwe, Eli Pinker, Sahar Mohajer-Ashjai, Jamie Lategan, Lucy van der Westhuizen, Nkazimulo Mdluli, Zimkhitha Holeni-Mdhuli, Skyla Gravelle, Isabella van Biljon

**Absent:** Enrico Bocchino -Murphree and Miss Jesse Joubert







# Grade 3 Overview

2023 was filled with a treasure trove of enriching experiences. Learning for Grade 3s is based on a combination of concrete activities, collaborative projects and enhancing academic skills. While the focus is on fun, fun and more fun, Grade 3 is also a bridging year from the Foundation Phase to prepare the children for their first year in the Senior Phase. Mrs Collins and Mrs Codd were so proud of all that the children achieved. The children were allowed to flourish as individuals, encouraged to have good manners, to be mindful of self and others and to always find opportunities to be kind. There was no lack of cultural input with the children's participation in the outstanding production of *Thank you for the Music, featuring ABBA in Africa*. The children had so much fun and

it was incredible to see how much confidence they gained through the experience.

There were various outings which also added to the wonderful year. An outing to the Sudwala Dinosaur Park was very interesting and the children really enjoyed standing next to the life-sized dinosaurs. They were also treated to an outing to the Kruger National Park and taken to the Museum at Skukuza Camp. Major skill development also took place on the sports field, especially for the boys playing their first tackle rugby matches and the girls playing in their first netball league matches.

One of the much anticipated highlights in Term 4 is the Grade 3 Market Day. The children, with the help of their parents, are encouraged to gather their

resources and start making their products at home. The children may "borrow" money from their parents to help pay for products and then must return that amount after they have tallied their profits on the actual day. This year's market was a huge success and all the children enjoyed selling their home-made products. The Grade 3s ended their year with an exciting sleepover at Mankele, which is definitely a highlight on the calendar for each child. It was a lovely hot Lowveld day and the children participated in different games and water activities that challenged them physically as well as mentally.

**Mrs Loraine Codd**  
**Mrs Minette Collins**

## Dinosaurs





# Grade 3 Market Day

One of the much-anticipated highlights of the Uplands Preparatory Grade 3 year is their annual Market Day. The children, with the help of their parents, are encouraged to gather their resources and start to make their products at home from the third term onwards. They may “borrow” money from their parents to help pay for the resources needed to make their products and then must return that amount after they have tallied their profits on the actual day. This is a great opportunity to learn entrepreneurial and marketing skills.

There was great anticipation and excitement on the day, as the parents helped set up the stalls outside the Grade 3 classrooms. Even the rain could not put a damper on their energy.

**Mrs Loraine Codd**





# KNP Outing





# Mankele Overnight Trip





# Grade 3 Classes



## Mrs Loraine Codd's Class 2023

Miss Ashleigh Smart, Emmanuel Magidi, Khloe Murray, Sofia Leoni, Timothy Dengler, Georgia Greenaway, Samkelisiwe Maluka, Langalibalele Ledwaba, Bryson Nkalanga, Keitumetse Mokoena, Busani Mnisi, Isabela Webber, Malia Felix, Erin Jenkins, Syrian Rautenbach, Luvuyo Ngutshani, Devhyn Trollip, Vihaan Suriakumar, Mwalimu Gumede, Olivia Mason, Andrew Joubert, Olivia Flores, Hlelolenkosi Lukhele, Kayla Ferrier, Blake van der Heiden, Mrs Loraine Codd.

**Absent:** Andrew Creighton



## Mrs Minette Collins' Class 2023

Mrs Minette Collins, Ben Jackson, Riley Smit, Katrien Joubert, Abigail Myhill, Sam McArthur, Mia Zietsman, Rui van der Merwe, Keira Rottcher, Evie Carter, Shiluvolo Holeni, Shani Shai, Spiro Christie, Tanaka Jambaya, Ulitsembe Thwala, Thandolwethu Thabethe, Lukhanyo Mlambo, ZamaNcabane Mkhabela, Mngqobi Mlombo, Ashleigh Goosen, Lesedi Mokoena, Emma Kay-Zoltowski, Jasmine Magonyane, Jotham Masia, Summer Gunning, Shaye Slabbert, Charlotte Louw, Miss Ashleigh Smart







# Grade 4 Overview

2023 proved to be a most productive and successful year for the Grade 4 group! Driven by their enthusiastic nature, the Grade 4s went from strength to strength as their various endeavours provided growth and maturation opportunities.

For many, the Queen's River excursion was the first occasion for prolonged overnight stays and for some, it required some 'digging deep' and the need for grit and courage!

The children were also exposed to the community needs of those less fortunate this year, and were tasked with the creation of food parcels for charity organisations to distribute.

Inquiry-Based learning continues to be a focus at Uplands, and each term the children worked towards an ultimate task which required a problem-solving approach and 'out the box' thinking.

Grade 4 always proves to be a challenging year, as a greater degree of independence is required. The children did not shy away from these challenges and reaped the rewards of their efforts as they went on to enter Grade 5 fully equipped for what lies ahead!

**Mrs Danielle Steenkamp**



## Heritage Day

This year, Heritage Day was celebrated in traditional dress! The children presented crests they had designed reflecting their family

heritages, prepared traditional dishes and participated in a cultural food quiz.





# Queen's River Camp

Queen's River, yet again, did not disappoint! The beautiful venue allowed for teamwork, as well as problem-solving tasks. Crawling through mud pools, hiking to falls, go-kart building and obstacle courses were just some of the challenges the children had to face. Debates that were centred around rhino poaching forced the children to consider various perspectives and argue their opinions. The constant stream of activities ensured that the children went to bed exhausted, but not before being well fed by the camp's kitchen! The two nights spent away ensured the children were returned to their parents in a weary but happy state!

**Mrs Michelle Barry**





# The Plantsman



The annual Grade 4 visit to The Plantsman, yet again, did not disappoint! As always, the hospitality was wonderful and the children learnt lots of interesting new things as they toured the establishment and interacted with the animals. They were able to purchase an array of succulents and vegetable seedlings to plant in the Grade 4 gardens. A big thank-you goes to Hettie and Kristen for spoiling us with fresh fruit, ice lollies and muffins.

**Mrs Danielle Steenkamp**



## IBL Week







# White River History Hunt

The Grade 4s extended their knowledge from their HSS History of White River unit by participating in a scavenger hunt through town. Split into four teams, each group was set tasks at different points of interest throughout town. These included the MOTH Shellhole, Die Ou Pastorie, St George's Anglican Church, White River Cemetery, White River Hotel and White River Primary which opened its doors

as far back as 1904! Visiting the sites was interspersed with activities and challenges, such as having to shell macadamia nuts bought from local vendors, as well as sourcing the original tool used in the initial building of White River Primary. The outing proved to be both fun and educational for the children!

**Mrs Michelle Barry**





# Afrikaans Lesson

The Grade 4s jumped in at the challenge of an Afrikaans lesson with a twist. They were given a story book that was read in class and then read again in their individual groups before they started. Like the diving-out-spoons game from my childhood, they had to find the spoons attached

to sentences from their story. After collecting all the sentences, they had to put them in the correct order as it happened in the story. With the temperature nearing thirty degrees, it was the perfect lesson in the Lowveld for fun and learning.

**Mrs Estie Smit**





# Feed the Need Maths Activity

As part of their Mathematics syllabus, the Grade 4s are learning about measurement. By working collaboratively and using planning and measurement skills, the children brought and filled glass jars with dry goods. We supported the Feed the Need scheme in White River by donating 42 soup jars to families in need. These jars provide a nourishing meal for up to six people!

**Mrs Danielle Steenkamp**





# Grade 4 Classes



## Mrs Danielle Steenkamp's Class 2023

Hope Mohajer-Ashjai, Mark Smit, Liané Stoltz, Sarah Dane, Trent Arntzen, Logan van der Westhuizen, Beijy Langa, Thomas Creighton, Kyra Vosloo, Thobeka Lumphoko, Sbulelo Sithole, Mrs Danielle Steenkamp, Sloan Cruse, Joshua Braye, Thenora Mgwenya, Amy Freeman, Thoriso Nyathi, Babongile Ncongwane, Lloyd Skinner, Oliveah Fourie, Thabiso Thabethe, Kopano Shabangu.



## Mrs Michelle Barry's Class 2023

Samuel Hauptfleisch, Hayden Ralph, Arianna Tecklenburg, Sabusiswa Ndlovu, Liam Kruger, Sofia Dimitriou, Neve Berry, Lily Wagner, Lana Tressel, Adam Lea, Mrs Michelle Barry, Femke de Kok, Ciko Sigudla, Zak Joubert, Tyra Mabuza, Uthingo Mzoneli, Anashe Zumbika, Caitlin Pappas, Fletcher van Zyl, Moeketsi Mahlako, Karla Masinga







# Grade 5 Overview

What a wonderful year we had with the Grade 5s of 2023!

At the end of 2022, the pupils were introduced to their respective tutors and, consequently, they started 2023 off more comfortably, knowing who would be their school moms and dads.

In March, we went on our annual Grade Camp to Hoedspruit. Learning about creatures both big and small, and what their own bodies can manage is par for the course. We were hosted by Barbara Huddle and her team at Blyde Adventure Camp. We participated in many fun activities on their premises, including at their newly-built dam. Stalk the lantern, obstacle courses, and “kettie” paintball were among the favourites. Visiting local animal rehabilitation centres was very informative, and the children will remember these experiences for years to come. A highlight of the trip was a boat trip on the Blyde Dam.

Inquiry-Based learning this year was incorporated into the second

and third terms. Weekly activities culminated in a full week of design and building related to the themes. Working water wheel prototypes concluded the energy theme and South African heritage-inspired board games were designed and played at the end of Term 3.

We celebrated Mandela Day by showing our appreciation for the indispensable Uplands grounds staff. The pupils presented gifts to the grounds staff, expressing their gratitude and admiration. The grounds staff members’ responses demonstrated the profound impact of this heartfelt recognition of their sometimes unseen work and dedication to Uplands. The event concluded with a delicious spread of homemade cupcakes and snacks for the grounds staff to enjoy. It served as a reminder that even the simplest gestures of appreciation can create a ripple effect of positivity.

The Courageous Challenges are a set of challenging activities that pupils are encouraged to complete throughout their year. It encompasses community service

hours, school service hours, sports, culture, environmental, outdoor and spiritual challenges. This year, we awarded 21 pupils with trophies for completing their challenges. A special word of congratulations must go to Lexi Joubert in this group, who challenged herself (and her family) to complete all 29 of the challenges. She is the first pupil to accomplish this in the history of the Courageous Challenges.

We ended the year with a week of awesomeness. Slippy slides, air rockets, VR interactives, plastic duck races in the pool, and delicious ice creams were just some of the activities we enjoyed. Concluding our year, each pupil nominated another pupil for a special prize at our fun Oscar Awards ceremony.

Grade 5s, thank you for making 2023 a memorable and successful year.

**Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen**





# Week of Awesomeness





# LIC (Lessons in Conservation) Trip

I am thrilled to share the overwhelmingly positive experience of the Grade 5 LIC trip to the Kruger National Park, organised by Ms Gates and Mr Cruickshanks, along with the incredible Mbombela Experience Touring Company. This trip was an absolute adventure from start to finish, and it left us all with unforgettable memories that will be cherished.

The air was filled with anticipation and thrills as we embarked on a quest to uncover the park's extraordinary array of wildlife. The adeptness and wisdom of the Mbombela Experience guides significantly elevated our adventure, ensuring our safety and enriching our journey with insightful glimpses into the park's intricate ecosystem and the creatures that call it home.

The icing on the cake was undoubtedly the sightings of three of Africa's majestic Big

Five animals – the magnificent Elephants, the formidable Buffalo, and the awe-inspiring Lions. Witnessing these incredible creatures in their natural habitat was a truly humbling experience that left us all in awe of the beauty and diversity of the animal kingdom.

Our journey was punctuated by a delightful stop at Pretoriuskop, where we enjoyed a refreshing snack. It was the perfect opportunity to recharge and reflect on the remarkable sights we had witnessed throughout the day.

As we made our way back to school, we all had a sense of camaraderie and contentment. The trip had not only been an educational adventure, but also a bonding experience for everyone involved. The memories we created and the stories we shared are invaluable souvenirs of this exceptional trip.

I sincerely thank the Mbombela Experience team for their exceptional organization and dedication. Their attention to detail, commitment to safety, and passion for showcasing the wonders of Kruger National Park truly made this trip a resounding success.

In conclusion, the Grade 5 LIC trip to the Kruger National Park, made possible by Mbombela Experience, was an extraordinary journey that exceeded all expectations. From the enthralling game drive to the remarkable animal sightings and the sense of unity among the participants, every moment was a testament to the trip's excellence. Thank you for this remarkable adventure that will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

**Miss Moné Gates**









# Island Day











## Grade 5 Tutor Groups



### Mr Braam Smit's Tutor Group 2023

Isla Stephen, Pippa Roberts, Robert Easton, Matthew Fawcett, Felicity Zumbika, Mr Braam Smit, Uyanda Mayenjane, Mpendulo Mathebula, Sophie Velleman, Jayna Sebotse, Robyn Banda



# Grade 5 Tutor Groups



## Mr Thulani Mngomezulu's Tutor Group 2023

Joshua Desmond, Cara Mills, Ntshembho Mkhonto, Motjatji Sebopela, Phyllis Ngwerume, Mr Thulani Mngomezulu, Chloe Rautenbach, Tsakani Nyathi, Sfezo Sibandze, Riley Brooks, Yamakhosi Nkosi, Ethan Rottcher



## Mrs Bev Carlse's Tutor Group 2023

Luvian Sammering, Holly Ferrier, Eva Mullins, Dylan Greathead, Bill Murenzvi, Mrs Bev Carlse, Anita Ikekhuah, Hope Mkhathshwa, Tsakani Zwane, Thingo Madonsela, Enzo Mathebula



# Grade 5 Tutor Groups



## Mrs Janet Tecklenburg's Tutor Group 2023

Unathi Thela, Refilwe Ratlabala, Dominic Cruickshanks, Madison Lane, Lesego Monareng, Mrs Janet Tecklenburg, Anesu Jambaya, Nashe Muza, Benjamin Lintvelt, Simphiwe Mahlalela, Sean Murray



## Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen's Tutor Group 2023

Michael Magidi, Motheo Mogomotsi, Tlangisani Ngwenyama, Jocelyn Dengler, Guy Hulley-Miller, Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen, Lihle Mhaule, Lexi Joubert, Emily Green, Raihaan Adham, Nandi Zwane



# Grade 6 - Overview

## A Glimpse into Grade 6's Adventures in Learning

The 2023 academic year has been nothing short of an adventure, with pupils exploring, discovering and growing in ways that make Grade 6 truly special.

### Elandskloof Field Trip

One of the highlights of this academic journey was the much-anticipated field trip to Elandskloof in Dullstroom. Surrounded by nature's wonders, the children transformed into eager explorers, delving into the secrets of the great outdoors. From staring into the night sky and the wonders of the stars to physical exertion on the numerous walks to explore the hidden gems of the farm, the field trip was an immersive experience.

### Picnic at the Dam

Our Grade 6 pupils took their education beyond walls during a delightful trip to the school dam. Against the backdrop of serene waters, pupils not only enjoyed a well-deserved break but also learned about the importance of environmental conservation. It was a day filled with laughter and excitement.

### Inquiry-Based Learning

IBL continued to grow in importance in the Grade 6 curriculum as the children were pushed to even greater heights to discover and create solutions to the questions that were posed. They are not just recipients of

knowledge but active seekers and creators. Through engaging projects and collaborative activities, pupils were encouraged to ask questions, explore various perspectives, and take charge of their learning. It's a journey that fosters critical thinking and a love for discovery.

### Growth and Friendship

As we reflect on the adventures of Grade 6, we see more than just academic milestones. It's a chapter of personal growth, budding friendships, and a deeper understanding of the world around us.

**Mr Sean Barry**





# Dullstroom Camp



The Grade 6 classes embarked on an unforgettable adventure in Dullstroom, immersing themselves in a myriad of enriching experiences. From team-building activities fostering camaraderie to tranquil fishing in the dams, they embraced the great outdoors.

Singing for meals added a delightful twist, and beautiful hikes to waterfalls offered breathtaking scenery. The competitive challenges ignited enthusiasm, making bedtime a welcome reprieve. Both pupils and teachers revelled in the joyous moments,

creating lasting memories. This field trip was a perfect blend of nature, fun and shared laughter, leaving everyone with a sense of fulfilment and camaraderie. Kudos to the Grade 6 classes for making it an unforgettable journey!

**Mr Sean Barry**











## The Uplands College Experience



The Grade 6s embarked on an exciting journey as they teamed up with their future Matric mentors for a sneak peek into the world of the College. The day offered them a glimpse of what to expect when they join us in 2025!

Over the course of the morning, they had the opportunity to explore a wide range of subjects offered

at the College. The Technology department introduced them to the world of design and 3D printing, igniting their curiosity. In the Drama Studio, budding actors and actresses seized the spotlight, while aspiring scientists delighted in Physical Sciences experiments. Not to be outdone, the Sports team challenged them with a rigorous gym session.

**Mr Sean Barry**





# The Mandela Day Challenge

The Grade 6 pupils of Uplands embarked on a heartwarming Mandela Day 67-minute challenge, spreading smiles and kindness throughout the community. Armed with home-baked cookies, they ventured into local shopping centres, eager to make a

difference. With enthusiasm and compassion, they approached car guards and general workers, offering sweet treats and warm gestures. The children's radiant smiles mirrored those they encountered, fostering a sense of unity and appreciation. Beyond the

act of giving, the experience left an indelible mark on young hearts, igniting a spirit of empathy and social responsibility. The Mandela Day Challenge proved that even small acts of kindness can create a ripple effect of positivity.

**Mrs Taryn Berry**





# Week of Awesomeness



What an incredible way to wrap up the school year! The Grade 6 classes immersed themselves in a week of pure awesomeness, from the joyous spins on the ice rink to the sun-kissed day at the dam, and the creative delight of crafting beautiful Christmas cards. The laughter, camaraderie and shared experiences during this week added the perfect finishing touch to a fantastic 2023. These memories will undoubtedly be cherished, reflecting the spirit of unity and joy that defined our Grade 6 journey.

**Mr Sean Barry**







## Innovative Robotics





# Outdoor English



# Performing Arts





# Natural Science



## Grade 6 Tutor Groups



### **Mrs Taryn Berry's Tutor Group 2023**

Thomas Thirkettle, Mika Vosloo, James Velleman, Sancha Reingruber, Trystan Watt, Mrs Taryn Berry, Rachele Goosen, Hannah Luyt, Luke Hulley, James Freeman, Kate Dane, Menzi Mona



# Grade 6 Tutor Groups



## Mr Ryan McCarthy's Tutor Group 2023

Olivia Storm, Tristan Slabbert, Loukas Dimitriou, Daniel Cope, Mr Ryan McCarthy, Khumo Mpofu, Kaylee Fisher, Levi Langdon, Aiden Naidoo, Kaylo van Antwerpen

**Absent:** Amilla Pieters



## Mr Sean Barry's Tutor Group 2023

Mr Prince Ndlovu, Marizaan Calaca, André Salter, Lulama Kwinika, Joslyn Kruger, Connor Berry, Zain Greeff, Elson Oliviera, Nkosinathi Khoza, Fynn Harman, Alexandra Knott, Keyaan Choonara, Amber Paulsen, Mr Sean Barry



# Grade 6 Tutor Groups



## **Mrs Jo-Anne Choonara's Tutor Group 2023**

Callum Baird, Nyeleti Mabuza, Nicholas Springorum, Gregory Davis, Garrison Morgan, Mrs Jo-Anne Choonara, Bella James, Ruan Bezuidenhout, Anje Stoltz, Michael Liebenberg, Emma Jack



## **Mrs Marischa Landman's Tutor Group 2023**

David Mullins, Ella Ralfe, Abhay Suriakumar, Tanith Gebhardt, Zipho Nkabinde, Samuel Spring, Mrs Marischa Landman, Daniel Stoltz, Tiko Mkansi, Sunny Grace Manganyi, Morgan Smit, Ayannah Modi



# Grade 7 Overview

Grade 7 has been a year filled with excitement, developing routines and participating in opportunities for the first time. This is an important year, as we prepare our children to transition from primary school to high school.

The first term also saw the running of our Inter-House Swimming and Athletics events and our children contributed to the success of these events. The first term ended with our grade camp, where they were able to develop key connections through this experience, with both peers and staff and enjoyed the opportunity to learn outside a classroom environment.

Throughout the first semester, the Grade 7s gained valuable leadership skills and contributed to the smooth running of the school by fulfilling various duties around the school.

Our year was filled with wonderful opportunities, not only in the classroom but also on the stage and field.

Our Grade 7 children are to be commended on a lovely final year of Prep School, where they have shown a genuine interest in the wonderful opportunities and resources that were available to them at Uplands.

We are proud to have worked with these children who are inquisitive about the future. They have adapted to the many challenges they faced in their final year of Prep School and wish them everything of the best as they embark on their high school journey.

**Mr Jacques Müller**





# Dam Activities





# Leadership Camp









# Grade 7 Market Day

The annual Grade 7 Market Day took place on Friday the 13th of October. This important day forms part of the Grade 7 EMS syllabus and teaches children all-important business lessons.

We congratulate the Grade 7 class of 2023 on a successful morning of training, learning many lessons along the way.

**Mr Ryan McCarthy**





# Week of Awesomeness





# Visit to the Plantsman

The FAL (First Additional Language) classes went on a treasure hunt at The Plantsman. Clues were provided in Afrikaans and Zulu for the pupils of each language and they had to sort through riddles and rhymes to find the next steps to get them to their treasure. They started enthusiastically and delved deep into their dictionaries at times in order to work out the clue. Afterwards, they were treated to a milkshake and a scrumptious brownie before we walked back to school for break time.

**Mrs Estie Smit**





# Final Chapel Service





# Grade 7 Tutor Groups



## **Mrs Estie Smit's Tutor Group 2023**

Janice Sebotse, Sebastian Scorgie, Sasha Paulsen, Wetsembikile Thwala, Akhona Lumphoko, Matthew Holing, Micah Waspe,  
Mrs Estie Smit, Khulubuse Sigudla, Lynn-Marie van der Merwe, Amukelani Manana, Milan van der Nest,  
Faye Tod, Munyaradzi Munanga, Alicia Calaca



## **Mr Dylan's Badenhorst's Tutor Group 2023**

Matthew Josten, Nseketelo Mkhonto, Oliver Hartnell, Maximo Veira, Lucy Ponting, Mr Dylan Badenhorst,  
Azara Du-Pont, Guy McCarthy, Lia van Niekerk, Naledi Choeu, Tlurisani Ngwenyama, Ethan White  
**Absent:** Carter Cruse



# Grade 7 Tutor Groups



## Mr Brian Dengler's Tutor Group 2023

Jared Gilmour, Luthando Mlombo, Jasmine Loram, Mngqobi Mdhuli, Vuketi Nyathi, Layla Fliess, Mr Brian Dengler, Matthew Greathead, Ruby Diesel, Oluwaseun Ogunyemi, Thomas Pappas, Shelby Trollip, Luke McArthur, Prince Ledwaba



## Mr Jacques Müller's Tutor Group 2023

Nathan White, Letsatsi Monareng, Belmiro Quive, Keegan Janse van Rensburg, Joel le Roux, Tarique Bülter, Mr Jacques Müller, Lanner Reilly, Thembisile Mncina, Hillary Murenzvi, Michael Ronald, Tristan Spencer, Megan Prinsloo



# Grade 7 Tutor Groups



## Miss Siphokazi Macingwane's Tutor Group 2023

Allisa Sibiya, Luqmaan Adhams, Bryn Gilmour, James Springorum, Jennifer Fawcett, Obakeng Manana,  
Miss Siphokazi Macingwane, Travis Dunshea, Gabriella Mason, Kamogelo Ngcobo, Olivia Green, James Jackson

# Grade 7 Graduation Dinner

















# Derby Reflections





# Derby Reflections







## Derby Reflections







# Athletics Report

## A Season to Remember

As the academic year ends, it is time to reflect on the achievements and experiences of our Uplands Prep School Athletics Team. This season has been filled with exciting events, friendly competitions, and notable accomplishments.

Our athletes showcased their skills at various events, participating in friendly competitions at Penryn and White River Primary. These events not only provided an opportunity for healthy competition but also fostered a sense of camaraderie amongst schools in the region. The spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork was evident as our athletes engaged in these friendly encounters.

One of the highlights on our calendar is always the much-anticipated Skukuza trip in the Kruger National Park. Unfortunately, this year's trip was affected by unexpected rainfall, but our team's resilience and positive attitude prevailed, turning the challenge into an opportunity for team bonding and shared determination.

The MJ Zwane Champs, formerly known as the Independent School Champs, held special significance this year, as it honoured the memory of MJ Zwane who tragically passed

away in a car accident on his way to the event in 2019. Despite the weight of their emotions, our team rose to the occasion, producing outstanding results and demonstrating the true spirit of sportsmanship.

We take immense pride in celebrating the achievements of two of our standout athletes, Amy and Mpendulo, who represented Mpumalanga at the National Championships in Durban. Their dedication, hard work and talent shone brightly on the national stage, bringing honour not only to themselves but also to Uplands Prep School.



Behind every successful athlete is a team of dedicated coaches, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the coaches who invested countless hours under the sun, providing guidance and mentorship, as well as nurturing the potential within each athlete.

A special acknowledgment goes out to the parents who selflessly devoted their time to support their children and the school. Your unwavering encouragement and presence at events contribute significantly to the positive atmosphere surrounding our athletics programme.

In closing, the Uplands Prep School Athletics Team has once again proved that with passion, teamwork and resilience, great achievements are possible. As we wrap up this season, let us carry the lessons learnt, the friendships forged, and the memories made into the next chapter of our athletic journey. Thank you to everyone who played a role in making this season a resounding success. Here's to the continued growth and success of Uplands Prep School Athletics!

**Mr Ryan McCarthy**

Pictured left:  
Mpendulo Mathebula





## Boys' Cricket

Cricket at Uplands Prep School continues to thrive, reaching new heights in the 2023 season. The remarkable growth of our cricket programme is evident in the phenomenal number of teams that now grace our school, a testament to the dedication of our enthusiastic coaches and the outstanding facilities at Uplands.

The season kicked off with a burst of energy as our teams participated in the White River Primary Schools' Cricket Week. Our fields, a hub of activity during this week, provided a perfect stage for our players to showcase their skills and sportsmanship. It set the tone for what turned out to be a thrilling cricket season at Uplands.

In the local league, where competition is always fierce, Uplands Prep School fielded an impressive total of five teams. The dedication and hard work of our players shone through, making each match a spectacle for supporters and opponents alike. The resilience displayed by our teams is a testament to the strong foundation laid by our coaching staff.

The season reached its climax with the highly anticipated Matthew

Prior Cricket Festival. This year, our 1st and 2nd teams, along with the U11A team, had the privilege of participating in this prestigious event. The festival hosted six touring teams, adding an extra layer of excitement to the competition. It was a true celebration of the spirit of cricket, bringing together players, coaches and supporters from various schools.



Notably, our 1st XI team earned an invitation to the Independent Schools' T20 festival, hosted by The Ridge School at Camp Discovery. This opportunity allowed our players to showcase their talent at a broader level, competing against some of the best schools in the country. Congratulations to our outstanding players who represented Uplands with pride.

A special acknowledgement goes out to our Ehlanzeni and Mpumalanga players who traversed the country, proudly representing Uplands Prep School. Their commitment and sportsmanship have elevated the reputation of our cricket programme.

As the season comes to a close, we reflect on the achievements and growth witnessed throughout the year. The Uplands Prep School cricket community looks forward to an even more wonderful 2024 season, building on the successes and camaraderie that define our cricketing spirit. May the sound of leather on willow continue to resonate across our fields, echoing the passion and excellence that encapsulates Uplands Prep School cricket.

**Mr Ryan McCarthy**





## Girls' Cricket

Cricket is one of the most loved sports in the world, but it is also the perfect metaphor for our day-to-day lives. Cricket reflects that life can sometimes be unfair; it teaches us never to judge a book by its cover; and it shows us the importance of innovation.

Our Uplands Prep Cricket girls have certainly bowled over our opposition, spectators and

supporters this season. We were overjoyed to finally have some local schools to compete against and to share our passion and love for the game. Our girls played three cricket matches, two against White River Primary and one against Penryn. We also ended off the season with a match against the parents.

Heading into each of our fixtures, our focus was on participation and

enjoyment as well as creating an environment to optimise the girls' potential and hone their skills out on the pitch. It was lovely for our girls to walk away with three great wins.

Well done, girls! You can be very proud of yourselves and we thank you for showing great sportsmanship.

**Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen**



Parents Match



Penryn



White River Primary



White River Primary



# Cross - Country Report

The Uplands Prep Cross-Country Season for 2023 has once again been a thrilling journey filled with determination, camaraderie and the unmistakable spirit of Uplands, as we bid farewell to another successful season.

The season commenced with a burst of enthusiasm during the Inter-House event on the morning of the 1st week of Term 4. This event not only marked the beginning of the cross-country season but also set the tone for the excitement and competitiveness that would unfold in the weeks to come. The turnout was exceptional, with every child seizing the opportunity to race for their

house team, creating an electric atmosphere of school spirit.

Following the Inter-House event, the cross-country athletes of Uplands Prep engaged in two friendly competitions, one hosted at Uplands and the other at Penryn. These events provided valuable opportunities for our runners to hone their skills, build friendships, and showcase their dedication to the sport. The sense of sportsmanship and unity displayed during these friendly encounters exemplifies the ethos of Uplands Prep.

Unfortunately, the Independent Schools event which was

scheduled to be hosted at MTO Trials, a new venue for all participating schools, faced an unfortunate cancellation due to inclement weather.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the coaches and staff whose unwavering efforts and guidance have been instrumental throughout the season. Their commitment to nurturing the potential of our young athletes has not gone unnoticed, and we commend them for their tireless dedication. As we conclude the 2023 cross country season, we eagerly look forward to the possibilities and challenges that the 2024 season will bring.

**Mr Ryan McCarthy**





# Equestrian Report

It has been an exciting year for Equestrian sport at Uplands.

The year 2023 has been a thrilling and eventful one for the Equestrian sport at Uplands. This year, we have witnessed remarkable growth in lesson participation across all ages and levels of riding. The enthusiasm and commitment from our young equestrians have been truly inspiring.

One of the highlights of the year was the introduction of the Boots & Bits Programme. This initiative serves as an excellent introduction to Equestrian sport and horsemanship, offering beginners a comprehensive foundation. The programme has been met with great enthusiasm, providing young riders with the skills and confidence they need to pursue their passion for riding.

Uplands also had a strong presence at the SANESA School League shows, held at Forever Resort Badplaas throughout the year. Our riders showcased their talent and dedication across all disciplines, proudly flying the Uplands flag high. The hard work and perseverance of our riders have been commendable, and their achievements have brought great pride to our school.



Several of our riders were selected for the Mpumalanga Schools Team to compete at Nationals, a testament to their skill and dedication. Their outstanding performances have done Uplands proud, highlighting the excellence of our Equestrian programme.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our coaches and parents for their endless support and dedication to our young athletes and their horses. The Uplands Equestrian Centre team has been instrumental in sharing their passion for Equestrian sport with our children, fostering a love

for riding and a commitment to excellence.

As we look back on 2023, we celebrate the achievements of our riders and look forward to another exciting year of growth and success in Equestrian sport at Uplands. Here's to more exciting competitions, more personal bests, and more unforgettable moments in the saddle.

**Mrs Carla Gerdes**





# Boys' Hockey Report

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we present the season's report for our primary school hockey teams, whose achievements and progress have been nothing short of extraordinary. Our Uplands hockey teams have once again showcased the high standards and commitment to excellence that define our school's sports culture.

Uplands has continued to set a high standard across all teams. Our team's outstanding performance throughout the season is a testament to the hard work, passion and perseverance displayed by each player on the field.

Behind every successful team is a dedicated coaching staff, and Uplands is fortunate to have some of the most experienced and passionate coaches guiding our hockey players. Their expertise and commitment to developing young talent have played a pivotal role in our team's success this season.

One of the highlights of the season was the Uplands Boys' Festival, where we had the privilege of hosting prominent boys' schools, including Grey College Prep School, KEPS and St David's. The festival provided a platform for friendly

competition and a display of exceptional hockey skills. It was a remarkable event that fostered sportsmanship and camaraderie amongst the participating schools.

Exciting news for our hockey development – Uplands Prep School is now equipped with its own mini astro! This facility will undoubtedly be a game-changer, providing our players with the ideal environment to hone their skills and take their game to new heights.

The dedication of our players is evident in the impressive turnout at mid-week evening practices. These sessions, organised under the guidance of our Director of Hockey, Mr van Staden, have been instrumental in refining skills, fostering teamwork and enhancing overall performance.

As we reflect on a season filled with achievements, growth and camaraderie, we extend our gratitude to everyone involved – players, coaches, parents, and the entire Uplands Prep School community. The future of Uplands hockey looks bright, and we eagerly anticipate even greater success in 2024.

**Mr Ryan McCarthy**







## Girls' Hockey Report

The 2023 Hockey season was filled with exhilarating hockey, camaraderie and eager supporters.

Apart from our local hockey derbies, we also attended the Trinity House Hockey Festival in Randpark Ridge in August. This festival ensured some stiff competition for the girls and the added bonus of sleeping over with hosting families from Trinity House. Throughout the season, the girls developed and embodied dedication, teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship. Well done, girls - you can be extremely proud of yourselves.

**Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen**



### Our 2023 Team:

Emma Jack, Keegan Janse van Rensburg, Thembisile Mncina, Morgan Smit, Anjé Stoltz, Aidy Naidoo, Luthando Mlombo, Lucy Ponting, Lia van Niekerk, Obakeng Manana, Nseketelo Mkhonto, Megan Prinsloo, Faye Tod, Amilla Pieters.

### Our 2023 opponents:

Laerskool Witrivier, Laerskool Bergland, Laerskool Nelspruit, Laerskool Lydenburg, Nelspruit Primary, Penryn Preparatory, Trinity House Randpark Ridge, Laerskool Lynnwood, Northland Primary, Ashton International, Laerskool Fairland.





# Netball Report

The 2023 netball season was initiated with a tour to Johannesburg for the St Stithian's Festival. Taking lessons from these games, the girls started the 2nd term stretch of the season with improved skills and much enthusiasm. These were greatly needed, as the teams found themselves pitted against some challenging competition, in the likes of Nelspruit Laerskool, Bergland and Curro. The girls enjoyed a mixed bag of results but completed the season with a strong sense of what it means to be a team player and the commitment needed to fuel a team's success. They are all to be congratulated on the strides made this year and are encouraged to keep fostering their love for the sport!

**Mrs Michelle Barry**





# Rugby Report

It was fantastic to work with such an enthusiastic group of boys! Rugby is more than just a game; it brings to the table so many other life lessons. Teamwork, dedication, humility and a genuine sense of camaraderie.

We felt that the boys most definitely improved their skill set through the season and what impressed us about this group of boys was their “never say die” attitude. They never dropped their heads and would always play to the final whistle. A strong sense of “team” was evident in our injured

players attending every game and showing their support for their fellow teammates.

Our season started at the Barberton Festival, where we were able to lay a foundation and this was followed by the St Stithian's Easter Festival. This was an opportunity to test ourselves against quality opposition and we certainly relished the chance and played some hard, uncompromising and attractive rugby.

We were proud to coach the boys this season and we sincerely wish

them all the best for the future. To the Grade 7 boys, we hope that you will continue to play this wonderful game and will watch your progress with keen interest.

Last but certainly not least, Thank you to all the parents for your unwavering support this season. It was fantastic to see you on the touchlines at our games and we all certainly heard and felt your genuine support.

**Mr Jacques Müller**  
**Mr Gary Viljoen**







## Boys' Soccer Report

The 1st team soccer boys at Uplands Preparatory School have exemplified exceptional grit and perseverance throughout the season, demonstrating unwavering commitment to their sport. Every match saw them giving everything on the field, showcasing not only their skill but also their unyielding determination. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the soccer tour at Camp Discovery in the second term. The boys displayed remarkable teamwork, playing exceptionally well and reaching the semifinals, where they unfortunately faced defeat on penalties.



The numerous goals scored in the final minutes of games underscored their determination and character. What is truly commendable is the absence of arguments among the team members, reflecting a harmonious and collaborative spirit. The 1st team soccer boys at Uplands Preparatory School have truly left an indelible mark with their outstanding sportsmanship and dedication.

**Mr Thulani Mngomezulu**





# Girls' Soccer Report

As we reflect on the culmination of the 2023 girls' soccer season at Uplands School, it is evident that our teams have not only demonstrated remarkable growth but have also etched a significant chapter in the school's history. This marked the second full season for girls' soccer at Uplands, and the progress achieved has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Our teams actively participated in

the local league. A highlight of the season was the highly anticipated derby against Penryn Prep School, featuring both a thrilling home fixture and an intense away game. The matches not only fostered healthy competition but also served as a testament to the burgeoning soccer talent within our school.

In an historic achievement, several Uplands girls earned the

prestigious honour of representing Mpumalanga as provincial players. This milestone marked the first time in the school's 90-year history that such a commendable feat had been accomplished. The dedication and hard work of the players, coupled with the guidance of their coaches, were instrumental in reaching this pinnacle. The entire Uplands community extends its heartfelt congratulations to these outstanding players.



Girls' soccer at Uplands is on an upward trajectory, evident in the increased number of games played and the overall improvement observed throughout the season. The enthusiasm and passion displayed by the players have contributed to the sport's rapid growth within the school community. The future of girls' soccer at Uplands looks promising, and we eagerly anticipate the continued success and development under the capable leadership of Mr Badenhorst.

Unfortunately, we must acknowledge the disappointment that befell the girls' soccer team with the last-minute cancellation of the much-anticipated 1st XI tour. Unforeseen circumstances led to this unfortunate turn of events, but we commend the resilience and sportsmanship displayed by the team in facing this setback.

In conclusion, the 2023 girls' soccer season at Uplands School has been a journey marked by achievements, growth, and the forging of new pathways for our players. The legacy created by these young players and their coaches will undoubtedly inspire future generations to strive for excellence on and off the soccer field. As we look forward to the next season, we remain proud of our girls and excited for the continued success of Girls' Soccer at Uplands.

**Mrs Siphokazi Macingwane**







## Swimming Report

As we reflect on the 2023 swimming season, it is evident that Uplands Prep School is making waves, poised to become a formidable force among primary schools in Mpumalanga. The journey through the year was marked by exciting events, dedicated coaching, and the indomitable spirit of our swimmers.

The season started off with the eagerly anticipated relay gala in Term 1, where the enthusiasm and determination of our young swimmers were truly inspiring. Witnessing our little Grade 1s confidently take to the water was not only heartening but also a testament to the growth and development of our swimming programme.

In Term 4, the focus shifted to individual races at galas, with our

swimmers showcasing their skills and competitive spirit. Uplands once again demonstrated its prowess at the MP Top Schools Gala, securing commendable results that reflect the hard work and dedication put in by both swimmers and coaches.

A highlight of Term 1 was the invaluable guidance provided by Mr Dylan Nortje, an international triathlete. His expertise and dedication undoubtedly left a lasting impact on our swimmers. As he pursues his international racing calendar, we eagerly anticipate seeing him represent South Africa at the Paris Olympics in 2024.

Behind every successful swimmer is a team of dedicated coaches. Uplands is fortunate to have exceptional individuals guiding our swimmers towards excellence. A

heartfelt thank-you goes to Mrs Harrison, Mrs Wiggill, Mr Shelton, Mrs Steenkamp and Mrs Barry for their unwavering commitment to the development of our swimmers.

As we wrap up the 2023 season, the Uplands swimming community eagerly anticipates the challenges and triumphs that await in 2024. With a strong foundation, dedicated coaching staff, and the indomitable spirit of our swimmers, we are poised to achieve new heights and solidify our position as a force to be reckoned with in Mpumalanga's primary school swimming scene.

Here's to a successful and fulfilling 2024 season for Uplands Prep School Swimming!

**Mr Ryan McCarthy**





# Mountain Biking Report

The Uplands School Mountain biking (MTB) community has once again experienced an exhilarating and successful season in 2023, with the sport maintaining its popularity among both junior and senior pupils. The picturesque campus, coupled with the stunning farm routes alongside Uplands, provide the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable MTB experience.

Mr Cruickshanks, the unwavering force behind Uplands MTB, continued to inspire and guide our riders, ensuring the success and growth of the sport at our school. His dedication and passion have been instrumental in fostering a love for mountain biking among our

pupils, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to him for his continued efforts.

Throughout the season, riders had the opportunity to explore a variety of trails, each offering a unique and thrilling experience. The diverse terrain on our campus and the adjacent farms provided a dynamic range of challenges, catering for both beginners and seasoned riders.

One of the highlights of the season was the strong sense of camaraderie and teamwork that permeated the Uplands MTB community. Riders, irrespective of their skill level, supported and



encouraged each other, creating a positive and inclusive atmosphere. The team spirit was evident not only during training rides but also in the shared joy of conquering challenging trails together.

As we reflect on the achievements of the 2023 MTB season, we are already looking forward to new opportunities and challenges in 2024. Plans are underway to explore additional routes, organise more events, and provide enhanced training opportunities for all our riders. Uplands MTB is committed to continuous improvement, ensuring that every pupil has the chance to excel and enjoy the thrill of mountain biking.

**Mr Ryan McCarthy**





# Tennis Report

As the sun sets on the tennis courts of Uplands Prep, we reflect on a spirited and eventful 2023 tennis season that showcased the resilience and determination of our talented players. Among the highlights was the exhilarating tennis tour to St Stithian's, where our boys and girls participated in a challenging doubles tournament.

The St Stithian's tournament proved to be a tough test for our players, as they faced off against some of the country's best Prep School players. The experience served as a valuable learning curve, providing our players with insights into their strengths and areas for improvement.

An exciting development for the Uplands Prep tennis facilities is the installation of a new all-weather surface over the December holidays. This enhancement is

expected to provide our players with a consistent and high-quality playing surface, enabling them to train and compete effectively throughout the year. The all-weather court is a testament to our commitment to creating an optimal environment for all tennis players to thrive in.

Looking further ahead, Uplands Prep plans to reintroduce the eagerly-awaited School Championships in October/ November 2024. It promises to be a thrilling event that will not only foster healthy competition but also strengthen the sense of camaraderie among the players.

**Mr Ryan McCarthy**





# Squash





# Foundation Phase Prizegiving

Our Foundation Phase Prizegiving was a special occasion where we could congratulate and give thanks for all that our children had accomplished this year. Not only were our children recognised for their academic, sporting and cultural achievements, but also for the values that they display and their overall growth as young persons.

**Mrs Claudia McCarthy**





# Senior Phase Prizegiving

Our Senior Phase Prizegiving was a special occasion where we recognised the outstanding accomplishments of our children this year. Our Senior Phase children were recognised for their academic, sporting and cultural achievements throughout the year. The ceremony not only celebrated

individual accomplishments, but also served as a platform for expressing gratitude to our school community for all they have done.

Uplands Prizegiving was not just an event; it was a celebration of the pursuit of excellence, a testament to the values we hold dear, and a

reminder of the bright futures that await our Grade 7 Graduates.

Here's to another year of achievements, growth, and the unwavering spirit of excellence at Uplands. Until next time!

**Mr Scott Hauptfleisch**

## Academic Awards

| Gr 4B          |                     | Gr 4S          |                          |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Academic Prize | Sofia Dimitriou     | Academic Prize | Amy Freeman              |
| Academic Prize | Samuel Hauptfleisch | Academic Prize | Thenora Mgwenya          |
| Academic Prize | Hayden Ralph        | Academic Prize | Mark Smit                |
| Academic Prize | Anashe Zumbika      | Academic Prize | Logan van der Westhuizen |
| Progress       | Lily Wagner         | Progress       | Babongile Ncongwane      |
| Endeavour      | Adam Lea            | Endeavour      | Kopano Shabangu          |
| Class Prize    | Arianna Tecklenburg | Class Prize    | Thoriso Nyathi           |

| Gr 5M          |                  | Gr 5V          |                      |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Academic Prize | Emily Green      | Academic Prize | Dominic Cruickshanks |
| Academic Prize | Cara Mills       | Academic Prize | Benjamin Lintvelt    |
| Academic Prize | Lesego Monareng  | Academic Prize | Chloe Rautenbach     |
| Academic Prize | Felicity Zumbika | Academic Prize | Pippa Roberts        |
| Progress       | Tsakani Zwane    | Progress       | Motjatji Sebopela    |
| Endeavour      | Uyanda Mayenjane | Endeavour      | Riley Brooks         |
| Class Prize    | Lexi Joubert     | Class Prize    | Nandi Zwane          |

| Courageous Challenges |                  |                  |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Robyn Banda           | Riley Brooks     | Eva Mullins      | Bill Murenzvi    |
| Dominic Cruickshanks  | Jocelyn Dengler  | Sean Murray      | Phyllis Ngwerume |
| Robert Easton         | Emily Green      | Pippa Roberts    | Ethan Rottcher   |
| Benjamin Lintvelt     | Uyanda Mayenjane | Isla Stephen     | Sophie Velleman  |
| Cara Mills            | Lesego Monareng  | Felicity Zumbika | Nandi Zwane      |
|                       |                  |                  | Lexi Joubert     |



**Gr 6B**

Academic Prize Gregory Davis  
 Academic Prize Joslin Kruger  
 Academic Prize Lulama Kwinika  
 Academic Prize Sancha Reingruber  
 Progress André Salter  
 Endeavour Kate Dane  
 Class Prize Mika Vosloo

**Gr 6L**

Academic Prize Loukas Dimitriou  
 Academic Prize David Mullins  
 Academic Prize Zipho Nkabinde  
 Academic Prize Amilla Pieters  
 Progress Bella James  
 Endeavour Connor Berry  
 Class Prize Morgan Smit

**Gr 6S**

Academic Prize Nkosinathi Khoza  
 Academic Prize Abhay Suriakumar  
 Academic Prize Olivia Storm  
 Academic Prize Trystan Watt

Progress Elson Oliveira  
 Endeavour Ella Ralfe  
 Class Prize Alexandra Knott

**Gr 7D**

Academic Prize Tarique Bülter  
 Academic Prize Oliver Hartnell  
 Academic Prize Mnqobi Mdhuli  
 Academic Prize Megan Prinsloo  
 Progress Lethabo Mampa  
 Endeavour Micaela Pessane  
 Class Prize Vuketi Nyathi

**Gr 7M**

Academic Prize Naledi Choeu  
 Academic Prize Bryn Gilmour  
 Academic Prize Luthando Mlombo  
 Academic Prize Allisa Sibiya  
 Progress Joel le Roux  
 Endeavour Nseketelo Mkhonto  
 Class Prize Gabriella Mason

**Gr 7S**

Academic Prize Keegan Janse van Rensburg  
 Academic Prize Obakeng Manana  
 Academic Prize Thembisile Mncina  
 Academic Prize Tristan Spencer

Progress Wetsembikile Thwala  
 Endeavour Jasmine Loram  
 Class Prize Hillary Murenzvi

**Grade 7 Subject Prizes****Art****Innovation****Economic and Management Sciences****Human and Social Sciences****Natural Sciences****Afrikaans****isiZulu****English****Mathematics**

Keegan Janse van Rensburg

Azara Du-Pont

Gabriella Mason

Obakeng Manana

Gabriella Mason

Gabriella Mason

Allisa Sibiya

Gabriella Mason

Gabriella Mason



# Senior Phase Prizegiving

## Scholarship Awards

### Open Academic Awards

Gabriella Mason                      Uplands

### Open All-Rounder Awards

Aiden Berry                      Penryn  
Megan Prinsloo                      Uplands  
Micah Waspe                      Uplands  
Obakeng Manana                      Uplands

### Open Culture Awards

Jasmine Loram                      Uplands

### Open Sports Awards

Azara Du-Pont                      Uplands  
Nseketelo Mkhonto                      Uplands

### Exhibition Awards

Guy McCarthy                      Uplands  
Wetsembekile Thwala                      Upland

### Closed Awards

Matthew Greathead                      Uplands  
Oliver Hartnell                      Uplands  
Tarique Bülter                      Uplands





# Senior Phase Prizegiving

## Co-Curricular Awards (Sport)

### Athletics

|                                                         |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Certificate for the Most Improved Girl athlete          | <i>Olivia Green</i>    |
| Certificate for the Most Improved Boy athlete           | <i>Tarique Bülter</i>  |
| The Isabella Bucellato Trophy for the Best Girl athlete | <i>Gabriella Mason</i> |
| Tony Ferreira Trophy for the Best Boy athlete           | <i>Lanner Reilly</i>   |

### Cricket

|                                                      |                         |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Trophy for the Most Improved Girl cricketer          | <i>Obakeng Manana</i>   |
| Craig Nel Trophy for the Most Improved Boy cricketer | <i>James Springorum</i> |
| Trophy for the Best Girl cricketer                   | <i>Emma Jack</i>        |
| Gaydon Trophy for the Best all-round boy cricketer   | <i>Jared Gilmour</i>    |

### Cross-Country

|                                            |                        |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Certificate for Most Improved Girl athlete | <i>Olivia Green</i>    |
| Certificate for Most Improved Boy athlete  | <i>Joel le Roux</i>    |
| Trophy for the Best Girl athlete           | <i>Gabriella Mason</i> |
| Trophy for the Best Boy athlete            | <i>Lanner Reilly</i>   |

### Equestrian

|                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Trophy for the Most Improved rider    | <i>Jennifer Fawcett</i> |
| Trophy for the Best Rider of the Year | <i>Sophie Velleman</i>  |

### Hockey

|                                                         |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Uplands Hockey Trophy for the Most Improved Girl Player | <i>Luthando Mlombo</i> |
| Uplands Hockey Trophy for the Most improved Boy Player  | <i>Guy McCarthy</i>    |
| The Mayhew Trophy for                                   |                        |

the Best Girl Hockey Player *Nseketelo Mkhonto*

Uplands Trophy for the Best Boy Hockey Player *Jared Gilmour*

### Mountain Biking

|                                                         |                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Clarke Cycling Trophy for the Most Improved Boy cyclist | <i>Prince Ledwaba</i>     |
| Vosloo Trophy for the Best Boy cyclist                  | <i>Milan van der Nest</i> |

### Netball

|                                                             |                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| The De Wet Netball Trophy for the Most Improved Girl Player | <i>Ruby Diesel</i>       |
| The Sharkley Trophy for the Best Netball Player             | <i>Nseketelo Mkhonto</i> |

### Rugby

|                                            |                       |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Trophy for the Most Improved Boy player    | <i>Tarique Bülter</i> |
| Trophy for the Best Boy player of the year | <i>Micah Waspe</i>    |

### Soccer

|                                                        |                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Badenhorst Trophy for the Most Improved Girl player    | <i>Luthando Mlombo</i>     |
| Minolta Trophy for the Most Improved Boy player        | <i>Tlurisani Ngwenyama</i> |
| Mngomezulu Trophy for the Best Girl player of the year | <i>Obakeng Manana</i>      |
| D A Green Trophy for the Best Boy player of the year   | <i>Lanner Reilly</i>       |

### Swimming

|                                                         |                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carolyn Davis Trophy for the Most Improved Girl Swimmer | <i>Rachelle Goosen</i>    |
| Grant Davis Trophy for the Most Improved Boy Swimmer    | <i>Milan van der Nest</i> |
| Michelle Cockhead Trophy for the Best Girl Swimmer      | <i>Lucy Ponting</i>       |
| Michelle Cockhead Trophy for the Best Boy Swimmer       | <i>Matthew Josten</i>     |



# Senior Phase Prizegiving

## Co-Curricular Awards (Sport)

### Squash

Certificate for the  
Most Improved Girl player *Alexandra Knott*

Certificate for the  
Most Improved Boy player *Thomas Pappas*

The Loudon Trophy for the  
Best Girl player *Olivia Storm*

The Loudon Trophy for the  
Best Boy player *David Mullins*

### Tennis

The Urmson Trophy for the  
Most Improved Girl Player *Faye Tod*

The Urmson Trophy for the  
Most Improved Boy Player *Luke McArthur*

The Ponting Trophy for the  
Best Girl Player *Lucy Ponting*

The Ponting Trophy for the  
Best Boy Player *Sebastian Scorgie*

## Co-Curricular Awards (Culture)

### Ludi Cup

Awarded for progress in Music  
*Hillary Murenzvi*

### Dixie Goodwin Music Cup

Awarded to the most outstanding  
Music Pupil  
*Lloyds-Junior Sambo*

### Aasiya Gardee Floating Trophy

Awarded to the Best All-Round Artist in Grade 7  
*Keegan Janse van Rensburg*

### Sue Kloeck Speech and Drama Trophy

Awarded to the Grade 7 pupil who shows  
remarkable potential in the Speech and Drama  
arena  
*Jasmine Loram*

## Special Co-Curricular Awards

### Howe-Dreyer Trophy

Awarded to a girl who actively promotes the  
Uplands values and ethos of Sportsmanship and  
Perseverance. This girl does not necessarily play  
in the 1st teams but serves all sporting codes to  
the best of her ability. She will go beyond the call  
of duty for her school and teammates. She trains  
and gives of her best at all times and is proud of  
what her school achieves on the sporting fields.  
*Keegan Janse van Rensburg*

### MacFarlane Trophy

Awarded to a boy who actively promotes the  
Uplands values and ethos of Sportsmanship and  
Perseverance. This boy does not necessarily play  
in the 1st teams but serves all sporting codes to

the best of his ability. He will go beyond the call of  
duty for his school and teammates. He trains and  
gives of his best at all times and is proud of what  
his school achieves on the sporting fields.  
*Joel le Roux*

### Sam Beeton / Richard Elphick Trophy

This trophy is awarded to the child who shows a  
love for the environment and shares this love and  
knowledge willingly.  
*Mika Vosloo*

### Spencer Trophy

Awarded for achievement in Chess  
*Luke McArthur*



# Senior Phase Prizegiving

## Special Awards

### Chaplain's Award

Awarded by the Chaplain to a Grade 7 pupil who embodies all of the characteristics of

1. 'Divinitatis Sensus'
2. Servant Leadership
3. Service

*Wetsembekile Thwala*

### Calmeyer Art and Culture Trophy

This trophy is awarded to the Grade 6 or 7 pupil who takes part and/or excels in a variety of different cultural activities offered at Uplands Prep

*Olivia Green*



### Mxolisi Junior Spirit of Endeavour Award

This is awarded to a Grade 6 pupil who displays Mxolisi Junior's incredible spirit of endeavour and who adds value to school with excellent character. Sculpture donated by the Grade 6 parents of 2019 - artist Robert Rorich

*Ella Ralfe*



### Good Sportsmanship Award

Awarded to the pupil who participates in various sports and displays a true spirit of sportsmanship at all times

*Tarique Bülter*

### Gwynn Mason Trophy

Most Versatile Sports Girl of the Year

Shared: *Megan Prinsloo and Nseketelo Mkhonto*

### Brent Pirow Trophy

Most Versatile Sports Boy of the Year

*Lanner Reilly*

### Holmes Trophy

For the House with the Best Overall Record in Sports, Culture and Merits.

*Ogilvie*

### Grade 7 Dux Scholar

*Gabriella Mason*



### Matthew Prior Shining Star Award

The Shining Star is awarded to a boy or girl for enduring contribution, endeavour and dedication to all facets of school life at Uplands. This can only be awarded to a pupil who has been at Uplands since Grade 1

*Obakeng Manana*



### Good Fellowship Award

Awarded to the pupil who actively promotes good relationships within the school and community

*Thembisile Mncina*



### Leadership Award

Awarded for outstanding qualities of positive leadership

*Wetsembekile Thwala*



### Headmaster's Award

Awarded to the most outstanding overall contribution to school life

*Keegan Janse van Rensburg*