



UPLANDS PREPARATORY SCHOOL MAGAZINE 2024



Today's thinking child is tomorrow's achiever



Preparatory 2024

Contents:

Chairman of the Board's Report	2	Ascension Day	40
Executive Headmaster's Report	3	Heads of Anglican Schools in South Africa Conference	41
Preparatory Headmaster's Report	3	New Sacristans	41
Chaplain's Report	5	Carols by Candlelight	42
Uplands Outreach	5	Chess	43
Uplands Foundation	7	Eisteddfod	44
Uplands Parent Teacher Association	8	Marimba Bands	45
UPPA News	9	Sound and Lights	45
Staff Photographs	10	House Captains	46
Kitchen Staff	12	Community Service	47
Grounds Staff	13	Founders' Evening	48
Tribute to Meshack and Housekeeping Staff	14	MJ Zwane	49
Foundation Phase Report	15	Yo-Ho! Who Dunnit? - Foundation Phase Concert	51
Senior Phase Academics Report	16	Annie - Senior Phase Concert	52
Boarding Report	17	Interhouse Family Fun Day	53
Sports Report	17	Eisteddfod Gala Evening	54
Culture Report	18	Uplands has Talent	55
Music Report and Learning Support Unit	19	Uplands Christmas Market	56
Art Report: Grade 7	20	Uplands Foundation Off-Road Duathlon and Trail Run	57
Art Report: Grade 6	22		
Art Report: Grade 5	24		
Art Report: Grade 4	26	Grade 1	58
Art Report: Grade 3	28	Grade 2	62
The Incredible Dog Show and Crazy Hair Day	30	Grade 3	65
On Cue Productions and The Travelling Bookshop	31	Grade 4	69
Jaco Jacobs Skrywersbesoek and Barefoot Day	32	Grade 5	75
Drumbusters	33	Grade 6	82
Inter-house Dance-Off	34	Grade 7	88
Books2U Book Fair	35		
First Additional Language (FAL) Day	35		
Inter-Schools Public Speaking	36		
Uplands Prep Choir: A Fresh Start in 2024	36	Uplands vs Penryn Derby	96
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening	37	Sports	97 - 111
Ash Wednesday	38	Foundation Phase Prizegiving	112
Baptism and First Communion	39	Senior Phase Prizegiving and Academic Awards	113

Chairman of the Board's Report

Dear Uplands Parents, Pupils and Community

2024 marked a significant milestone in the history of our school as we honoured the visionaries who laid the foundation for Uplands 96 years ago. I take great pride in sharing how Uplands continues to thrive and flourish as we work towards our ambitious 2028 vision. This vision is a shared commitment amongst the Board, Executive team and staff and, most importantly, reflected in the remarkable achievements of our pupils, evident in the outstanding Matric results attained by our class of 2024.

This past year has seen a dynamic evolution within our staff, and a remarkable collaboration among our Executive team, which has fostered impressive progress on our strategic objectives. A recent audit by OISESA, a respected evaluation body within the Independent Schools Association of South Africa, has affirmed that Uplands not only stands on a solid path toward achieving our strategic goals but also serves as a model that other schools can aspire to emulate.

One of our primary focuses this year has been on sustainability - an essential pillar of our strategic plan. Sustainability encompasses a broad spectrum, including financial viability and the responsible management of resources like water, energy and ecology. I am pleased to report that our financial foundation remains robust, supported by the establishment of an endowment fund aimed at bolstering bursaries and infrastructure well into the future. It is also a great milestone that we started building our solar infrastructure for the whole school which will be completed in 2025.

Every day, I am reminded of the incredible spirit of our Uplands community. The way we come together, support one another, and collaborate for the benefit of our children is truly remarkable. Your belief in our mission and your trust in our staff inspire and empower us to focus on what truly matters: the well-being and exceptional education of our pupils. It is the collective support of our parents that strengthens our resolve to ensure we foster an environment where every pupil can thrive, feel safe, and be encouraged to explore their potential. As we continue on this journey, let us all remain committed to innovation and improvement, ensuring that Uplands remains the exceptional school it has become.

In my address at the Founders Evening, I referenced a powerful speech by Theodore Roosevelt titled "The Man in the Arena", delivered at the Sorbonne in 1910. This notion resonates deeply with me, as I believe that the "man in the arena" truly represents each one of us in this community. Roosevelt eloquently stated:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the

worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

This should be a mantra for all pupils, parents and staff at Uplands school. It is easy to criticise from the sidelines, but those who are successful are those who are in the arena. Let us continue to be those who strive, and work together in the arena to ensure our school remains a nurturing and inspiring place for every child.

Together, we are creating a legacy that will endure for many generations.

Mr Greg Dane
Chairman



Executive Headmaster's Report

2024: A Year of Excellence, Growth, and Community

As we read through this year's Uplands magazine, we celebrate another remarkable year filled with success, growth, engagement and the enduring spirit of our Uplands family. Our school is more than just a place of learning; it is a vibrant community where kindness, dedication and passion shine through in every aspect of school life.

In 2024, we saw a year of achievement and endeavour across academics, sport, culture and service. From Grades 0000 to 12, pupils demonstrated resilience, curiosity, and a commitment to excellence, embracing challenges and striving for their personal best. In the classroom, they pushed boundaries and embraced new learning opportunities through innovation, with the Matrics excelling in their results. On the sports field, pupils competed

with heart and sportsmanship. Through cultural expression, they showcased creativity and talent, and through service, they gave back to the community with compassion and selflessness.

We proudly commemorated the 30th anniversary of Uplands Outreach in 2024, reaffirming our commitment to uplifting education in our wider communities. The Uplands Foundation and UPPA continued investing and ploughing back; our school infrastructure improved, as did our commitment to re-wilding our beautiful campus. Through the rigorous OISESA evaluation process, we gained valuable insights and positive affirmation of our school, now entering its 96th year.

At Uplands, we pride ourselves on nurturing well-rounded individuals – pupils who not only achieve but also inspire. Overall, 2024 was testament to the strength of our values and the warmth of

our community. Reflecting on the journey, we celebrate every one of our pupils, staff, and families who make Uplands the exceptional school it is.

Mr Sean Carlisle

Executive Headmaster



Preparatory Headmaster's Report

This year has brought significant changes to our Uplands family. We bid farewell to two extraordinary teachers who have not just taught, but have truly shaped countless young lives. Laura Squires, after 16 remarkable years of dedicated service, has been an unwavering pillar of our school community. Her classroom has always been a place filled with laughter and where every child felt valued and capable.

Additionally, another pillar of strength and excellence is our very own, Angie Harrison, who has given a remarkable 28 years of service to Uplands. For more than a quarter of a century, Angie has embodied the very essence of what makes Uplands special. Her unwavering

commitment to excellence, her gentle guidance, and her ability to bring out the best in every child has made her not just a teacher, but a mentor and inspiration to both pupils and colleagues alike.

Together, their combined four decades of commitment to Uplands has left a permanent mark on our school's legacy. They have been more than just teachers; they have been guardians of our values, architects of young dreams, and true examples of the Uplands spirit. While we will deeply miss their daily presence in our corridors and classrooms, their influence will continue to resonate through the values they have instilled in countless Uplands pupils

and parents.

This year, we had our OISESA review which painted a picture of a school community that truly embodies excellence and care. The numbers speak volumes - 97% of our parents indicated that their children are happy at school, and 94% of our pupils reported having good friends and supportive teachers. Most touchingly, 96% of our parents expressed their complete satisfaction with our teachers, acknowledging the positive learning experience they provide. These results affirm what we as a community have always known - Uplands is more than a school; it's a 'home away from home' for all.

In Term 4, we focused on the theme of “Dream,” and it brings to mind our Chairman’s powerful words at Founders’ Evening, where he reminded us of Theodore Roosevelt’s famous “Man in the Arena” speech. Those words resonate deeply with what we strive to teach our children - that the credit belongs not to the critic who points out how others stumble, but to the person who actually steps into the arena.

How fitting it is, then, that his niece, Eleanor Roosevelt, would later add her own wisdom about dreams, saying “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” These two Roosevelt quotes weave together perfectly - reminding us that it’s not enough just to dream; we must also have the courage to step into the arena and pursue those dreams, even when faced with challenges or criticism.

In reflecting on these powerful messages about courage and dreams, I am reminded daily of the incredible work of our teaching staff. You are the heartbeat of Uplands. The OISESA review highlighted what we see every day - your passion, dedication, and the genuine care you show for each child. You don’t just teach; you inspire, nurture and empower. You are the ones who step into the arena every day, who help our children believe in the beauty of their dreams, who turn possibilities into realities. Without you, none of what we achieve would be possible.

To our parent body, your partnership and support have been invaluable. Your engagement in your children’s education and your trust in our vision helps create the nurturing environment that makes Uplands special.

And to our wonderful Uplands pupils - you are truly the heart and soul of our school. Your laughter in the corridors, your enthusiasm on

“ The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. ”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

the sports fields, your curiosity in the classroom, and your kindness towards one another bring life and purpose to everything we do. Each morning, as I watch you arrive at school with your bright smiles and eager minds, I am reminded of why we all chose education as our calling. Your resilience, your creativity, and your unwavering spirit make every day at Uplands special. You are not just pupils - and you might not believe it - but you are the reason we wake up excited to come to work each day.

As I come to the end of my address, I must express my gratitude to the Board for their guidance and support, and to the Executive Team. A special thank-you to Sean Carlisle, our Executive Head, whose leadership and counsel have been instrumental in our continued growth and success.

On a personal note, I want to thank my wife, Lorin, and our boys, Sammy and Joey, for their understanding and support. As we often say at Uplands, family is everything, and their presence reminds me daily of the importance of the work we do here.

To our Grade 7 leavers of 2024, as you prepare to embark on your high school journey, remember that you too must be ready to step

into your own arenas. Whether you’re continuing your journey at Uplands College or heading to other schools, carry with you both the courage to dream and the determination to turn those dreams into reality. As Olivia and Zipho said at your graduation dinner, “You can achieve anything as long as you have the correct mindset.”

Your time here has equipped you with more than just knowledge - you take with you the courage to dream big, the resilience to face challenges, and the understanding that true achievement comes not from standing on the sidelines, but from daring to enter the arena of life with everything you have.

This marks not an ending, but a beginning. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, remember that you will always be part of the Uplands family. The values you’ve learned here - integrity, perseverance, and the courage to dream - will serve you well wherever your path may lead.



Mr Scott Hauptfleisch

Head: Uplands Preparatory School



Chaplain's Report

A Note from the New Chaplain

With Rev Bronwyn having left at the end of Term 3, I commenced at the start of Term 4 in early October. It has been the most phenomenal start to my time here: everyone has been welcoming, kind, concerned and hospitable. This community we have is incredible and I feel very blessed and privileged to be able to call this new space our new home and community.

Uplands truly is a special place, and it is an honour to be able to serve and pour into this wonderful school community. Much has been done this past fourth term, while much is being planned for 2025, especially with the year winding down and finishing last key events. I am delighted to be this school's Chaplain and I will give my all in every endeavour going forward and will always be here for all of our community. Blessings!

Mr Matthew Jennings

Uplands Outreach

Empowering Transformation: The Journey of Diversity, Belonging and Inclusion

The year 2024 was particularly special at Uplands Outreach, a division of Uplands NPC. We celebrated three milestone anniversaries in one year:

Thirty: Our organisation officially turned 30 years, commemorating the year 1994, when a small and determined group of committed staff and families at Uplands Preparatory School established Uplands Outreach to boost educational attainment for all children in Mpumalanga. The long-term achievements of our

work, especially in the Insikazi Circuit, remain laudable. Once, only 56/100 learners graduated, and now an average of over 89 out of every 100 learners receive the vital Matric certificate each year. The School Leaders for Excellence (SL4E) programme has produced five cohorts of innovative and entrepreneurial school leaders, capable of running effective schools. Our unique professional learning ethos has been honed and waiting lists are in place for our programmes. Far from

outdated and dry teacher training workshops, our contemporary Professional Learning Communities are a place of learning, sharing, and growing - an evidence-based methodology which has been endorsed by Circuit Managers, participants, and independent evaluators alike. In 2024, the SMILE programme continued, as did SL4E, Digital Literacy, Coding and Robotics, Mathematics Mentors, and Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase Teacher Development.



Ten: In 2014, ten years ago, the Learners for Excellence (L4E) Saturday Maths learners graduated from the programme, excelling in their final Matric exams by achieving three times the national average for Bachelor exemptions and distinctions. The positive ripple effects continue a decade later, showing the life-long power of education. The cohort has beaten all youth statistics by a mile – for example, while only a tiny fraction of Mpumalanga’s adults have a degree, the majority of L4E graduates have

tertiary qualifications and 52% have degrees (in professions such as medicine, engineering, pharmaceutical science, education and more). We are proud to show the decades-long return on investment from donor investment in this programme, which we have steadily tracked over time.

Five: Transforming our work five years ago, the Japhet Outreach Centre (JOC) was officially opened on the Uplands campus in February 2019. With our incredible patrons, Miles and Jetje Japhet, present at

the grand opening, this special day remains etched in our memories. The beautiful setting, water-wise gardens, and purpose-built lecture hall and offices serve as a conducive learning centre of excellence. Our motivated and dedicated team is proud to serve our partner schools with a suite of thoughtful programmes, utilising the JOC as our home.

Uplands Outreach team members in 2024 consisted of Violah Moya, Katia van der Merwe, Tumelo Nkumbule, Memory Sithole, Charity Magagula and Sonqoba Nkosi, with interns Andile Khumalo, Quintin Nkambule and Sibusiso Nkosi. We were joined in mid-2024 by Keren Gear, who transferred across from Admissions. Dr Nicky de Bruyn remained based in the USA as an independent consultant. Part of Uplands NPC, the Uplands Outreach Executive Committee continued to guide us, chaired by Miles Japhet. Poised to achieve further accomplishments in 2025 and the years to come, the Uplands Outreach team would like to thank all our donors and stakeholders for supporting our story of hope, optimism and investment in the future! Together, we are ‘raising achievement for all.’

Mrs Violah Moya
Head: Uplands Outreach



Uplands Foundation

Writing from my new office at The Uplander, I am surrounded by trees and birdsong — the essence of the Uplands campus, where learning and kindness thrive. This year, together we achieved remarkable things.

In 2024, the Uplands Foundation became part of the newly created Advancement Office. Within this office, the Uplands Foundation, the Uplands Past Pupils Association (UPPA), the Uplands Alumni Coordinator, and the Uplands Parent Teachers Association (PTA) work together for the greater good of Uplands. Among the most notable successes this year were the Uplands Founders' Weekend Marquee and musical events, along with the ever-popular Uplands Christmas Market. A heartfelt thank-you goes to Tracey Russell for her invaluable assistance in making these events such a success.

Reinforcing this collaboration, the PTA, UPPA and the Uplands Foundation received striking new branding, which was designed and adopted in June 2024. Another milestone was the launch of a new website page for the Uplands Foundation, featuring an online giving button which makes supporting our initiatives easier than ever.

The Uplands Foundation's projects continued to thrive this year. A special thank-you goes to our Matric families for their enthusiastic support of the "Giving Back in Matric" campaign. We also furthered the establishment of the Matric Indigenous Forest, celebrating with a meaningful tree-planting ceremony.

The community-driven Uplands Foundation Off-Road Duathlon and Trail Run was another highlight, showcasing the spirit of collaboration and outdoor adventure.

Additionally, the Uplands Foundation

maintained its role as a steadfast custodian of the alumni database.

We are deeply grateful to the UPPA for their substantial financial contribution to The Uplander refurbishment — a project that has created a valuable multipurpose space for our current pupils to use and a place for Old Uplanders to gather and call their own.

Other accomplishments included the publication of "A View from Legogote - 2023" which can be found on the Uplands website, as well as the launching of the Uplands App with dedicated pages for The Uplands Foundation, UPPA and the PTA. Both the App and the publication have enhanced our community engagement and communication.

In closing and as I reflect on 2024, I'm reminded of the golden evening light that settles over the Lowveld at the end of our summer days – a true reflection of the beauty of the Uplands campus. This year, we celebrated achievements, embraced challenges, and grew together in ways that make us proud to call this campus home. We are committed to carrying this spirit forward into the new year, nurturing learning, kindness, and connection within our greater Uplands community.

Mrs Sally Greathead

Head: Uplands Foundation



Uplands Parent Teacher Association

We look back on a jam-packed year filled with many successful projects, lots of early mornings, late night meetings, laughter and community building.

The year started off with a campout on campus for the Foundation Phase families, with delicious burgers under the stars whilst the parents and children had the opportunity to get to know their teachers a bit better. Hot chocolate and coffee from our barista the next morning made sure that the day started right.

Classy merchandise continues to be a hit, and this year we also added funky Uplands socks to our growing selection of items. It has been so lovely to see all the parents proudly sporting their Panama hats at school events.

One of the highlights of the year has to be all the delicious food on offer at the various school plays and productions, from fresh sushi to

heart-warming curries. The parents have thoroughly enjoyed meeting up under the beautiful trees and having a drink and a bite to eat before the show started.

The *Used To Be Yours* secondhand clothing shop continues to be well supported. We continue to receive generous donations of pre-loved uniforms and sports equipment. Thank you to all for donating and also buying from our little shop. We appreciate it.

Our annual Burger and Quiz Evening made for a fun night out for both young and old. It's always so delightful having the Hysons (previous PTA Chairs) as quiz masters every year. With categories ranging from sports, culture, science and even the history of Uplands, it was wonderful to see our community laughing and enjoying the evening together. What makes it even more special is sitting under the very same trees that they

donated many years ago.

The Uplands Classifieds had an upgrade this year. A special thank-you goes to our PTA secretary, Sanele Thothela, for all her hard work in making the Classifieds more user-friendly. Our Art Card Project is another one of our projects that brings joy to parents and children alike.

We would like to thank every parent and staff member who supported us throughout the year, whether they worked a shift at the Grade 7 Graduation Dinner, made coffee and breakfast buns at the Uplands mountain bike race or made sure the drinks were cold at the Christmas market. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you too to each and everyone for putting in the hard work. It's been an absolute pleasure and privilege to get to know our community a bit better.

Mrs Sarah-Marie Snyman

Chair: PTA

A Tribute to Meshack

Mr Mathebula - you will be sorely missed!

It is with heavy hearts that we share the sad news of the passing of one of our Uplands Community staff members, Mr Meshack Mathebula, who served as the Uplands Groundsmen Supervisor. The Uplands family celebrated Meshack's life at the Uplands Staff Eucharist held on campus on the 15th of July 2024.

Mr Mathebula dedicated 22 years of his life to Uplands. Meshack always had a smile on his face when you spoke to him, and no task was ever too much trouble. He was always willing to assist, no matter how late it was or how challenging the task. He was a gentleman, a humble man, and probably the most respectful man I have come across in my life.

I think I speak on behalf of all my

team members and Uplands when I say he will be sorely missed by us in the Operations department. He had an intimate knowledge of the Prep, its buildings, pipes and issues, and could always be counted on when needed. He was always there for the staff when they needed something moved or fixed or attended to. He loved the school,

and you could see that reflected in his work. He was always smartly dressed and an example to all of the grounds staff.

You have left us too soon. Go well, my friend. *Hambe kahle Ndoda!*

Mr Eugene du Preez

Uplands Operations Manager



UPPA News

Congratulations and a warm welcome must be extended to all leavers, both from Prep and College. They are now members of The Uplands Past Pupils Association (UPPA) and will serve as custodians of the Uplands values as they embark on their future life chapters. The Class of 2024 will always be welcome back at Uplands, and we look forward to engaging with them in the coming years. We encourage each of them to carry that little bit of Uplands with them as they take on their next challenge, knowing that they are well-equipped with solid foundations to handle all that life throws in their direction.

All Old Uplanders and the Class of 2024 are now fortunate to be forever part of a school with incredibly strong institutions supported by UPPA. These include an exceptional Outreach programme, a PTA that enhances every school event, an Uplands Foundation dedicated to nurturing the spirit of giving, a Board fully committed and focused on the school's betterment, a teacher body that adds immense value to our pupils' futures and a parent group who assist in making our Uplands community what it is. Without these pillars and alignment, Uplands cannot achieve the incredible heights it envisages, and we are grateful for everyone's commitment.

On Saturday, 25 May 2024, we celebrated the Class of 2004 and the Class of 2014, with alumni travelling from across the globe to reconnect and reminisce. Executive Head Sean Carlisle and Uplands College Head Allan Laing warmly welcomed everyone, highlighting the event's significance and the new Uplands Past Pupils Association (UPPA) space. Hyla Moffett (Class of 2004) and Thembi Nyathi (Class of 2014) shared heartfelt reflections, emphasising the lasting impact of

their Uplands experiences. The evening was a true celebration of our cherished alumni — let's stay connected!

The Old Girls' and Old Boys' Hockey Matches during Uplands Founders' Weekend drew a lively crowd of Uplands and Penryn supporters. The Old Girls' match, held for the first time, ended in an exciting 1-1 draw. The Old Boys' match, featuring players spanning nearly two decades, saw Uplands claim a 4-1 victory, showcasing impressive teamwork and determination.

The Connecting Futures event introduced the Matrics to the Uplands Past Pupils Association (UPPA) and here we highlighted upcoming events and the value of alumni connections. UPPA Champions Kyla Hamer and Graham Wiggill shared insights on networking and mentorship opportunities. The event gave the Class of 2024 a glimpse into the lifelong benefits of being an Old Uplander.

This year has brought many highlights for UPPA. We have successfully completed Phase One of 'The Uplander,' which was made possible through the generous contributions of our community during the Uplands Golf Day. The Uplander will serve as a multi-purpose venue where past pupils, the school and the community can connect. A special thank-you to Lynn Edmondson, Sally Greathead and Myles Ellis for their vision and dedication in bringing this facility to life, which exceeds our expectations.

The Old Uplanders' cricket match was well attended, with runs and injuries in equal measure. The cross-generational representation, along with friends and family, allowed for connecting and sharing

stories, reinforcing Uplands impact on so many lives over the years.

As always, the UPPA Golf Day was fully booked weeks in advance. This event is our primary fundraiser and is always well-supported. A special thank-you to all involved in contributing to one of the highlights of the UPPA calendar. The proceeds have largely been used to support the development of 'The Uplander'. Brenda Archdeacon puts on an incredible event, and it would be remiss not to thank her for her contribution. Unfortunately, our inaugural Pimms and Padel tournament was cancelled due to inclement weather, but we look forward to introducing this event next year.

To complete the year, we celebrated as the Matrics received their UPPA scarves and ties upon completing their final exams, a special occasion for everyone involved, marking the completion of an important milestone.

We unfortunately had to say goodbye this year to Elaine Taylor, who has served as the backbone of UPPA since 2020. Her passion and dedication to UPPA have been felt by all and she will be missed. We wish her all the best on her next adventure and thank her for many years of incredible service.

UPPA remains committed to fostering alumni relationships and providing a platform for past pupils to engage. We encourage all members to stay in touch and contact us with any queries or concerns.

Mr Malcolm Deacon

Chair: Uplands Past Pupils Association

Staff Photographs



Angie Harrison



Asanda Mkhonto



Bev Carlse



Bongani Mavundla



Brian Dengler



Bronwyn Nortjé



Cassandra Mönnig



Claudia McCarthy



Cyril Jele



Damian de Vos



Danielle Steenkamp



Debbie van Rooyen



Derienne
van der Colff



Diphenyo Machaba



Dylan Badenhorst



Esti Gous



Estie Smit



Gabsile Nkosi



Gary Viljoen



Jacques Müller

Staff Photographs



Janet Tecklenburg



Jayde Carlse



Jesse Joubert



Jo-Anne Choonara



Ladya van Antwerpen



Laura Squires



Loraine Codd



Lorraine Berends



Lorin Hauptfleisch



Marischa Landman



Matthew Jennings



Michelle Barry



Minette Collins



Moné Gates



Nombuso Mashego



Nthabiseng Nkuna



Phumzile Mabandla



Piers Cruickshanks



Prince Ndlovu



Quintin Nkambule

Staff Photographs



Ryan McCarthy



Sally Wiggill



Sam Arntzen



Sankie Baraza



Scott Hauptfleisch



Sean Barry



Shea Viljoen



Shoain Shelton



Siphokazi
Macingwane



Suné Minnie



Taryn Berry



Thulani Mngomezulu



Tsepiso Phoku

Grounds Staff



Ben Matsane



Bongani Gumede



Calvin Lekhuleni



Chris Joubert



Clinton Baloyi



Dewey Benside



Eddy Mathabela



Elias Ngwenya



Elson Mathonsi



Eugene Du Preez



Freddy Chave



Freddy Ndlovu



Jeffrey Matsane



Joaqeem Pequinino



Joseph Tamele



Katlego Molimi



Kgaogelo Mashaba



Mandla Mabuza



Mfundo Nkosi



Michael Maloka



Moses Zulu



Nhlanhla Sithole



Sam Zenas



Slpho Mthetwa



Surprise Mathebula



Sydney Lekhuleni



Thabang Segopane



Themba Nkosi



Thobani Ndlovu



Treatwell Zitha



Trevor Mkhonza



Triedwell Makhabane

Kitchen Staff



Front Row: Molly Robberts (Catering Manager), Mapule Nhlanhla
Back Row: Suzane Mabuza, Cecilia Chiloane, Bekhi Khoza, Marieke Chiloane



Busi Mgwenya

Housekeeping Staff



Cindy Maluka



Leah Mshwane



Lucia Mkhathswa



Millecent Maluka



Nomsa Sehali



Precious Khumalo



Pretty Makhabane



Pretty Selepe

Foundation Phase Report

In a world where even the smallest among us can make a big difference, what kind of legacy will you leave behind?

A special message for the Foundation Phase children of 2024:

In a meadow bursting with wildflowers, there grew a small dandelion. The dandelion wasn't as tall as the sunflowers or as fragrant as the roses, but she had her own beauty; she wore a bright yellow crown that glowed under the sun and swayed gently in the breeze.

The dandelion loved her meadow and felt proud to be part of it, but she often wondered, "What will I leave behind when my yellow florets fade? Will anyone remember me?"

The wise old oak tree, who had watched generations of plants come and go, overheard the dandelion as she spoke to herself. "Dandelion," said the oak with a deep, rustling voice, "you are part of a great cycle, just like all of us. When the time comes, your florets may fall, but your journey will only begin."

The dandelion tilted her head, puzzled. "What do you mean?"

The oak chuckled. "You'll see. Trust the winds and your heart."

As the days passed, the dandelion noticed her yellow crown changing. Her florets gave way to a delicate puffball of seeds. She missed her golden glow, but the silvery puffball she now bore caught the light in a

way that made her shimmer like a tiny moon in the meadow. There was a quiet beauty to her new form.

One afternoon, as the sun dipped lower in the sky and cast rays across the meadow, a gentle breeze arrived. It swirled around her, soft and playful. The breeze lifted her seeds into the air, and they began to float away.

"Wait!" she called. "Where are you taking my seeds?"

The breeze whispered back. "To new places, where they will grow into their own dandelions. Your story doesn't end here — it spreads far and wide."

One by one, her seeds drifted away. Some landed in soft patches of soil nearby, while others travelled far beyond the meadow. As the days turned into weeks, tiny green shoots began to sprout where the seeds had landed. The dandelion watched with joy as her seeds grew into strong dandelions, each wearing a golden crown of their own.

The wise old oak spoke again. "Do you see now, dandelion? Your legacy isn't about staying the same or being remembered for how you once looked. It's about the life you've shared and the seeds of kindness, strength and inward beauty you've left behind for others to carry forward."

The dandelion smiled, her heart full. She realised that she wasn't just one dandelion in a meadow.

She was part of something bigger — a cycle of growth, change, and renewal.

The dandelion felt at peace. She knew she had left her legacy — a field of new dandelions, each ready to brighten the world just as she had.

To our FP children, a true legacy isn't about how long we shine, but about the seeds we plant through our actions and how we touch the lives of others. It's not only about the things we do; it's about how we make people feel.

Think about the dandelion. When her bright yellow florets disappear, she doesn't stop being special. She lets her seeds float on the wind, travelling far and wide to create new dandelions. Each seed carries the promise of something wonderful.

In the same way, we can plant seeds of kindness, courage, peace, and love. Every time we help someone, share a smile, or stand up for what's right, we are spreading those seeds. These seeds grow into something beautiful, making the world a better place.

Your legacy is the goodness you share and the lives you touch. This year, each of you has left your mark, in your own unique and special way. You can be immensely proud of everything you have accomplished this year.

Mrs Claudia McCarthy

Deputy Head: Foundation Phase

Senior Phase Academics Report

The most in-demand skills currently required in the workplace and likely to be required in the future include critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and adaptability. We strive to keep this long-term big picture in mind through our Academic programme. While the acquisition of knowledge will always be valuable, we are realising more and more that it's what we can teach our pupils to do with that knowledge that will distinguish them from the crowd.

Mr Piers Cruickshanks

Deputy Head: Senior Phase Academics



Sometimes, on a beautiful day, the lesson just has to take place outside – perhaps even in a tree! Grade 5s reading outside during English



Grade 7s exploring light waves in Natural Science



Grade 5s building wheelbarrows in Innovation



IBL heritage board game



Grade 7s building stools in Innovation. This has become a tradition, with some of the Grades 7s crafting pieces of furniture that could no doubt be used for a number of years. Careful with those dangerous tools, Mr Viljoen!

Sports Report

Our Commitment to Holistic Child Development through Sport

At Uplands Prep, our sports programme is dedicated to nurturing the whole child, fostering a love of sport, and developing lifelong learners of sport. Our philosophy emphasises participation across multiple disciplines, aiming to build well-rounded, adaptable athletes who find joy in movement. We encourage children to explore a variety of sports, which delays early specialisation and allows for a more holistic development of skills and interests.

Our structured sports seasons support this well-rounded approach. Rugby and netball serve as foundations, with hockey, soccer and cricket both boys and girls forming the core sports. These five main sports anchor our programme, with each sport given ample attention and focus throughout the school year. We believe this balance provides an enriching experience and a sense

of community across all teams.

A highlight of our sports calendar is the 1st team tours, prestigious events for which our children work tirelessly to get onto. These tours are celebrated achievements, offering players a chance to compete at a higher level and create lasting memories. Additionally, provincial representation holds great significance for us, as it allows our high-performing players to test their skills on a national stage, gaining invaluable experience.

Beyond team sports, Uplands Prep is proud to offer opportunities in smaller sports like tennis, mountain biking, golf and squash. These individual sports add depth to our programme, catering for children's unique interests and providing them with challenges and personal milestones to pursue. Our staff work hard to ensure these athletes also find platforms to

grow and test themselves in their chosen sports.

We have recently strengthened our Physical Education curriculum, now standardised from Grade 4 through to Grade 9 under the guidance of Mr. Michael Gill, our in-house sports scientist. His expertise ensures our PE programme aligns with our overall goal of holistic development.

We also extend a heartfelt thank-you to our coaches. Your commitment and time are invaluable, and your dedication to our children truly embodies the Uplands spirit. Thank you for making our vision a reality.

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2025 as the Uplands Sports office finds itself under new leadership. My time at Uplands has been very rewarding.

Mr Ryan McCarthy

Head: Sports Department



Boarding Report

Camping, a visit to the waterpark, soccer and conversations filled the boarders' spare time in 2024. The main aim of boarding in 2024 was to build relationships and create a home away from home where the boarders could enjoy games and free time, sharing their experiences.

The boarders formed strong, lasting friendships during the year. Laughter and shouts of delight could be heard regularly on Webster Lawn as well as in the houses. This year's boarders had a very strong sense of right and wrong and demonstrated a high standard of morals that allowed

them to take care of one another and ensure that all the boarders, especially the new boarders, felt at home from the start.

2024 was a superb year for boarding!

Mr Sean Barry

Head of Boarding

Culture Report



The year 2024 was an extraordinary showcase of talent, creativity and community spirit at Uplands Preparatory. From theatre productions to music, dance and meaningful initiatives, pupils embraced every opportunity to express themselves, learn and grow.

The School Play: The Senior Phase pupils showcased their dedication and stage presence in a heartwarming performance of *Annie*. The production captivated audiences, highlighting the power of perseverance and teamwork.

On Cue Productions: Live theatre continued to be a key part of the cultural calendar, offering the pupils the chance to experience high-quality performances. Younger pupils were enchanted by *The Little Mermaid*, while the other grades enjoyed *The Phantom of the Opera*. Later in the year, *The Adventures of Aladdin* and *Eighty Days to Become a Hero* brought adventure and excitement to the stage, deepening pupils' appreciation for the performing arts.

Barefoot Day Initiative: This meaningful initiative saw pupils from Pre-Prep to Senior Phase walking barefoot on a cold August morning to raise awareness of children in need. Over 200 pairs of

shoes were collected and donated, fostering a sense of empathy and social responsibility.

Drumbuster Workshop: Music and rhythm took centre stage as pupils from Grade 000 to Grade 7 participated in an energetic drumming experience. The interactive workshop allowed pupils to explore creativity and self-expression while celebrating the joy of music.

Dance-Off Competition: A lively and competitive Dance-Off brought the term to an exciting close, with pupils showcasing their dedication, skill and enthusiasm. Webb House took home the top prize, but all participants contributed to an electrifying atmosphere of fun and teamwork.

Uplands Preparatory's 2024 cultural calendar was filled with moments that nurtured creativity, collaboration and a love for the arts. These events not only enriched pupils' experiences but also strengthened school spirit and a sense of community. As the school looks ahead, it remains committed to fostering cultural engagement and inspiring young minds through the arts.

Mrs Marischa Landman
Head of Culture



Music Report

As we close the year, it's hard to ignore the incredible progress made by our talented musicians here at Uplands. From the beginning of the year, each pupil set his/her own personal goals, and as we reflect on the journey, it is clear that progress and growth have defined the musical journey of our pupils.

This year has been full of remarkable achievements, and it has been a true pleasure to witness the development of our musicians. One of the highlights was the participation in both the Nelspruit and Allegretto Eisteddfods, events that proved to be invaluable for our pupils. These prestigious platforms allowed our musicians to showcase their talent and engage in healthy competition, demonstrating not only their musical skill but also their dedication to their craft. Through their participation, Uplands pupils

have proved that they are more than capable of standing tall in the wider cultural landscape.

In an exciting development, we were also delighted to welcome back the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) to our campus. This will offer a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to take their ABRSM exams on-site in the future, ensuring that they continue to grow and strive toward excellence in their musical endeavours.

The individual music concerts also provided a valuable chance for pupils who had yet to perform on stage this year to shine. These performances filled both parents and staff with pride as we saw first-hand the dedication and growth of our young musicians. Each performance was a testament to their hard work and passion for music, leaving us excited for the

future of the Music Department.

The year ended on a high note with the beautiful Carols by Candlelight service held on Webster Lawn. The performances by both the Foundation Phase and Senior Phase choirs were nothing short of magical, leaving the audience in awe. A string ensemble made up of Uplands pupils added an extra layer of charm to the evening, showcasing the diverse talents within our music department.

As we reflect on the growth and accomplishments of the year, it's impossible not to feel a sense of excitement for the future. The dedication, skill, and passion demonstrated by our pupils are a clear indication that the music department at Uplands will continue to thrive in the years to come.

Mr Bongani Mavundla
Head of Music

Learning Support Unit

At Uplands Preparatory School, we understand that each child's learning journey is unique and our approach to support reflects this fundamental principle. Our dynamic multidisciplinary team consists of Educational Psychologists, Remedial Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, and Occupational Therapists. The LSU works collaboratively with teachers and parents to create personalised learning pathways for our pupils to ensure they receive the specific support they need.

Through individualised strategies,

we address challenges across all learning areas. Our team recognises that the path to success isn't linear, and we celebrate the different routes our pupils take to reach their goals. From customised intervention strategies to adaptive learning techniques, we ensure that each child's educational journey is respected and supported. This comprehensive strategy ensures pupils develop the skills and learning techniques essential for long-term success.

Throughout 2024, we've witnessed the power of personalised learning in action and our pupils have

shown remarkable progress on their individual learning paths. The achievements of our pupils not only reflect their academic growth, but their developing self-awareness as learners.

Looking ahead to 2025, the LSU remains committed to supporting each pupil's unique learning timeline. We understand that meaningful progress isn't about keeping pace with others; it's about maintaining steady forward momentum on one's own path. So, as we celebrate the year's successes, we remain inspired by each pupil's unique journey and committed to supporting their individual growth, emotional well-being and resilient mind-sets.

“ Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or the same way.”

- George Evans

Mrs Lorin Hauptfleisch
Head of Learning Support Unit

Art Report: Grade 7

This year, the Grade 7s embarked on a remarkable artistic journey, exploring diverse materials and techniques that allowed their creativity to flourish. From mastering the dramatic tones of charcoal to crafting intricate mixed media masterpieces, the pupils' dedication and enthusiasm were evident in every project.

The year began with a focus on charcoal, where the pupils learned to create varying values to depict space in their artworks. Drawing inspiration from renowned South African artists William Kentridge and Nelson Makamo, the pupils

crafted striking animal drawings, incorporating symbolic objects highlighted with splashes of colour. They embraced charcoal's forgiving nature, which encouraged experimentation and bold expression.

Building on this momentum, the Grade 7s moved into sculptural work, creating their own papier mâché clay to cover handmade wire sculptures. Once the clay dried, they painted their creations with acrylic paint, resulting in vibrant and dynamic three-dimensional artworks. These projects showcased not only technical skill but also the pupils'

imaginative vision.

The second semester shifted focus to printmaking and mixed media, with inspiration drawn from the imaginative works of Brandi Hofer. The pupils began with gel printing, experimenting with monoprinting, layering, and the use of watercolours on gel plates to produce stunning prints. Adding another dimension, they created texture plates with cardboard and glue, further enhancing their understanding of depth and design.

The final project of the year invited pupils to explore dream-themed



mixed media art, inspired by Hofer's innovative techniques. Using materials such as watercolours, acrylic paints, oil pastels, coloured pencils and charcoal, they skilfully layered textures and transferred images with oil pastels. The results

were imaginative artworks brimming with vibrant colours and rich textures.

The Grade 7s have truly excelled this year, demonstrating creativity, skill, and a willingness to embrace new

challenges. Their artistic journey has been a testament to their hard work and passion, leaving us excited to see where their talents will take them next.

Mrs Janet Tecklenburg



Art Report: Grade 6

The Grade 6 Art programme this year has been a celebration of creativity, persistence and skill development. From collages and sculpture to printmaking, the pupils have demonstrated remarkable dedication, producing stunning artworks that reflect their growth as young artists.

The year began with a bird collage project using magazine pages. This meticulous process tested our patience and precision but was well worth the effort, as the final pieces showcased the pupils' artistic talents. We then turned to the Renaissance, exploring Michelangelo's masterpiece in the Sistine Chapel. Inspired by the iconic "Creation of Adam" scene, the pupils created their own interpretations

of the reaching hands, with each design reflecting their unique personalities. The year concluded with a fascinating journey into printing using styrofoam, merging this technique with silhouettes to craft bold, innovative pieces.

In the second semester, the focus shifted to printmaking and sculpture. The pupils learned essential sculpting techniques while creating delightful bobblehead animals from clay. They mastered skills such as scoring and using slip to securely attach details before painting their creations in vibrant colours.

Printmaking added another dimension to their artistic exploration. Pupils experimented

with pastel chalk printing, combining chalk shavings with water to produce dynamic prints. Potato printing brought a fun challenge as they carved designs to create repeating patterns, while styrofoam printing allowed them to design intricate landscapes, complete with reflections in water, using water-based paints and black block ink.

Through each project, the Grade 6 pupils showcased creativity and enthusiasm, building confidence in their abilities and refining their artistic techniques. Their impressive works are a testament to their hard work and the vibrant spirit of their class. Well done to all the budding artists!

Mrs Janet Tecklenburg





Art Report: Grade 5

This year, the Grade 5 Art class embarked on an exciting journey of creativity and skill-building, exploring a variety of mediums and techniques that showcased their growing talent and dedication.

The year began with a challenging project: zoomed-in animal eyes rendered in layers of oil pastels. The pupils carefully built texture and depth, producing strikingly realistic pieces. Next, they delved into the fascinating world of Egyptian art,

designing their own cartouches adorned with hieroglyphs. The term continued with a mixed-media self-portrait project, featuring unique headpieces and breastplates, and concluded with an imaginative exploration of animal mummies. Using toilet paper rolls and papier-mâché, the pupils created and painted their mummies in vibrant acrylics, demonstrating impressive creativity and enthusiasm.

In the second semester, the focus

shifted to the iconic work of Georgia O'Keeffe. The pupils studied her love of natural forms, beginning with seashell art. Using black wood glue for outlines and watercolours enhanced with a sprinkle of salt, they captured the delicate textures and shapes of seashells on A3 paper.

Inspired by O'Keeffe's depictions of skulls, flowers and seashells, the pupils practised shading techniques, including cross-hatching and

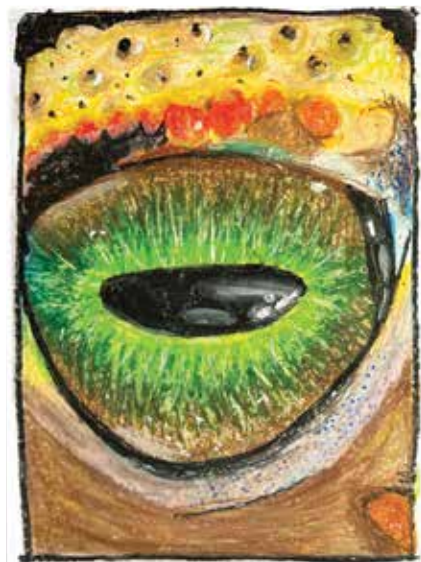


blending, using graphite pencils. These skills culminated in mixed-media drawings of skulls, where detailed pencil work was combined with aquarelle pencils and water paint, allowing pupils to experiment

with depth and texture. Throughout the year, the Grade 5s have shown remarkable growth in their drawing and painting abilities. Their creativity and commitment

to learning new techniques have resulted in truly outstanding work, leaving a lasting impression on all who have seen their efforts. Well done, Grade 5 artists!

Mrs Janet Tecklenburg



Art Report: Grade 4

This year, the Grade 4 pupils embarked on an inspiring artistic journey, exploring the works of renowned artists and developing their own creative voices.

The year began with an introduction to Pablo Picasso and his groundbreaking contributions to Cubism. Armed with this knowledge, the pupils crafted unique face sculptures using cardboard and oil pastels, embracing bold colours and abstract forms. They also studied Picasso's *Le Coq*, focusing on patterns and hues, and experimented with vibrant chalk pastels and watercolours to create

Dean Russo-inspired tiger artworks. Their enthusiasm and originality made the start of the year truly memorable.

In the second semester, the focus shifted to the theme of "Celebration," with an emphasis on the art elements of space and value. Pupils explored how artists use foreground, middleground and background to create depth. They applied this in their first project by drawing personal celebration scenes with oil pastels, adding shading to enhance the sense of space.

Next, the pupils took inspiration from Vincent van Gogh's distinctive

swirling brushstrokes to create koi fish paintings. After practising the shapes of the fish, they incorporated Van Gogh's style to produce textured and vibrant artworks that beautifully captured the movement of water and the vivid colours of koi fish.

Throughout the year, the Grade 4s demonstrated impressive creativity and a growing understanding of artistic concepts. Their colourful, thoughtful work has reflected their excitement for art and dedication to honing their skills. Well done, Grade 4 artists!

Mrs Janet Tecklenburg





Art Report: Grade 3

This year, the Grade 3 Art class embarked on an imaginative and vibrant journey, exploring a variety of artistic techniques and styles that showcased their creativity and dedication.

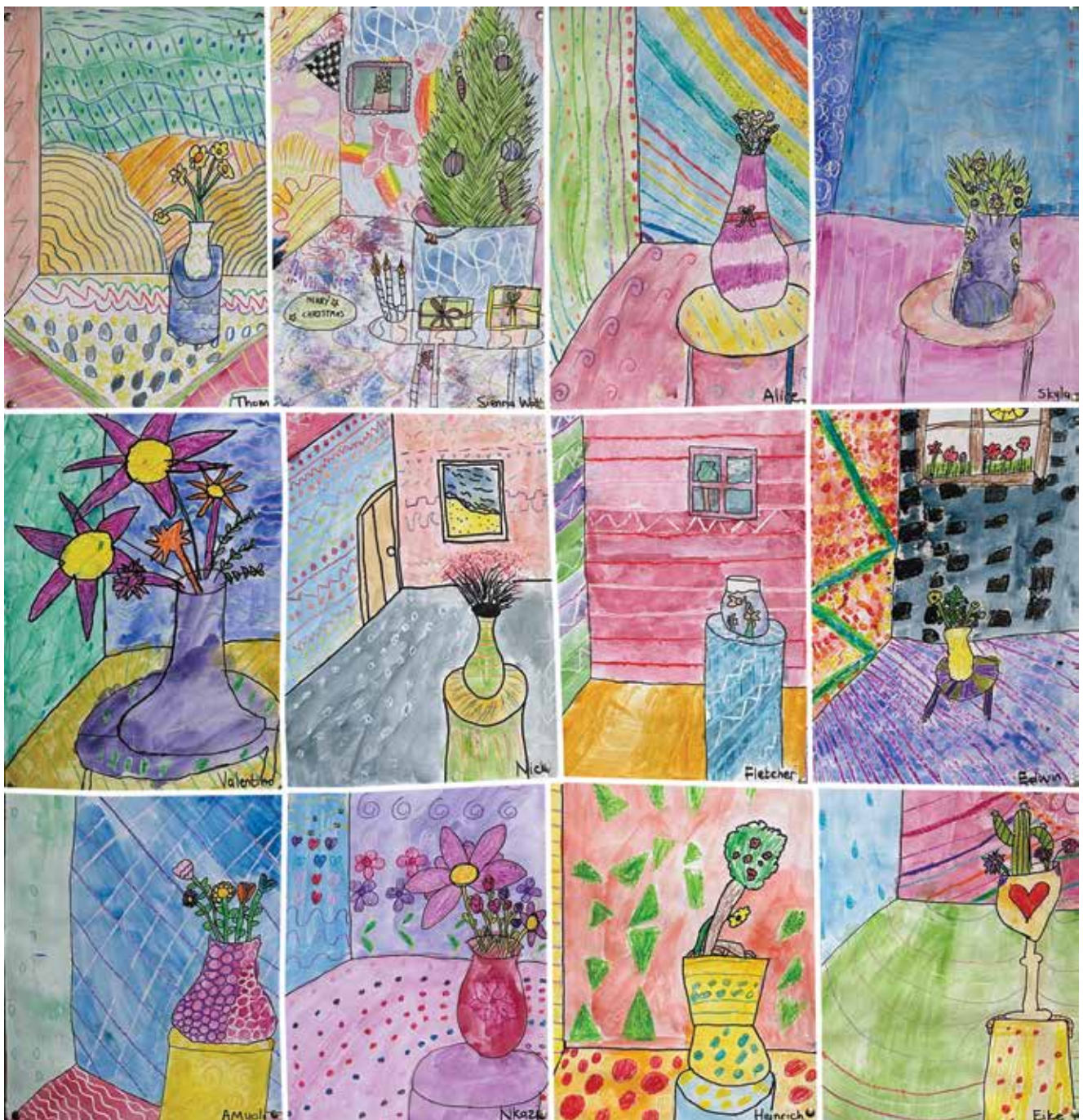
The year began with a focus on watercolours, where pupils mastered techniques to create striking zebra artworks. By blending warm and cool colours, they captured the harmony of contrasts in their

pieces. From there, they explored texture through printing on paper, which was then transformed into intricate fish collages. Adding patterned details with oil pastels brought their creations to life. The term culminated in a hands-on clay project, where pupils honed coiling and scoring techniques to craft unique bowls from air-drying clay, each reflecting their individuality.

In the second semester, the Grade

3s turned their attention to Henri Matisse's drawing with scissors technique, creating vibrant and dynamic collages. They also explored drawing parrots, experimenting with warm and cold colours, and enhancing their work with oil pastels and watercolours.

The pupils embraced intricate patterns while designing mandalas, incorporating them into starfish shapes with stunning detail. Inspired



by Matisse's Cat with Red Fish, they created still-life pieces using wax crayons and watercolours, learning the resist technique to add depth and interest. The fun continued with bubble painting, where colourful

bubbles were printed using toilet rolls and transformed into imaginative drawings with fine liners.

This year, the Grade 3s demonstrated enthusiasm, creativity and growth in their artistic skills.

Their impressive work reflects their journey through colour, texture, and form - a truly vibrant chapter in their artistic development!

Mrs Janet Tecklenburg



The Incredible Dog Show

Our Grade 1 - 7 children were treated to a very special visit from the Incredible Dog Show and what a paw-some experience it was! The talented canine performers and their handler, Lloyd Bristow, brought

joy, excitement and furry fun to our campus. The dogs ranged in size and breed, yet all showcased unbelievable skill, diligence, agility and intelligence. The show reminded us of the special bond

between humans and animals. We are grateful for the opportunity to have experienced such a unique and entertaining event.

Mrs Claudia McCarthy



Crazy Hair Day

On the 15th of Feb, we had Crazy Hair Day. This Crazy Hair Day brought wild and colourful hairstyles to campus. The funky,

fun-filled day raised funds for the upcoming school play.

Mrs Marischa Landman



On Cue Production

We were delighted to welcome the On Cue Production team for their annual visit! This year, Grades 1-3 enjoyed a magical performance of *The Little Mermaid*, and Grades 4-7 were captivated by *The Phantom of the Opera*. This experience brings immense joy and laughter, exposing our pupils to the wonders of live theatre.

Mrs Marischa Landman



The Travelling Bookshop

Uplands Preparatory hosted an incredible Book Fair with a visit from the Travelling Bookshop, and it was nothing short of magical! The event was a true celebration of the joy and wonder books bring, reminding us all just how powerful reading is in connecting people of all ages.

The Book Fair brought an exciting variety of books, carefully chosen for our young readers, giving them the chance to explore and immerse themselves in the world of literature. Pupils eagerly browsed through an amazing selection, finding books that suited their interests and sparked their curiosity. Some pupils walked away with one book, while others left with two or even three new adventures in hand!

A big thank-you goes to the team from the Travelling Bookshop, whose passion for reading made this experience unforgettable. Their enthusiasm and dedication to sharing the love of books left a lasting impact on our pupils,

inspiring them to dive into new stories and explore the joy of reading. We're so grateful for the magic they brought to Uplands, helping our young readers create memories and develop a lifelong love of books!

Ms Moné Gates



Jaco Jacobs Skrywersbesoek

We were thrilled to have Mr Jaco Jacobs visit us and talk about his exciting new books! Our pupils, who have been reading his books as part of our curriculum, were ecstatic to meet him and get their books signed. They loved his talk and are now even more eager to dive into his latest publications.

Mrs Marischa Landman



Barefoot Day

On the chilly morning of August 1st, the pupils from Pre-Preparatory, Preparatory Foundation Phase and the Senior Phase bravely went barefoot to collect shoes for orphanages.

The initiative, known as Barefoot Day, was a huge success, with over 200 pairs of shoes gathered and donated to a non-profit organisation. These shoes will bring warmth and comfort to the children in orphanages in and around White River.

Mrs Marischa Landman



Drumbusters



You should have heard the energy at Uplands Preparatory on Wednesday, August 8th! The whole school came alive with an infectious rhythm as Drumbuster visited and led our Grade 000 - 7 pupils in an exhilarating drumming lesson. Every pupil got to play his/her own drum, and they absolutely loved every minute of it! The hall was filled with the incredible sound of their collective beats, as the pupils tapped into their natural rhythmic talents.

It was such a fun, creative and interactive experience that had everyone smiling and moving to the beat. You could feel the school buzzing with excitement and musical energy. What an awesome way to get the creative juices flowing! Thank you, Drumbuster, for this amazing experience!

Mrs Marischa Landman



Inter-house Dance - Off

The Grade 4-7 pupils made an incredible show with their interhouse dance-off. After weeks of practice the finalists brought their A-game on the 30th of August in front of an enthusiastic audience

from both the Foundation and Senior phases. The energy and talent on stage were electrifying, but in the end Webb House took home the top prize as the overall winner of the dance-off!

Congratulations to all the participants for their hard work and amazing performances. We couldn't be prouder of everyone!

Mrs Marischa Landman





Books2U Book Fair

Uplands Preparatory hosted the Books2U Book Fair from the 4th of September to the 6th of September 2024. This enchanting literary event celebrated the magic of books and reading, a true reminder of the power of books in connecting people. The fair showcased a captivating collection of books, allowing book lovers to immerse themselves in the world of literature. The pupils were treated to an array of age-appropriate books and interactive activities, inspiring them to read from a young age. The pupils also had a chance to buy a book or two.

Ms Moné Gates



First Additional Language (FAL) Day

To celebrate Heritage Week, we hosted a fantastic FAL Day with 16 stations featuring traditional games. The kids rotated through each station, spending 15 minutes enjoying games like Bokdrolletjiespoeg, Kettieskiet, Mogusha and Diketo.

It was a fun-filled day, highlighting the importance of the first additional languages taught at our Preparatory School!

Mrs Marischa Landman



Inter-Schools Public Speaking

Communicating effectively with our peers is one of the most valuable lessons we will ever learn. Competition is equally important. On Wednesday the 23rd of October, Uplands and Rotary decided to pick up where we left off after COVID and refresh and rejuvenate the Inter-Schools Public Speaking Competition. Uplands, Penryn, White River Primary and Summerhill Preparatory sent candidates to battle it out on stage.

The excellent quality of the speeches left all present satisfied that eloquent oratory is alive and well in our young people of today. The addition of impromptu speeches as a category left the audience and judges even more pleasantly shocked. White River Primary came out victorious on the enjoyable summer evening, closely followed by Uplands. This was a fantastic event that will hopefully be further refined and rejuvenated in the future.

Mr Brian Dengler



Uplands Prep Choir: A Fresh Start in 2024

This year has marked an exciting new chapter for the Uplands Prep Senior Choir, with Mr Bongani Mavundla stepping in as our new conductor. His arrival has brought fresh energy and enthusiasm, setting the stage for a remarkable year of music and performance.

The choir quickly got to work, diving into rehearsals to prepare for the upcoming performances. Our first outing was the much-anticipated Penryn Derby, where both the home and away performances were met with great success. The excitement of singing in front of our peers and community was palpable, and it was a fantastic way to kick off the year.

One of the highlights of our season was Founders Evening, where we had the honour of performing alongside the Junior Choir. The audience's resounding applause after our rendition of "Shosholoza" was a testament to the hard work of all involved. This performance was particularly bittersweet, as it marked Miss Cassandra Monnig's final concert as the conductor of the Junior Choir. We bade her farewell at the end of Term 2,

grateful for her dedication and leadership.

Our musical journey continued at the Nelspruit Eisteddfod, held at the AGS Communio Church. It was inspiring to share the stage with so many talented choirs. The Junior Choir, under the direction of Ms Lizanne Barnard, earned a well-deserved Gold medal for its exceptional performance. The Senior Choir also shone brightly, receiving a Silver for our mixed repertoire, which included spiritual, secular, and traditional songs.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to every parent, teacher and

chorister who has supported me as I found my footing here at Uplands Prep. Your dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed. A special acknowledgment is due to Mrs Landman, our Head of Culture, whose guidance has been invaluable in making this year's successes possible.

As we look forward to the rest of the year, we're excited about the opportunities and performances that await us. Here's to a fantastic 2024 filled with music and camaraderie!

Mr Bongani Mavundla



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening



Shrove Tuesday was celebrated with a perfect Lowveld evening this year, and was a wonderful get-together with families from Uplands Preparatory, as well as Uplands College boarders enjoying some fellowship.

The delicious pancakes were a hit and the children had a wonderful time playing on the jumping castle while their parents could relax and catch up with friends. Shrove Tuesday marks the preparation for the fasting of the 40 days of Lent.

Rev Bronwyn Nortje
School Chaplain



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday services were held for both the Prep school as well as the College pupils. The service was a time for confession and seeking repentance. Pupils were reminded that 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
School Chaplain



Baptism and First Communion



On Saturday 4th May, Rev Bronwyn had the privilege of baptising some of our young Uplands Preparatory pupils in a service held in Jos Driver Hall at the Uplands Preparatory School. This was a special service for our children, as they were supported by parents, godparents and grandparents. The children were able to make this important commitment in their Christian walk, surrounded by the most important people in their lives. The baptism was followed by Admission to First Communion. It was a wonderful celebration for our young children to make their commitment to God and set out on their Christian journey of faith.

Rev Bronwyn Nortje
School Chaplain



Ascension Day

Thursday 9th of May was celebrated by Christians worldwide as Ascension Day. It is a reminder of the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his Resurrection. Here at Uplands we celebrated with our special combined Uplands Preparatory Senior Phase and Uplands College Eucharist service held on Webster lawn. 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 24)

Rev Bronwyn Nortje
School Chaplain



Heads of Anglican Schools in South Africa Conference



In the serene gardens overlooking the Uplands dam, we welcomed the Heads of Anglican Schools in South Africa for a day of connection and reflection. The gathering began with an inspiring open-air Eucharist Service led by our Chaplain, Rev Bronwyn Nortje, followed by a delicious breakfast under the shade of the trees. This picturesque setting provided the perfect backdrop for meaningful conversations and networking, allowing school leaders to engage in a relaxed and rejuvenating environment.

Rev Bronwyn Nortje
School Chaplain



New Sacristans

In a special Chapel Eucharist Service on November 21st, we invited the Grade 6 and 7 parents of the incoming and outgoing Sacristans, respectively, for a Service dedicated to giving thanks for the 2024 Grade 7 Sacristans and their service, and to welcoming the new Sacristans of 2025.

We called up the Grade 7 Sacristans of 2024 and thanked

them for their service and acknowledged how high they have set the bar through hard work and example-setting. We prayed for and blessed them before calling up and inducting the Grade 6 incoming Sacristans for 2025, and the Headmaster handed out the newly introduced pledges and usual badges to the Grade 6s. We also announced Felicity Zumbika as the new Head Sacristan of 2025, who will take over

from Kate Dane, who has led the team with distinction this year.

We are so thrilled to have such a large group of excited boys and girls, ready to serve Jesus and the community in their formal roles next year.

Mr Matthew Jennings
School Chaplain

Carols by Candlelight

The Jesse Tree Carol Service was a spectacular and beautiful event that brought together a large portion of our Community from the School and the wider community. From the nine lessons, readings and symbols that were presented, to the gorgeous tunes of the various choirs and orchestras, to the families involved in singing along, it was a wonderful event. In the second last song, as the sun set on Webster Lawn, we all lit our candles and the scene was magnificent.

The Carols started with a short devotional and welcome, grounding us in what the hour was all about and reminding ourselves of the joyous news of Christmas truly being “God with us”. The ending of the Carols was ecstatic and jubilant dancing, led by the shortest and youngest of the children in the front, to a classic “Christmas in Africa” song. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the best of the night was that we could usher in the season of Advent together, as a community.

Mr Matthew Jennings
School Chaplain



Chess



Eisteddfod



Marimba Bands

Senior Phase Marimba Group

The Senior Phase Marimba group has had an outstanding year, impressing audiences with their musical talent, dedication and energy.

One of the highlights of the year was their performance at the MJ Zwane Athletics event, held at Uplands. The marimba group's lively tunes added a dynamic and festive atmosphere to the event, energising athletes and spectators alike. Their performances at various school functions, including the End of Year Prizegiving, also received rave reviews, with their infectious enthusiasm and skill captivating the entire audience.

In addition to the Senior Phase group, the Broskies Marimba

Group, made up of Grade 6 pupils, also achieved great success. They participated in the Uplands Has Talent competition, where they were awarded the SP Prize. Their achievement is a testament to the growing marimba talent in our school and to the commitment of the pupils.

The success of the Senior Phase Marimba group is not just in their musical accomplishments, but in the joy and excitement they bring to the school community. Their performances have become a highlight of many events, and their passion for music continues to inspire fellow pupils.

As the year draws to a close, we look forward to seeing how the Senior Marimba group will continue

to develop their skills and bring even more music and joy to the school in the future.

Foundation Phase Marimbas

The Grade 3 pupils have had a wonderful time learning to play the marimbas this year. As part of their journey, they selected the lively and upbeat song "Waka Waka" to perform during the Foundation Phase Prizegiving at the end of the year.

This performance marked a special moment as they bade farewell to the Foundation Phase, showcasing their hard work and enthusiasm. It was a memorable and joyful experience for both the performers and the audience.

Mr Bongani Mavundla



Sound and Lights

The Sound and Lights Crew has been an invaluable part of our school community this year, working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure smooth operations at various school events. Their dedication and professionalism have greatly contributed to the success of numerous activities, including weekly Eucharist services and assemblies.

Notably, the team went above and beyond during the Senior Phase and Foundation Phase plays, where their attention to detail and technical skills played a key role in bringing the performances to life. From managing lighting effects to ensuring the sound system ran flawlessly, the crew helped create an unforgettable atmosphere for both performers and audiences alike.

For our Grade 7 pupils, being part of the crew has been a valuable learning experience. It offers them the chance to develop skills in sound engineering, lighting design, and technical support - skills they may have the opportunity to build upon in future studies or at college level.

Mr Bongani Mavundla

House Captains



Fuller House Captains and Vice House Captains

Front Row: Olivia Storm (Vice-Captain), Aiden Naidoo (Junior Phase Vice-Captain), Amilla Pieters (Captain)

Back Row: Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen, Fynn Harman (Vice Captain), Keyaan Choonara (Junior Phase Vice-Captain), Zipho Nkabinde (Captain)



Ogilvie House Captains and Vice House Captains

Front Row: Kate Dane (Vice -Captain), Emma Jack (Junior Phase Vice-Captain), Lulama Kwinika (Captain)

Back Row: Mrs Minette Collins, Loukas Dimitriou (Vice-Captain), Luke Hulley (Junior Phase Vice-Captain), Khumo Mpofu (Captain)

House Captains



Webb House Captains and Vice House Captains

Front Row: Rachele Goosen (Junior Phase Vice-Captain), Ella Ralfe (Vice-Captain), Bella James (Captain)

Back Row: Levi Langdon (Junior Phase Vice-Captain), Zain Greeff (Vice-Captain),
Mr Thulani Mngomezulu, Gregory Davies (Captain)

Community Service

In 2024, the Preparatory School felt the need to place more emphasis on the children actively taking part in Outreach programmes. Reverend Nortje started the Community Service Club during the afternoon programme. One of the first tasks was to repackage food for Feed The Need, a charity that provides food for those who have fallen on hard times. Each tutor group in the

Senior Prep was also encouraged to seek opportunities to contribute to a better community.

We continued to look after the four main charities we have supported for many years. The SPCA, Child Welfare, Hospice and the Rotary Christmas Gift Drive all received donations from the Uplands Community.

Mr Gary Viljoen



Founders' Evening

Each May, Uplands School holds its revered Founders' Evening, a highlight on the school calendar. This special event celebrates the legacy of the school's founders' while showcasing the remarkable talents of current pupils.

The evening highlight is the prestigious Candle-lighting Ceremony, a symbolic tradition representing the passing of the light of knowledge from Uplands to

the world beyond its walls. It is a powerful visualisation of Uplands' core mission to educate and enlighten young minds.

The night truly shines as pupils perform in categories ranging from music and dance to drama, showcasing the Uplands pupils' diverse abilities as they command the stage with poise and professionalism. From haunting violin solos to lively dance numbers

to the amazing choirs, the talents showcased leave audience members in awe year after year.

Founders' Evening is a true celebration of Uplands' incredible community, reverentially honouring its origins while excitedly glimpsing its future. Mark your calendars for this can't-miss annual event!

Mrs Debbie van Rooyen



MJ Zwane

Independent Schools Athletics Champs

On the 24th of February 2024, Uplands Prep had the honour of hosting the annual MJ Zwane Independent Schools Athletics Champs, a cherished event named in memory of young Mxolisi Waka Sambo Zwane. In 2019, Mxolisi tragically lost his life in a car accident on his way to the Independent Schools Athletics meet. In tribute, the event was renamed the MJ Zwane Athletics Champs in 2020, ensuring his spirit and legacy remain a part of this significant occasion.

This year's event was a particularly special one, as Mxolisi's family and friends joined us to celebrate his memory and the spirit of competition he loved. The day began bright and early with over

200 athletes from eight schools across the Lowveld proudly marching in their school colours and flags, symbolising unity and sportsmanship. The National Anthem, beautifully sung by Grade 9 pupil Isabella Ruf, set a reverent and inspiring tone for the day.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the Lowveld Chas Everitt group for their generous sponsorship, which helped the day run smoothly and effortlessly. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated Uplands Prep staff, whose teamwork and careful planning ensured every detail was attended to, allowing the event to flow seamlessly. Their collective effort made it possible to honour Mxolisi's legacy in such a memorable way.

To the talented athletes from the eight participating schools, we commend you for your dedication, sportsmanship and energy you brought to each event. We are grateful to have been a part of this memorable day and wish Penryn Prep all the best as they take on the honour of hosting next year's MJ Zwane Athletics Champs.

As we close this report, we reflect on the words of Henry Ford: "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." Thank you to everyone who made this day possible.

Mr Ryan McCarthy





“ Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress,
and working together is success. ”

– Henry Ford

Yo-Ho! Who Dunnit?

Foundation Phase Concert



Our Uplands Foundation Phase children set sail for a spectacular pirate concert, “Yo-Ho! Who Dunnit?” With swashbuckling pirates, groovy reggae rats, mischievous pirate cats, tropical island dancers, feathery flamingos and colourful macaws, this fun-filled adventure of finding Polly the Parrot had it all.

The children’s vibrant energy shone bright, bringing the Caribbean to life in a production that left the audience hooked!

Mrs Claudia McCarthy



Annie

Senior Phase Concert

The Uplands Preparatory Senior Phase pupils showcased their incredible talent and passion in the uplifting school play production of “Annie.” Their hard work and dedication shone through in every scene, leaving a lasting impression on the appreciative audience of parents, siblings, other schools and our Silver Seniors. It was a truly memorable event for all involved.

Mrs Marischa Landman



Interhouse Family Fun Day

Uplands Colour Run 2024: A spectacular success



A huge thank-you to all the parents, children and staff who made the annual Uplands Colour Run an unforgettable event! Hosted by the three vibrant houses of Uplands - Fuller, Ogilvie, and Webb - this year's Colour Run was a celebration of community spirit and joy.

The enthusiastic participation and unwavering support were the key ingredients in making this event a tremendous success. We are especially grateful to the dedicated staff of Uplands, whose hard work and meticulous planning ensured that everything ran smoothly and the event was a memorable experience for everyone involved.

We can't wait to see you all again next year for an even bigger and better Colour Fun. Thank you for being a part of our vibrant Uplands community!

Mr Jacques Muller



Eisteddfod Gala Evening

The Eisteddfod Gala Evening was a night to remember! Families and friends gathered to enjoy a wonderful evening of dinner and talent, celebrating the exceptional performances and art displays by our talented Gold Certificate participants. From captivating performances to inspiring art, the evening was filled with creativity and pride.

Mrs Marischa Landman



Uplands has Talent

The UPS Has Talent Show was a resounding success, featuring over twenty participants who excelled in various performances, from comedy and singing to dancing. After a challenging selection process, the talented pupils delivered an evening of unforgettable entertainment.

A Senior Phase dance group won the SP prize, while a pianist from the Foundation Phase took home the overall prize. The event highlighted the remarkable talents of our pupils and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Mrs Marischa Landman



Uplands Christmas Market

For many people, the Uplands Christmas Market signals the start of the festive season! Young and old braved the heat to browse, shop and catch up. More than 90 stalls were set up on the corridors and under the trees of the College. Bigger kids enjoyed the bungee trampoline and the rocket, while the little ones loved the jungle gyms and jumping castles.

The Uplands Parent Teacher Association (PTA) made sure everyone stayed hydrated.

A huge thank-you to all involved behind the scenes, including staff, pupils, parents, groundsmen, Mrs Jacki van Zyl and a past PTA chair.

Mrs Tracey Russell



Uplands Foundation Off-Road Duathlon and Trail Run



On Saturday 2 November, over 150 enthusiastic participants took on the challenge of the Uplands Foundation Off-Road Duathlon and Trail Run! This memorable event was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Ezigro and Lowveld Power Sports. A special thank-you to Ant Baird and Robin Flores for their incredible support - your contributions helped us bring this day to life!

We are also deeply grateful to our dedicated volunteers, the superb Uplands staff and pupils, and all our supporters. Your smiles and energy made every moment worthwhile. Thank you for being a part of this fantastic day!

Mrs Sally Greathead



Grade 1 Overview

The Grade 1s have had a happy year of tremendous personal growth. This very important school year includes learning to read, write and spell, working with numbers formally and practising new skills on the sports field as well as in the swimming pool. Assemblies, outings, sport fixtures and being transported in a bus all add to developing their independence. The Grade 1s have had so many exciting special days like the Grade 1 tea party, inter-house events, story-reading under the stars, Transport Day, Book Day, Safari Day, and FAL Day, as well as our pirate concert. We would like to thank all the teachers involved with the Grade 1s, as well as the parents, for their support this year.

Our emphasis in Grade 1 is to foster a love of learning and a curiosity for the world. We introduce the children to the wonders of letters, numbers,

and the vibrant world of stories. At Uplands, we aim to develop the whole child through a variety of sports, cultural activities and academics.

Mrs Claudia McCarthy



First day at school

Uplands Preparatory welcomes the Grade 1s to the big school. Wednesday 17th January marked the beginning of an exciting adventure for the newest members of Uplands Preparatory, the bright-eyed Grade 1s who eagerly stepped into the realm of formal

education for the very first time.

The morning buzzed with enthusiasm as parents bade farewell to their little ones at the classrooms where Mrs Sally Wiggill and Mrs Claudia McCarthy happily welcomed the children with smiles on their faces.

With backpacks almost as big as themselves, these forty young children will embark on a journey that promises growth, discovery and countless moments of joy.

Mrs Claudia McCarthy





Story-telling Evening

Nothing is more exciting than coming to school in your pyjamas at night! Our Grade 1s enjoyed a wonderful story-telling evening with Mr Carlisle, Mr Hauptfleisch, Mrs Wiggill and Mrs McCarthy. The children, wrapped snugly in blankets, clutching their favourite bedtime toys and sipping hot chocolate, were immersed in a world of laughter, warmth and adventure. Bedtime reading isn't just about books - it's a cherished tradition that fosters imagination and bonds friendships - and what could be more delightful than sharing it with classmates?

Mrs Sally Wiggill



Transport Day

Our Grade 1s celebrated Transport Day at the Uplands Dam with great enthusiasm. They dressed up as pilots, astronauts, racing car drivers, skateboarders and lots more! The creative costumes added to the excitement, making it a fun-filled day for all. The children made boats out of recycled material and sailed them down the canal. The hands-on activity sparked their innovation skills and imagination, and they couldn't wait to see their creations float.

Mrs Sally Wiggill



Safari Day

As part of our African Safari theme, the Grade 1s spent the day engaging in Safari activities. They listened to a presentation from a Safari guide, constructed and painted their own game drive vehicles from recycled boxes, and went on a virtual game drive. They also had fun making their own clay animals.

Mrs Claudia McCarthy



Grade 1 Class Photographs



Front Row: Uvile Mgwenya, Brielle Kubuya, Georgina Deacon, Blayke Schuldt, Adam Kay-Zoltowski, Ruby Ralph
Second Row: Miss Jesse Joubert, Milan Zietsman, Madison Pretorius, Zamacusi Nkabinde, Mrs Claudia McCarthy
Third Row: Fletcher Blew, Andile Nyathi, Mackenzie Watt, Jack Hulley-Miller
Fourth Row: Zoe Tenderere, Alimwe Maphanga, Mireille Minnaar
Back Row: Sakhumzi Maluka, Nnete Mpholo, Kirabo Dlamini, Reuben-Joshua Haasbroek
Absent: Alicia Kritzinger, Victor Wilkens



Front Row: Joshua Coetsee, Buhle Kanyane, Nompumelelo Sehawu, Christina Webber, Amelie Bakker, Jenna Snyman
Second Row: Miss Derienne van der Colff, Leah Language, Sienna Schroeder, Vezokuhle Mavundla, Mrs Sally Wiggill
Third Row: Zoey Ramatsitsi, Tchoky Carlson, Masana Manzini, Emily Hearne
Fourth Row: Donovan van Biljon, Hendré Leppan, Khenso Mashaba.
Back Row: Amogelang Lekhuleni, Alina Raja, Leander Smit, Siyamthanda Ngwenyama.
Absent: Julian Schormann

Grade 2 Overview

A busy year in Grade 2

What a fantastic year we have had in Grade 2! We have explored our beautiful school grounds and learnt so much about nature and our environment.

One of our favourite adventures was a trip to the dam. We enjoyed a special snake talk where we learned about these fascinating creatures and how to stay safe

around them. It was thrilling to see and hear all about snakes and reptiles.

We also had an insect hunt, searching high and low for bugs. We found many different types and learned how important they are to our world. Our Compound Word Day was a lot of fun, too. We discovered how two words can make one new one. We enjoyed finding examples

of these all around the school. The scenery was beautiful and we felt like true explorers in the Lowveld!

This year has been filled with adventures and learning inspired by our amazing Lowveld. We cannot wait to see what next year brings!

Mrs Laura Squires



Compound Word Day

Our Grade 2 Compound Word Fun Day was a blast! The Grade 2s teamed up to explore the exciting world of compound words, where two words join together to make a new one. The day started with each child receiving a single word, then they had to find the partner word. Once they found the words, they combined them to create

compound words like “sunflower,” “rainbow,” and “butterfly.”

Next, the teams made beautiful posters, which they presented to the class. The rest of the class had fun guessing the new words. We ended our fun morning with delicious cupcakes!

Mrs Sam Arntzen



Explorers' Day

Grade 2 set out for a day of exploration at the dam, guided by Jason. They met snakes, a leopard tortoise and a bearded dragon, learning about them up close and personal.

A fun scavenger hunt added to the excitement. To complete the morning, we had a delicious picnic with friends. Our young explorers had a super time.

Mrs Sam Arntzen



Adventure Day

Exploring Insects and Teamwork!

Our Grade 2s had a super exciting Adventure Day, all about insects! It was a day full of fun, teamwork and learning, and we couldn't wait to dive into all the activities.

We were divided into teams with our classmates, and each team worked together to solve fun challenges. Teamwork was super important! We had to talk, share

ideas, and help each other to complete each task. It was great to see everyone working together and cheering each other on!

One of the coolest activities was the insect puzzle challenge. Each team received special clues that helped us figure out answers as a team. Some of the teams managed to complete the puzzle.

After solving puzzles, we headed outside for bug hunts! We searched for real insects in the grass and bushes. We saw butterflies, ants, and even ladybugs! We collected leaves, twigs, and flowers to make our own insect designs.

Adventure morning was a huge success! We learned so much about teamwork and insects while having a blast.

Mrs Laura Squires



Grade 2 Class Photographs



Front Row: Nadia Smit, Khumo Mogane, Emma Hamilton, Anna Forword, Robert Louw

Second Row: Khulasande Ngomana, Ntsika Maziduko, Lucia Leoni, Pippa Herring, Grayson Clark

Third Row: Kimberly Khoza, Sophie McEwan, Alexander Dimitriou, Avethandwa Nhlapo, Tiyani Grove

Fourth Row: Stella Whyte, Makomborero Munanga, Reikemetse Moripa, Joy van der Hout

Back Row: Miss Tsepiso Phoku, Sven Galliers, Alexa Rottcher, Rachel Luyt, Nathan d'Hotman, Madison Bennett, Mrs Sam Arntzen



Front Row: Kyra Stephen, William Whitfield, Avalyn Christie, Luke Herring, Siyabulela Mbatsane

Second Row: Axel Pinker, Caterina Rodrigues, Moshopiadi Mabowa, Amahle Mhaule, Colton Hearne, Alina Taylor

Third Row: Talia Steenkamp, Nava James, Wyatt Stevens, Charlyn Mutanda, Liela de Swardt

Fourth Row: Imani Mabuza, Troy Taljaard, Olivia McEvoy, Reabetswe Tukagomo

Back Row: Miss Tsepiso Phoku, Tungamiraishe Ngwerume, Lilian Ikekhuah, Aiden Pollard, Peyton Dillon, Ms Laura Squires

Grade 3 Overview

This is an essential year of consolidation of all that is learnt in the first three years of our children's formal learning. Our aim is to achieve this through a carefully designed balance of fun and learning, and the year 2024 was bang on target!

Packed with a wealth of exciting and enriching experiences, Grade 3 revolves around hands-on activities, collaborative projects, and the development of academic skills. Mrs Collins and Mrs Codd were incredibly proud of all the children's achievements. They nurtured individuality, promoted good manners, encouraged mindfulness of self and others, and emphasised the importance of kindness.

The children enthusiastically participated in the fantastic

production of "Yo-Ho, Who Dunnit?", which was not only fun but also a great confidence booster for all involved. Many of the Grade 3s had main roles and were quick to learn their lines. All the Grade 3 dances were choreographed by Mrs Collins and were one of the main highlights of the show!

Numerous outings added to the memorable year. A trip to the Sudwala Dinosaur Park was particularly exciting, with the children thrilled to stand beside life-sized dinosaur models. They also visited the Kruger National Park and the Skukuza Camp Museum, making the experience both educational and enjoyable. On the sports field, major skill development took place. The boys played their first tackle rugby matches and the girls participated in their first netball

league games, marking important milestones for both.

One of the most eagerly awaited events of Term 4 was the Grade 3 Market Day. With the help of their parents, the children prepared homemade products to sell. This year saw many taste buds satisfied with lots of food for sale. They were allowed to "borrow" money from their parents to cover initial costs and had to repay the loan after calculating their profits. The market was a huge success, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience of selling their creations.

The year concluded with an exciting sleepover at Mankele, a much-anticipated highlight for every Grade 3 pupil. It was a warm Lowveld day, perfect for the various games and water activities that challenged the children both physically and mentally. Many Grade 3 children have been heard to say, "I don't want to go to Grade 4, I want to stay in Grade 3, the best year ever!"



Mrs Loraine Codd
Mrs Minette Collins



Market Day



Mankele Adventure



Grade 3 Class Photographs



Front Row: Craigen Naidoo, Valentino Thulare-Smith, Isabella van Biljon, Samara Gomba, Ubukhosi Nkosi.

Second Row: Nkazimulo Mdluli, Lucy van der Westhuizen, Fletcher Webber, Nicholas Josten, Sahar Mohajer-Ashjai, Alice Kay-Zoltowski.

Third Row: Emily Skinner, Leo Fourie, Katryn van Rooyen, Yishai James, Rosie Deacon.

Fourth Row: Ms Diphenyo Machaba, Jeslyn Ojo, Sean Sawunyama, Sienna Wagner, Abby Jambaya, Eli Pinker, Tino Shongwe, Mrs Loraine Codd.

Back Row: Joshua Tychsen, Edwin Green, Daniel Voigt, Uphakeme Thwala.



Front Row: Joshua Tecklenburg, Eike Wilkens, Taylor Höft, Kamogelo Maimela, Bethlehem McKinley

Second Row: Rhulani Zwane, Heinrich Berends, Babusiwe Sithole, Amyoli Zwane, Rebekah Blew, Skyla Gravelle

Third Row: Ms Dipenyo Machaba, Mawusi Nyoni, Kael Moffett, Thomas van Aswegen, Jamie Lategan, Matthew Skinner, Mrs Minette Collins

Fourth Row: Matthew Lea, Zac Prangley, Payton Watt, Phillip Snyman, Sizolwethu Tubane, Hanru Stoltz

Back Row: Siyamthanda Thabethe, Tayla Ratshitanga, Ivy McGee, Sienna Watt.

Grade 4 Overview



2024 proved to be a year of much growth and change for the Grade 4 group. With a demand for placement in the grade, a decision was made to expand the group from 2 to 3 classes, from the third term onwards. The children showed resilience as they coped well with all the adjustments and ensuing movement. Along with the transition, we were most fortunate to acquire the services of a new teacher, Miss Gous, who joined the staff team of Mrs Barry and

Mrs Steenkamp as well as their assistant intern, Miss Viljoen. Over and above this, the year was busy with a variety of community projects and outings, along with the usual academic and sporting demands. The children are to be commended on their energy and enthusiasm shown throughout, ensuring they were a most rewarding group to teach!

Mrs Michelle Barry



Grade 4 Camp: Queen's River

Once again, the Grade 4 group was treated to 2 nights away at Queen's River Adventure Camp, just outside Barberton.

After a noisy bus trip there, the children settled into their dormitories and quickly split into teams and the activities got underway. Over the next few days, these included teamwork skills, collaborative tasks, problem-solving exercises as well as some done just for the fun factor!

There was also a hike down to the nearby waterfall where the children enjoyed a cooling swim in the river. Further to this, they were well-fed with hearty meals which were devoured after all the energy spent throughout their stay. At the end of the trip, we were grateful to have returned safely to school, with eager parents there to welcome the troops home, weary but happy!

Mrs Michelle Barry



Inquiry-Based Learning



This year, Grade 4 pupils engaged in a series of hands-on Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) tasks that encouraged curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity. Below is a summary of the key tasks:

Term 1's theme of Water was explored by designing and building natural water filters. They researched filtration methods and tested materials like sand, charcoal, and cotton to create the cleanest water. This task focused on environmental science and problem-solving.



For the Indigenous theme in term 2, pupils studied Indigenous music and the cultural significance of traditional instruments. They created instruments such as drums and rattles using natural materials, learning about cultural heritage and the importance of music in storytelling and rituals.



In Term 3, pupils researched their family histories and traditions to design personal family crests. They chose symbols and colours that reflected their family's background and values, fostering a sense of pride and connection to their heritage.

In the final term, pupils created vision boards for 2025, reflecting on their goals and dreams for the future. This task encouraged self-reflection, goal-setting, and positive thinking, helping pupils visualise their aspirations for personal and academic growth.

These projects not only enhanced their academic skills but also deepened their connection to their identities, communities, and future goals.



Mrs Danielle Steenkamp

The Plantsman

The Grade 4s had a wonderful opportunity to visit The Plantsman as part of their Natural Sciences curriculum on *Living and Non-Living Things*. Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by our delightful host, Hettie, who guided us through a fascinating tour of the farm. Hettie shared her wealth of knowledge about the daily operations of the nursery, introducing the children to the variety of flowers, fruits, vegetables, and herbs grown on-site. They were captivated as they learned about the effort and care involved in nurturing these plants.

One of the highlights of the visit was when each child received their own vegetable seedling pack to bring back to our school vegetable garden. This hands-on experience allowed them to observe the plant's growth firsthand - from planting it in the soil to harvesting it weeks later.

To add to the excitement of the day, the children were treated to delicious muffins, refreshing juice, and fresh fruit. We are grateful to The Plantsman for their hospitality and for providing such a valuable and enriching experience for our pupils.

Mrs Danielle Steenkamp



Mandela Day



This year for the Mandela Day 67-Minutes endeavour, the Grade 4s were set to work, making muffin packages which were delivered to the elderly residing at Rustig Old Age Home.

They were involved in the entire process, from the initial baking of the goodies, to the packaging and then lastly making labels and cards as greetings for the elder folk. These were then delivered to the very appreciative management of the establishment, who distributed the muffins.

Mrs Danielle Steenkamp



Grade 4 Class Photographs



Front Row: Ben Jackson, Emmanuel Magidi, Rui van der Merwe, Jotham Masia, Andrew Creighton, Blake van der Heiden

Second Row: Sam McArthur, Mia Zietsman, Spiro Christie, Summer Gunning, Mikahella Pieters

Third Row: Mrs Michelle Barry, Jasmine Magonyane, Ashleigh Goosen, Shani Shai, Shiluvelo Holeni, Georgia Greenaway, Langalibalele Ledwaba

Fourth Row: ZamaNcabane Mkhabela, Samkelisiwe Maluka, Ethan Mutyaso, Devhyn Trollip, Peter Bakker, Mr Prince Ndlovu

Back Row: Miss Shea Viljoen, Bryson Nkalanga, Emma Dewar, Malia Felix, Erin Jenkins, Isabela Webber, Mngqobi Mlombo



Front Row: Nqobile Shazi, Katrien Joubert, Timothy Dengler, Khloe Murray, Charlotte Louw

Second Row: Olivia Mason, Shaye Slabbert, Riley Smit, Sofia Leoni, Abigail Myhill, Olivia Flores

Third Row: Lesedi Mokoena, Emma Kay-Zoltowski, Keira Rottcher, Andrew Joubert, Kayla Ferrier

Fourth Row: Mrs Danielle Steenkamp, Vihaan Suriakumar, Mwalimu Gumede, Luvuyo Ngutshani, Evie Carter, Lukhanyo Mlambo, Mr Prince Ndlovu

Back Row: Miss Shea Viljoen; Keitumetse Mokoena; Thandolwethu Thabethe; Ulitsemba Thwala; Busani Mnisi; Tanaka Jambaya

Grade 5 Overview

A Year to Remember

What a truly remarkable year we have had with the Grade 5s of 2024! From the very start, the pupils embraced every opportunity to grow, learn, and make lasting memories. The year began with the comforting introduction of pupils to their tutors, ensuring a smooth transition into Grade 5.

The highlight of Term 1 was our much-anticipated trip to Blyde Adventure Camp in Hoedspruit. The camp was filled with activities that challenged the pupils physically and mentally. Whether navigating obstacle courses, playing “kettie” paintball, or stalking the lantern under the stars, the pupils showed determination. The boat trip on the Blyde Dam and visits to local animal rehabilitation centres deepened their appreciation for conservation. From learning about creatures large and small to testing their limits, the camp was an unforgettable experience of growth, resilience, and teamwork.

Inquiry-Based Learning brought excitement into the classroom throughout the year. Each term introduced a unique theme, offering hands-on opportunities to innovate and collaborate. From

exploring sustainable water use to designing South African-themed board games and travelling the world through handmade brochures, the pupils tackled these challenges with enthusiasm.

Island Day, tied to the English curriculum based on *The Cay*, was another highlight. Pupils spent the day building their own shelters on the Uplands “island,” imagining themselves stranded and crafting engaging backstories. They prepared imaginative island feasts using “foraged” ingredients, spending the night under the stars in their shelters - a memory that will last.

The Courageous Challenges inspired the pupils to extend themselves beyond the classroom. These challenges spanned community service, environmental stewardship and personal growth, with 27 pupils receiving trophies for completing them. Special mention must be made of both Mark Smit and Lloyd Skinner, who completed all 30 challenges - not just the compulsory ones.

Mandela Day brought an opportunity for pupils to express gratitude for the invaluable

contributions of the Uplands grounds staff. With gifts, treats and heartfelt messages, they showed appreciation for the dedication of these individuals. The staff’s joy reminded us of the impact of small acts of kindness.

We ended the year with a spectacular Week of Awesomeness, filled with laughter and joy. Activities like water slides, dam swimming, waffles and bingo at Picasso’s, a movie at Casterbridge Cinema and plastic duck races kept spirits high. The year concluded as each pupil nominated a peer for a special Oscar Award.

To the Grade 5s of 2024: You have grown tremendously this year - not just academically but in confidence, perseverance and character. You embraced every challenge with courage and creativity, making this a year filled with achievements and cherished memories. As my final year as your Grade Head, I thank you and my tutor team for your enthusiasm and energy.

Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen

Trip to Kruger Park

As part of the Lessons in Conservation taught through Life Orientation, the Grade 5s enjoyed a wonderful outing to the

Kruger Park. While we had some amazing sightings of wildlife, the relationship between our everyday

actions and their impact on the environment was emphasised.

Miss Moné Gates



Island Day

Inspired by *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor, the Grade 5 Island Day was an immersive, hands-on experience that allowed pupils to step into the world of survival and resourcefulness portrayed in the book. Throughout the day, the pupils engaged in various activities, applying scenarios from the story and putting themselves in the shoes of Phillip and Timothy.

One of the main highlights was the shelter-building activity, where each team constructed shelters from salvaged materials that had

“washed up” on their island. The pupils had to work collaboratively to plan and build shelters sturdy enough to spend the night in, just as the characters did. This challenge required creativity, teamwork, and practical problem-solving skills as they figured out how to use limited resources effectively.

Additionally, the pupils showcased their culinary creativity in the evening meal preparation. Each team prepared meals, using ingredients as if they were stranded on an island. The effort put into the meals was

remarkable, with the pupils thinking carefully about how to present their dishes to the staff on duty. They plated their food with care and explained the ingredients and preparation methods, demonstrating their thoughtfulness in simulating island survival.

This unforgettable day fostered a sense of resilience and resourcefulness, creating lasting memories and valuable lessons.

Mr Brian Dengler



Blyde Adventure Camp

Field trips are invaluable opportunities for learning outside the classroom, where pupils grow through shared experiences, face challenges, and discover new facets of themselves. The annual Grade 5 trip to Blyde Adventure Camp in the stunning Blyde River Canyon area was no exception, offering a blend of education, adventure, and personal growth.

Nestled in the breathtaking Blyde Valley, the camp became our home away from home, with its cosy accommodation, hearty meals, and the comfort of hot showers after action-packed days. The camp's daily activities challenged our pupils physically and mentally, fostering teamwork, perseverance, and problem-solving skills. From navigating down the rapids of the

Blyde river to mastering outdoor survival basics, the Grade 5s not only learned the value of collaboration but also gained a deeper understanding of their strengths and capabilities.

Beyond the camp, we ventured to several fascinating sites that broadened the children's horizons. A visit to the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and Kapama Cheetah Project highlighted the importance of conservation, while the Reptile Park introduced pupils to some of nature's most misunderstood creatures. A river ecology course also offered us an educational and hands-on experience of the smaller critters in our world. The boat trip on the Blyde Dam offered a serene yet awe-inspiring glimpse of the

canyon's geological wonders and rich biodiversity.

This trip wasn't just about the activities; it was a lesson in curiosity and an invitation to explore the world around us with open minds. It inspired many questions, sparked a sense of wonder, and left the pupils with a treasure trove of memories.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the Blyde Adventure Camp staff for their warm hospitality and to our teachers for their unwavering guidance throughout the trip. It was a week of learning, bonding, and fun that will remain etched in the hearts of all who attended—a truly unforgettable adventure!

Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen





Inquiry-Based Learning

The 2024 school year at Uplands Preparatory was a celebration of curiosity, creativity, and hands-on learning through Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL). This approach empowered our pupils to explore complex concepts across four dynamic themes, fostering critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Term 1: Water

The year began with a deep dive into the theme of water. Pupils explored its uses, conservation, and sustainability through a choice board of water-related projects. These projects ranged from investigating innovative water-saving techniques to reimagining our everyday water usage. The initiative encouraged practical problem-solving and inspired pupils to think critically about their role in creating a more sustainable future as well as designing a project to present of their choice.

Term 2: Indigenous

The focus then shifted to the rich tapestry of indigenous knowledge and heritage. This term was marked by immersive activities such as a visit to the Botanical Gardens and an interactive morning exploring indigenous plants and their uses. A standout experience was Egyptian Day, where pupils were transported back in time to learn about ancient civilisations, connecting the past to the present in meaningful ways.

Term 3: Legacy

The legacy theme encouraged pupils to think about the mark they leave behind. Activities culminated in the design and creation of uniquely South African-themed board games, blending creativity with strategy. The learning journey reached its pinnacle with a visit to the Kruger National Park, where pupils reflected on the importance of heritage, conservation, and leaving a positive impact on future generations.

Term 4: Dream

The final term sparked wanderlust with the theme of "Dream." Pupils embraced their desire to travel by planning, designing, and presenting travel brochures to countries with landmark rock formations. These handmade brochures showcased not only their research skills but also their artistic and technical skills, including folding techniques, pop-up elements, and 3D designs. This project allowed pupils to dream big while mastering practical skills and presentation techniques.

Across all four terms, IBL at Uplands encouraged pupils to ask questions, think critically, and express their creativity. It was a year of discovery, growth, and inspiration that left both pupils and teachers with a renewed appreciation for the joy of exploration and the power of inquiry.

Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Karla Masinga, Hayden Ralph, Fletcher van Zyl, Hope Mohajer-Ashjai

Middle Row: Thomas Creighton, Sofia Dimitriou, Ian Ntimba, Mrs Bev Carlse

Back Row: Ayva-Mae Moffett, Mieke Swanepoel, Neve Berry

Absent: Giovanna Farran



Front Row: Kuhlula Masia, Amy Freeman, Aphiwe Mahlalela, Kopano Shabangu

Middle Row: Motheo Phiri, Milla de Freitas Nunes, Liam Kruger, Mrs Janet Tecklenburg

Back Row: Zak Joubert, Lana Tressel, Sbulelo Sithole, Adam Lea

Absent: Jude Perregil

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Mark Smit, Sarah Dane, Noemie Bakker

Middle Row: Babongile Ncongwane, Anashe Zumbika, Oliveah Fourie, Mr Brian Dengler

Back Row: Kyra Vosloo, Thobeka Lumphoko, Sloan Cruse, Tyra Mabuza



Front Row: Samuel Hauptfleisch, Thabiso Thabethe, Okuhle Mnisi, Andile Gama

Second Row: Liané Stoltz, Abigail Ardé, Arianna Tecklenburg, Mr Bongani Mavundla

Back Row: Trent Arntzen, Lily Wagner, Femke de Kok, Thenora Mgwenya

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Thoriso Nyathi, Logan van der Westhuizen, Beijj Langa, Lloyd Skinner

Middle Row: Caitlin Pappas, Sabusiswa Ndlovu, Lilly Albrecht, Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen

Back Row: Joshua Braye, Rosie Prangle, Ciko Sigudla, Thomas McEvoy

Grade 6 - Overview

The group of 2024 were an outstanding and very enthusiastic grade of pupils which made the academic year one to remember.

Elandskloof Field Trip

One of the standout moments this year was the eagerly awaited field trip to Elandskloof in Dullstroom. Immersed in nature's beauty, our pupils became enthusiastic adventurers, uncovering the mysteries of the great outdoors. From marvelling at the star-filled night sky to trekking through the picturesque landscapes to uncover the farm's hidden treasures, this trip provided an unforgettable connection to nature and hands-on learning opportunities.

Inquiry-Based Learning

Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) remained a cornerstone of the Grade 6 curriculum, challenging pupils to think critically and solve real-world problems. This year, they reached new heights in their learning journey, becoming proactive explorers and creators of knowledge. Through hands-on projects and teamwork, pupils embraced diverse perspectives, asked thought-provoking questions, and took ownership of their educational experiences. IBL has been instrumental in nurturing their curiosity and fostering a lifelong love of learning. It is always interesting to watch how their projects develop and their

presentation skills become more refined.

Growth and Friendship

Reflecting on the year, it's clear that Grade 6 is about much more than academics. It's a time of personal growth, building lasting friendships, and gaining a richer understanding of the world. This chapter in their lives has been filled with milestones that will inspire them as they continue their educational journey.

Mr Sean Barry



Field Trip to Dullstroom

The Grade 6 field trip to Dullstroom was a week of adventure and learning in the great outdoors. Pupils kicked off with ice-breaker games and leadership activities, setting a positive tone for the days ahead. They explored the dams in

search of living species, engaged in team-building games, and hiked to breathtaking waterfalls. The week concluded with an exciting obstacle course that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Delicious meals were a highlight, keeping

both staff and pupils energised. With full tummies and happy hearts, everyone returned home safely, cherishing the memories of this incredible outdoor experience.

Mr Sean Barry



College Experience

On Monday 2 September, the Uplands Preparatory School Grade 6s visited the College for a "College Experience Day". There was great excitement as they crossed the field and met with the 2025 Mentors, their hosts for the day.

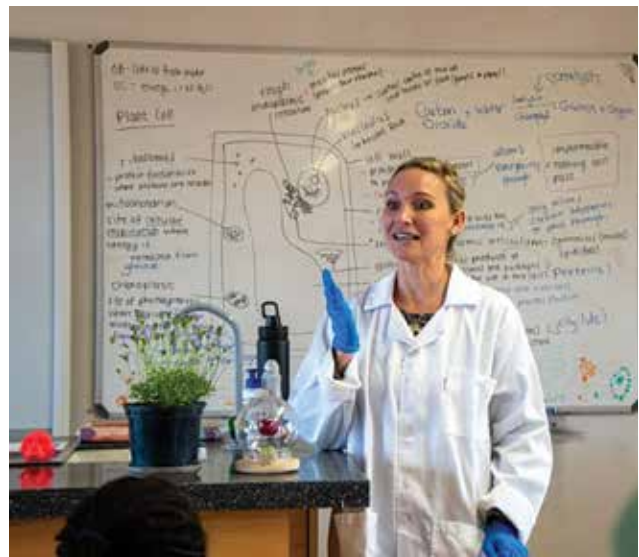
The Grade 6s were exposed to some examples of High School classroom activities. These ranged from dissection of eyeballs in the Life Sciences laboratory

to racing a 3D printer to build a complicated 3D shape in Engineering Graphics and Design. There were also highly enriching Drama and Music experiences, not to mention creating some chaos (and explosions) in the Physical Sciences laboratory. The Uplands College Sports Department also created activities which enabled the Grade 6s to experience the High-Performance Centre. Over the course of the day, the Mentors

also ran some teambuilding and ice-breaking games with the Grade 6s on the field.

The Uplands College staff and mentors were impressed (and exhausted) by the boundless energy of the Grade 6s, and we are looking forward to welcoming this fabulous group of pupils to the College in 2026!

Mrs Kerry Dewar



Tutor Groups



Front Row: Isla Stephen, Robyn Banda, Jayna Sebotse, Robert Easton

Middle Row: Sophie Velleman, Elliot Schormann, Matthew Fawcett, Mr Sean Barry

Back Row: Pippa Roberts, Mpendulo Mathebula, Uyanda Mayenjane, Felicity Zumbika



Front Row: Ethan Rottcher, Cara Mills, Ntshembho Mkhonto, Joshua Desmond

Middle Row: Tsakani Nyathi, Yamakhosi Nkosi, Motjatji Sebopela, Riley Brooks, Mrs Taryn Berry

Back Row: Sfezo Sibandze, Chloe Rautenbach, Phyllis Ngwerume, Mechael Monyela

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Luvian Sammering, Motheo Mogomotsi, Raihaan Adham, Nandi Zwane, Michael Magidi

Middle Row: Emily Green, Lucca Bakker, Tlangisani Ngwenyama, Mrs Jo-Anne Choonara

Back Row: Lexi Joubert, Oliver Schroeder, Guy Hulley-Miller, Talitha McKinley

Absent: Okuhle Baraza



Front Row: Michaela Sill, Enzo Mathebula, Ethan Esterhuizen, Eva Mullins

Middle Row: Simphiwe Mahlalela, Thingo Madonsela, Tsakani Zwane, Holly Ferrier, Mrs Marischa Landman

Back Row: Hope Mkhathswa, Bill Murenzvi, Anita Ikekhuah, Dylan Greathead

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Unathi Thela, Sean Murray, Dominic Cruickshanks, Sasha Mbatsane

Middle Row: Refilwe Ratlabala, Benjamin Lintvelt, Jocelyn Dengler, Mutshidzi Radzilani, Mr Thulani Mngomezulu

Back Row: Anesu Jambaya, Nashe Muza, Lesego Monareng, Madison Lane

Grade 7 - Overview

As we reflect on the remarkable journey of the Grade 7 class of 2024, it's impossible not to acknowledge the depth of their contributions to the school this year. Our theme of "WILD" — Water, Indigenous, Legacy and Dreams — shaped their experiences, encouraging each pupil to explore their potential and leave a lasting impact on Uplands.

The diversity of their involvement in the sporting arena was awe-inspiring. Their spirit was evident in athletics, cross-country and swimming, as well as in team sports like netball, rugby, hockey and cricket. They certainly represented Uplands with pride in

every fixture and event.

Culturally, this group showcased their talents in various areas. Whether lending their voices to the choir, sharing the rhythm through marimba performances or expressing creativity in art, they have enriched our school's vibrant cultural life. Their dedication to the annual play left a lasting impression, highlighting their artistic talents and ability to collaborate as a cohesive unit.

In the classroom, these pupils brought curiosity and enthusiasm, embodying the values of our themes and building a legacy of academic and personal growth that will continue long after they have

moved on. Their contributions also extended to the spiritual sphere, where they displayed respect, empathy and a strong sense of community, leaving a lasting impact on Uplands.

As they prepare to move on to high school, we thank the Grade 7s of 2024 for everything they've brought to our school community. Their legacy will endure, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours. May they continue to dream big and leave a positive mark wherever they go!

Mr Jacques Müller



Leadership Camp



The Uplands Grade 7 leadership camp, facilitated by Mankele Adventures, was an enriching experience for both children and staff alike. Under the guidance of the exceptional Mankele staff, children acquired invaluable leadership skills through a variety of outdoor activities and team-building exercises.

Throughout the camp, pupils embarked on thrilling adventures such as a hike to the Sudwala Caves, where they explored the wonders of nature through a cave tour. Additionally, they soared over the breathtaking valley on a zipline, fostering courage and resilience.

Team-building exercises such as orienteering and the Survivor fire challenge encouraged collaboration, communication,

and strategic thinking among the children, strengthening their leadership capabilities. Moreover, the blindfolded adventure course tested their trust and reliance on one another, further emphasizing the importance of teamwork.

A heartfelt tribute is owed to the dedicated Uplands staff who generously sacrificed their time to accompany the children, ensuring their safety and fostering a supportive environment for growth and learning. Thanks to their commitment and guidance, the Grade 7 children returned from the camp equipped with newfound leadership skills and unforgettable memories of camaraderie and adventure.

Mr Jacques Muller



Market Day



Tutor Groups



Front Row: Deborah Malelane, Morgan Smit, Ella Ralfe, David Mullins

Middle Row: Sunny Grace Manganyi, Abhay Suriakumar, Tiko Mkansi, Nhleko Shibambu, Miss Moné Gates

Back Row: Daniel Stoltz, Rachele Goosen, Zipho Nkabinde, Samuel Spring

Absent: Nkosinathi Khoza



Front Row: Menzi Mona, Thomas Thirkettle, Mika Volsoo, Marizaan Calaca, Kaylo van Antwerpen

Middle Row: Kai Goodman, Sancha Reingruber, Luke Hulley, Miss Siphokazi Macingwane

Back Row: Hannah Luyt, Caelum Norris, Trystan Watt, Mpilonhle Khoza, Christian Kassimatis

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Olivia Storm, Tristan Slabbert, Aiden Naidoo, Amilla Pieters

Middle Row: Levi Langdon, Kate Dane, Loukas Dimitriou, Mr Ryan McCarthy

Back Row: Daniel Cope, Sinenhlanhla Maseko, Elson Oliveira, Khumo Mpofu

Absent: James Velleman



Front Row: André Salter, James McEvoy, Elijah Ardé, Amber Paulsen

Middle Row: Keyaan Choonara, Alexandra Knott, Jess Bagge, Lulama Kwinika, Mr Jacques Muller

Back Row: Joslin Kruger, Zain Greeff, Fynn Harman, Connor Berry

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Anjé Stoltz, Nicholas Springorum, Michael Liebenberg, Callum Baird

Middle Row: Keith Mugoronji, Nyeleti Mabuza, Gregory Davis, Mrs Estie Smit

Back Row: Tanith Gebhardt, Garrison Morgan, Bella James, Ruan Bezuidenhout

Graduation Dinner

The Grade 7 Graduation Dinner was a truly memorable evening full of warmth, celebration and tropical vibes. The vibrant décor and lively atmosphere provided the perfect backdrop for saying a heartfelt farewell to our incredible Grade 7 pupils. It was a wonderful way to

mark the end of their journey in primary school and wish them well as they step confidently into high school.

A huge thank-you must go to the Grade 6 organising committee for their exceptional efforts in bringing this special night together. From

the beautiful decorations to the flawless coordination, they ensured that the event was a success, creating lasting memories for everyone involved.

Mr Jacques Muller



Grade 7 Final Service

The Grade 7 Final Chapel Service took place on Wednesday, 4th December in the Jos Driver Hall, and it was a beautiful Service to round off a brilliant year for our Community. After sharing in our usual Eucharist proceedings, we called the Grade 7s up, and in twos they lit candles given to them, at the Candle of Hope – a symbolic candle we use in all our Services.

Mr Hauptfleisch read out the meaning behind lighting the individual candles, before we

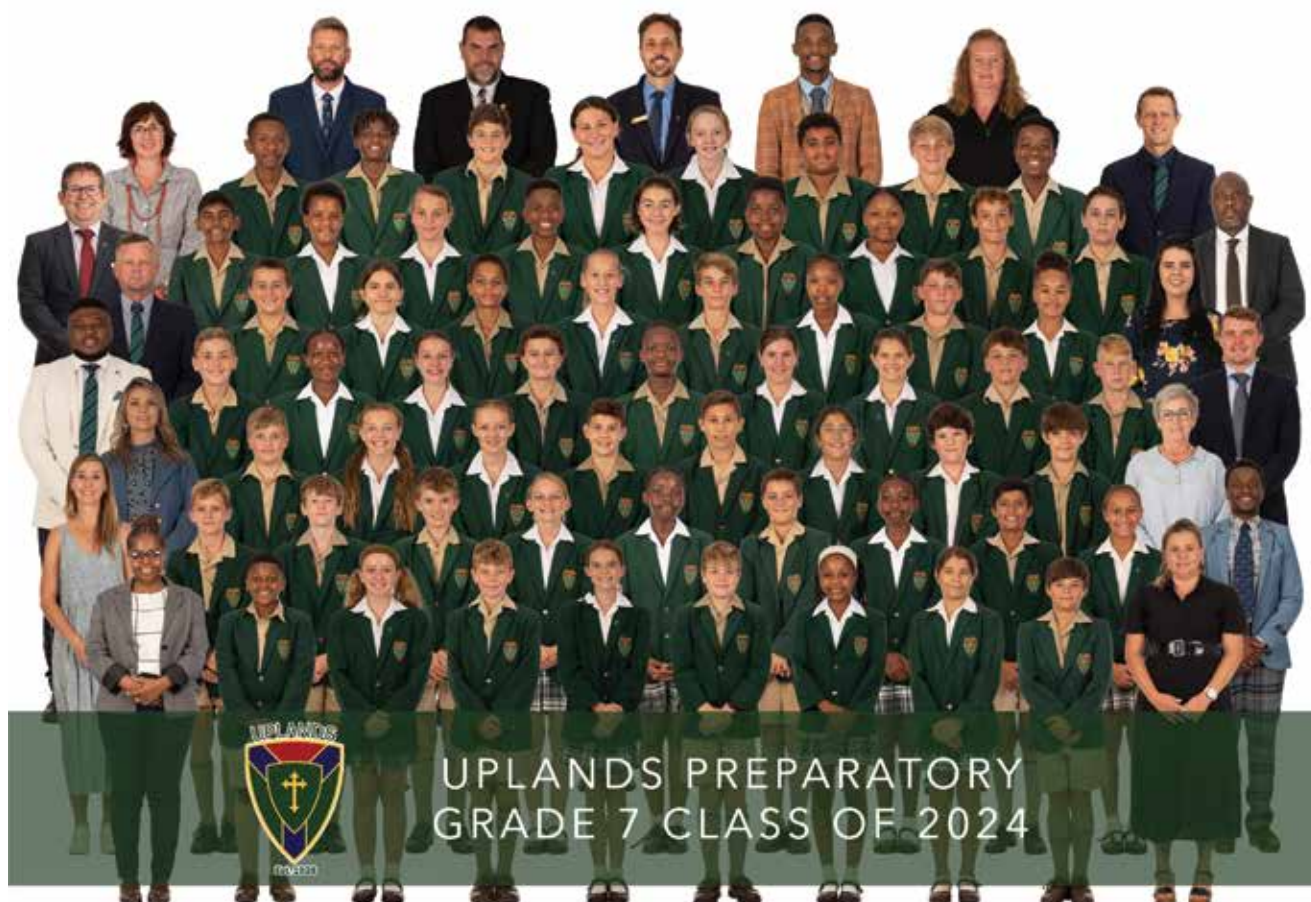
blessed and prayed for the 7s. Our new Sacristans then led out the Grade 7 Class of 2024 to symbolically leave with their light shining, meeting their parents outside before gathering for the final bell ringing and ending festivities.

This was a very special service for a very special grade.

Matthew Jennings
School Chaplain



Grade 7 Class of 2024



UPLANDS PREPARATORY
GRADE 7 CLASS OF 2024

Uplands vs Penryn Derby

A Celebration of School Spirit and Rivalry

The clash between Uplands Prep and Penryn Prep is more than just a sporting competition - it's a cherished tradition that captures the heart and soul of our school community. Twice each year, our children transform the sports fields and performance spaces into arenas of passion, pride and pure excitement during our legendary inter-school derbies.

From the thundering rugby pitches to the precise netball courts and the elegant tennis grounds, Uplands children showcase not just their sporting prowess, but the true spirit of our school. These matches are about so much more than winning or losing. They're

about representing your school, supporting your teammates, and demonstrating the values of teamwork, determination and mutual respect.

The energy is electric on derby days. Our young athletes wear the Uplands colours with immense pride, their faces bright with anticipation and commitment. Each pass, each serve, each tackle is a testament to months of dedicated training and school pride. But the magic doesn't stop at sports - our school choir adds another dimension to these memorable occasions, their voices rising in harmony and creating an atmosphere of pure celebration.

Whether playing at home or travelling to Penryn, our children embody the best of school spirit. They compete with integrity, support each other unconditionally, and represent Uplands with a passion that makes every parent, teacher, and fellow pupil beam with pride.

These derbies are more than just matches. They are moments of joy, of friendship, of learning, and of creating memories that will last a lifetime. They remind us that at Uplands, we're not just a school - we're a community that stands together, plays together, and celebrates together.

Mr Ryan McCarthy



Athletics

The 2024 Athletics season at Uplands Prep kicked off energetically, with the Inter-house Athletics event marking the start in the second week of the new year. The day was filled with excitement as five new records were set, underscoring the high level of talent among our young athletes.

Congratulations to Amy Freeman (U11 Girls' 100m and High Jump), Mpendulo Mathebula (U11 Boys' 100m), Lexi Joubert (U12 Girls' 150m), and Peter Bakker (U10 Boys' 1200m) for their record-breaking achievements. These outstanding performances set the tone for what would be an impressive season, as Uplands selected a strong team to

represent us in 2024.

A highlight on the school calendar was hosting the annual MJ Zwane Champs, which was a huge success, thanks to the tireless dedication of our staff. This event showcased some of the Lowveld's best talent and celebrated the athletic spirit within our school community. Alongside MJ Zwane Champs, our athletes attended the Skukuza meet, a friendly event at Penryn, and the Speed and Relay competition. Many of our athletes also took part in circuit meetings and qualified for the MP Champs.

A special congratulations go to those who represented Uplands at the Provincial Championships:

Lucca Bakker, Amy Freeman, Mpendulo Mathebula, Shelby Trollip and Isabela Webber. Among these, Amy Freeman's achievement in winning the U11 Girls' Long Jump earned her provincial colours and a place at the SA Champs, where she ranked as the third-best U11 girl in South Africa — a remarkable accomplishment!

We are incredibly proud of all our athletes for their dedication and hard work throughout the season. Their successes and sportsmanship have been inspiring, and we look forward to seeing what the 2025 season holds for Uplands Prep Athletics!

Mr Ryan McCarthy



Boys' Cricket

The cricket season at Uplands Prep School kicked off with great enthusiasm during the pre-season Cricket Festival, held as part of the White River Cricket Week. This high-energy event set the tone for an extraordinary year of cricket, as our players displayed early glimpses of the talent and sportsmanship that would define the season.

From the Foundation Phase to Senior Primary, cricket continued to thrive, fostering a love for the game and a commitment to excellence. The Foundation Phase introduced boys to the fundamentals of cricket, focusing on skill development and instilling a deep appreciation for the spirit of the game. These young cricketers had the opportunity to participate in two mini-festivals, one hosted at home and another away. The away festival, in particular, provided invaluable lessons as they adapted to new environments and demonstrated true cricket etiquette.

In the Senior Primary phase, players advanced to hardball cricket, where their foundational

skills were rigorously tested. Throughout the season, Uplands' core values of perseverance, teamwork and respect were evident in every game. The league matches showcased top-class cricket, with our players growing in confidence and ability.

A significant highlight was the senior boys' tour to Limpopo for the Independent Schools' Cricket Festival, hosted by The Ridge Prep School. Facing formidable opposition from all-boys' schools, the team's character and resilience were tested. They rose to the occasion, embodying the values of Uplands and earning respect through their unwavering sportsmanship.

The season saw seven of our boys competing in the Ehlanzeni Cricket Festival, with two advancing to the prestigious Provincial Rhinos team. These accomplishments reflect the hard work and dedication of our players. Adding to this success, two of our cricket coaches were appointed as provincial coaches, further highlighting the quality and expertise within our cricket programme.

As the season progressed, the excitement culminated in the ever-popular Matthew Prior Festival. This event brought together players and teams in a celebration of cricket's diversity, featuring an array of formats such as Super 6s, T20s and a 20-over test match. The festival provided an exhilarating finale, leaving players and supporters with lasting memories.

Reflecting on this remarkable season, it is clear that cricket at Uplands Prep School continues to flourish. The combination of dedicated players, passionate coaches and a supportive community ensures that our cricketing tradition remains strong. As we look forward to the 2025 season, the sound of leather on willow will undoubtedly continue to echo across our fields, a testament to the passion, growth and excellence that define cricket at Uplands.

Mr Ryan McCarthy



Girls' Cricket

Cricket, often called a gentleman's game, has proven to be an equally empowering sport for our Uplands Prep senior girls, offering lessons in resilience, teamwork, and adaptability. This season, our focus was on inclusion and exposure to

the game, ensuring that every girl in the senior squad experienced the thrill of being on the pitch and contributing to the game.

Despite the limited opposition and fixtures, each girl had the

opportunity to participate in at least one match, fostering a sense of belonging and building confidence in the sport. Our opposition this year was White River Primary 1sts, White River Primary 2nds, White River Primary 3rds, and Penryn 1sts.

The emphasis on exposure and enjoyment paid off as the girls embraced the challenges of the game with enthusiasm and determination. It was inspiring to see how they grew in skill and confidence, both individually and as a team. The matches were not just about results but about creating opportunities for learning, forging friendships, and celebrating the game we love.

Congratulations to the girls for their effort, sportsmanship, and camaraderie this season. Your commitment has laid a strong foundation for the future of girls' cricket at Uplands Prep. A big thank you to the parents and supporters who cheered us on every step of the way.

Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen



Cross-Country

This year's Cross-Country Inter-House Competition was fiercely contested, with every runner giving their all. After an intense day of racing, Fuller emerged victorious, claiming first place, while Webb secured second and Ogilvie third. A huge congratulations to all the participants for their outstanding efforts and sportsmanship.

Special recognition goes to the pupils who were selected to represent the school team at inter-school events. Their dedication and hard work paid off with some fantastic results, showcasing both their individual talents and team spirit. Well done to everyone involved!

Mr Jaques Müller



Equestrian

2024 has been a brilliant year for Uplands Preparatory's Equestrian Team, marked by outstanding achievements across multiple disciplines. The team excelled in both the SANESA league and graded multi-discipline championships, thanks to the unwavering dedication of our riders, their supportive parents, skilled coaches and hardworking grooms.

Highlights of the Year

SA Youth Championships in KZN

Uplands Preparatory proudly represented Mpumalanga, with our teams securing top-three finishes overall across all disciplines. Special recognition goes to Sancha Reingruber, Hannah Luyt and Eva Mullins for their exceptional performances as part of the Mpumalanga team.

SANESA Schools League National Championships in Kyalami

Competing in Dressage, Show Jumping, Equitation, Working Riding, Performance Riding and Vaulting, our riders delivered brilliant results, consistently placed in the top 10 in highly competitive classes.

Eva Mullins achieved remarkable success, winning the following trophies at the SANESA Prize Giving:

Highest Dressage Score for Pony Rider Novice Test 2

Best Score for 80cm Show Jumping Competition

Best Score for Novice Equitation

SANESA Primary School Rider of the Year

A Historic First for Uplands Preparatory

For the first time, Uplands Preparatory claimed the coveted trophy for most points collected in 2024 for a school with up to 8 entrants in Mpumalanga - an incredible milestone!



Riders' Contributions

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following riders for their commitment and teamwork throughout the SANESA and Graded events: Eva Mullins, Sophie Velleman, Marizanne Calaca, Arianna Tecklenburg, Oliveah Fourie, Hannah Luyt, Sancha Reingruber, Caitlin Pappas and Abigail Arde.

This year, Uplands Preparatory has established itself as a formidable force in equestrian sports. We are immensely proud of all our riders for their dedication and achievements, and we look forward to building on this success in the years to come. Congratulations to everyone involved for making 2024 a year to remember!

Mrs Carla Gerdes

Boys' Hockey

Boys' hockey at Uplands Prep is alive and well, with 13 teams proudly representing the school this season. The commitment and enthusiasm displayed by our players reflect their individual talents and the strong sense of camaraderie within our hockey programme. This year, the 1st team particularly stood out, showcasing their skills and teamwork throughout the league. Their impressive performance in the pool stages of the local league led them to finish as runners-up in the regional league, a significant achievement as it marked the first time in three seasons that they qualified for the provincial playoffs.

The 1st team's success is a

testament to the dedication and hard work of the players. Competing at provincial level, they finished in 9th place, a commendable outcome that highlights their growth and resilience. Additionally, our U12 Boys' team demonstrated remarkable talent, securing second place in their local pool stages. Though they narrowly missed qualifying for the provincial playoffs, their determination and growth as a team were evident, setting a strong foundation for future success.

We take pride in Callum Baird, Dominic Cruickshanks and Ntsembo Mkhonto, who were selected for the 2024 Mpumalanga

Teams. Dominic Cruickshanks and Mpendulo Mathebula's early selection for the 2025 Mpumalanga team is a testament to their talent and potential for continued success within our hockey programmes.

We are excited to celebrate the competitive spirit, teamwork and sportsmanship that make boys' hockey at Uplands Prep so special as we conclude the year. We are eager to build on this success, develop young talent, and spark a lifelong love for the game in our school community.

Mr Ryan McCarthy



Girls' Hockey

The 2024 hockey season was an inspiring chapter for the Uplands Preparatory 1st team girls. This determined group of young athletes brought energy, resilience, and passion to the field, making every match a thrilling showcase of their talent and dedication.

Throughout the season, the girls embraced opportunities to hone their skills and build confidence, both as individuals and as a cohesive team. Their unwavering commitment to teamwork and sportsmanship shone brightly,

embodying the spirit of Uplands hockey.

While every game presented its own unique challenges and memorable moments, the highlight of the year was undoubtedly our participation in the Trinity House Randpark Ridge Hockey Festival. This tour offered not only competitive hockey but also the chance to bond as a team, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

This season was not just about the competition — it was about

growth, shared experiences, and a deep appreciation for the game. I am incredibly proud of the girls for their hard work and the determination they displayed week after week. A heartfelt thank -you to our supporters, whose encouragement lifted the team every step of the way.

Here's to another fantastic season of hockey!

Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen



Netball

1st Team Netball

This year's 1st team netball players proved that big hearts, resilience and guts can pave the way for growth and even victory at times! The team of girls, while small in stature, all have excellent sporting abilities and showcased good ball skills, tactical play and excellent reflexes. They gelled well as a team and grew to anticipate their team-mates' next moves. Further to this, the girls inspired spectators with their 'never-say-die' attitudes, persevering to the end of each match, regardless of what the scoreboard reflected! Well done, girls! You did us proud!

Ms Moné Gates



Netball at Uplands: A Season of Skill, Growth and Team Spirit

This year's netball season at Uplands has been a whirlwind of excitement, dedication and triumph. From the first to the final whistle, our players showcased remarkable skill, teamwork and sportsmanship, making everyone at Uplands incredibly proud.

At Uplands, we believe in fostering a love for netball from a young age. Our Mini-Netball programme focuses on developing FUNdamental skills in a positive, fun environment. The goal at this level is to introduce players to basic netball skills while teaching fundamental movement skills. Through a series of engaging activities and games, our young athletes learn the essentials of netball, laying a strong foundation for their future in the sport.

Our dedicated coaches design each session to be both educational and enjoyable, ensuring that the children are always eager to participate. This approach not only enhances their physical abilities but also instils a lifelong passion for the game.

The season kicked off with rigorous training sessions led by our dedicated coaches. Their expertise and passion were instrumental in preparing the team for the

challenges ahead. Early on, it was clear that we were coaching a special group of athletes. They demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving their game, both individually and as a team.

None of this success would have been possible without the support of our school community. From the enthusiastic cheers of our fans to the behind-the-scenes efforts of our staff, everyone played a part in creating a positive and encouraging environment for our teams. The spirit of Uplands shone brightly at every game, making each victory sweeter and each challenge easier to overcome.

As the season comes to a close, we reflect on the hard work, dedication and joy that netball brought to our school this year. We eagerly anticipate what the next season will bring and are confident that our teams will continue to grow and excel.

In conclusion, this netball season has been more than just a series of games. It has been a journey of growth, unity and achievement. We are immensely proud of our players and look forward to supporting them in their future endeavours. Go, Uplands!

Mr Ryan McCarthy



Rugby

The Rugby season has been nothing short of showcasing our team's resilience, skill and unwavering spirit on the field. From intense practices to thrilling matches, our players have demonstrated dedication and sportsmanship throughout the season. Throughout the season, our sides have delivered some outstanding performances, with impressive wins against local rivals. The bond among team members has been a defining factor in our success. Players have supported each other on and off the field, fostering a strong camaraderie.

Despite our successes, the season was not without its challenges. We encountered formidable

opponents whose skills tested our team's adaptability and resilience. Injuries and setbacks also presented obstacles that our players faced with determination and perseverance.

The guidance and expertise of our coaching staff have been instrumental in the team's development this season. Their strategic planning and training programmes have helped hone our players' skills and tactical understanding of the game.

The unwavering support of our school community has been a driving force behind our team's motivation. From cheering at matches, strapping the boys, and providing extra refreshments at

the end of games, to encouraging words of support, the enthusiasm shown by our family and friends has been truly inspiring.

As we reflect on the season, we look forward to building on our achievements and addressing areas for improvement. With dedication and hard work, we aim to elevate our performance further and uphold the proud tradition of rugby excellence at Uplands. We extend our gratitude to everyone who has supported us throughout this journey and eagerly anticipate the challenges and opportunities that await us in 2025.

Mr Jacques Muller
Mr Dylan Badenhorst



Boys' Soccer

Uplands Preparatory 1st Team Boys' Soccer: A Season of Growth and Tenacity

The Uplands Preparatory 1st Team Boys' Soccer squad may not have had the smoothest start to their season, but they have shown that resilience, teamwork and growth are far more valuable than a perfect record. In the early days, they faced their share of setbacks, yet these young athletes displayed remarkable character and maturity, refusing to be disheartened by initial challenges.

One of the pivotal experiences of their season was their time at Camp Discovery, where the

boys learned invaluable lessons about teamwork and resilience. Competing against larger, more experienced schools, the team quickly understood that success wasn't about individual brilliance but the strength of unity. Each player put the team above himself, showing unwavering dedication even when the odds were stacked against them.

Throughout the season, even when results didn't always go their way, the boys maintained a positive attitude and demonstrated impressive communication on the field. They held their heads high, supporting each other through each game and learning from every

challenge. The camaraderie that developed within the squad became a defining feature, as the players began to grow not only as athletes but as leaders.

Reflecting on the season, it is evident that this team's journey was about more than just soccer. They may not have had the most victories on the scoreboard, but they won in character, perseverance and teamwork. As the season closes, Uplands can proudly celebrate a team that grew into leaders, played with heart, and embodied the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Mr Ryan McCarthy



Girls' Soccer

Uplands Preparatory Girls' Football: A Season of Triumph

This season, our 1st XI Girls' football team and the Uplands Preparatory girls' football programme displayed skill, resilience, and a fighting spirit, excelling in two major tournaments and the local league. Here's a look back at the highlights.

Camp Discovery Football Tour

On 12 July 2024, our 1st XI Girls journeyed to Camp Discovery for the annual tour. Facing challenging teams like Curro Nelspruit and Trinity House Randpark Ridge, they advanced through the group stage, securing a playoff spot after losing only one match. The team fought through to the final, narrowly missing victory with a close 1-0 loss, bringing home silver and gaining invaluable experience.

Redemption at the Penryn Football Festival

Returning to the field with renewed resolve, the girls went undefeated at the Penryn Football Festival, taking on strong opponents like Reddam and HeronBridge. Their flawless performance underscored their growth and unity, a testament to their resilience and determination.

Local League Success Across All Age Groups

Following the festival, our teams joined the local league in Term 4. The passion, talent, and progress across age groups were evident:

U10 Girls – A promising season filled with learning and enthusiasm.

U11 Girls – An impressive record, with only one loss.

1st XI Girls – Undefeated, showcasing their hard work and commitment.

A Programme of Strength and Dedication

This season's success highlights the strength of our girls' football programme, where coaches, staff, and players create an environment for growth and achievement. We are immensely proud of our players' accomplishments and the qualities they've developed, like resilience and teamwork. Here's to the accomplishments of our 2024 season and many more to come!

Mr Dylan Badenhorst



Swimming

With very hot first and fourth terms, the swimming season proved to be an enjoyable means for cooling off while still relishing in the competitive spirit it provides.

Those interested in joining the swimming team continue to grow each year. The first term saw the season starting off with our Inter-House Sprint Gala which provided

us with a base for swimming times for all of our top swimmers. This initial term saw us participating against various schools in relay galas, showing good spirit and working together as a team.

The individual races were reserved for the galas we entered in the last term, where formidable progress was shown by our swimmers

throughout the course of the term.

This year we entered a small field of swimmers for the Top Schools Gala where our children showed their tenacity, ending the gala in a most impressive 3rd place out of all the schools from around Mpumalanga who entered. A wonderful achievement!

Mrs Michelle Barry



Mountain Biking

Mountain Biking continued as a fun alternative sport for those pupils who could take part. It was heart-warming to see some stalwarts in both the younger and older Grades turning up to ride their bikes across our beautiful campus and into the surrounding

Coolmore Farm – a privilege for which we are most grateful. On the competition side, many pupils took part in various events. A notable highlight was Tanith Gerbhardt participating in every event of the Dustbuster Series, resulting in many podium finishes and winning

the series overall. Congratulations, Tanith! I look forward to seeing many of the younger riders improve and grow over the coming years.

Mr Piers Cruickshanks



Tennis

Term 1 was an incredibly busy and exciting time for Uplands tennis! Our senior boys' and girls' teams, along with the U11 boys and girls, were in action with fixtures every Friday and Saturday, showcasing their passion and dedication to the sport. A highlight of the season was hosting the U11 Girls' Tennis Festival on our new multi-surface courts, providing an excellent opportunity for young players to experience competitive tennis in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

The 1st Team boys had an outstanding season, competing in the Ehlanzeni Primary Schools Tennis B League and emerging as champions! Their hard work paid off, and the team proudly brought home the league title. The season continued with the St Stithian's Tour, where both our senior boys and girls honed their skills over three intense days of play, showing significant improvement with each match.

The grand finale of the season was The Rising Star Tournament, where our promising players showcased their talent and gained valuable match experience. Overall, it was a fulfilling and successful season, with plenty of tennis, camaraderie and growth. We are proud of all our players and look forward to more exciting moments on the court!

Mrs Jo-Anne Choonara



Squash

St Stithian's Sports Festival

Earlier this year, our Boys' and Girls' Squash teams had the pleasure of participating in the St Stithian's Sports Festival which was an exhilarating sports festival, and an unforgettable experience! From the very first match, our players showed remarkable skill and dedication on the court, facing talented opponents with focus and determination. The boys demonstrated powerful serves and exceptional agility, while the girls impressed with their precise shots and keen strategic play. Every game brought thrilling rallies that highlighted the growth and confidence in each of our players.

The inclusion of a few of last year's Touring Team players brought invaluable experience and leadership to both our girls' and boys' teams, creating a powerful foundation that lifted our whole squad. Olivia Storm, Bella James, Amillia Pieters and Alexandra Knott, along with new addition Emma Jack, gave our girls' squash team an edge, forming a well seasoned and competitive lineup that consistently challenged every opponent.

For the boys, having David Mullins and Trystan Watt make the team again this year, joined by newcomers Zain Greeff, Abhay Suriakumar, and Tristan Slabbert, only added a fresh energy to the team without compromising on competitiveness. This continuity and infusion of new talent were key to creating a unified, dynamic group. I believe that with a blend of experience and new talent, both our girls' and boys' teams showed that they are not only competitive but also ready to set a high standard for the future.

This is evident in David Mullins' remarkable performance at the festival, one of our standout Grade 7 players. His skill, focus and passion captivated audiences

and coaches alike throughout the tournament, making it clear he is destined for great things. Just weeks after the tournament in Joburg, David received the prestigious honour of being selected to represent the SA Country District Team at the Inter-Provincial Tournament in Gqeberha. This accomplishment speaks volumes not only about David's talent but also about the growth and promise within our squash programme.

As this marks my second year as the Squash Touring Coach and Manager, I feel incredibly privileged and honoured to be part of such an inspiring journey. Working with these young pupil athletes, seeing their passion and growth, and guiding them through each step has been a deeply rewarding experience. The support from our school community and the dedication of our athletes is a powerful reminder of the bright future that squash holds here.

Our pupils not only displayed commendable sportsmanship and resilience but also proved that squash offers a valuable

opportunity, especially for those who may not always find their place in traditional team sports. For many of our players, squash has become a doorway to self-discovery and personal achievement, building confidence that extends far beyond the squash court.

Beyond the squash games, the festival atmosphere was filled with laughter, learning, and camaraderie. Our pupils bonded with players from other schools, exchanging stories, tactics, and plenty of fun moments. It was heartwarming to see the character each player brought to the event, blending competitiveness with genuine joy and curiosity. Their ability to balance intensity with good humour made the festival not just a series of matches, but a memorable adventure in friendship and personal growth.

With such dedicated and enthusiastic players, we are looking forward to the future, confident that our squash teams will continue to grow, compete, and make us proud!

Mr Prince Ndlovu



Foundation Phase Prizegiving

Our Foundation Phase Prizegiving was a wonderful occasion, where we gathered to celebrate and express our appreciation for all that our children have achieved throughout this year.

In the Foundation Phase, we understand that success is not solely defined by academic, sporting or cultural accomplishments, but is also built on character, values and overall growth, as well as knowing that

these qualities play an equally important role in shaping our children. We are extremely proud of all our children and all that they have accomplished this year.

Mrs Claudia McCarthy



Senior Phase Prizegiving

Celebrating excellence!

On Tuesday night, we honoured our outstanding Uplands Preparatory Grade 4 - 7 pupils at our Senior Phase Prizegiving ceremony. From academic

achievements to sporting prowess and cultural contributions, our pupils continue to make us proud.

A special farewell to our Grade 7 class as they prepare for their next chapter. Thank you to our Uplands

Board Chairman, Mr Greg Dane, for his inspiring words, and to all our parents, teachers and pupils who made this year remarkable.

Mr Scott Hauptfleisch

Academic Awards

Gr 4B		Gr 4G		Gr 4S	
Academic Prize	Emma Dewar		Timothy Dengler		Olivia Flores
Academic Prize	Ashleigh Goosen		Ben Jackson		Andrew Joubert
Academic Prize	Sam McArthur		Samkelisiwe Maluka		Charlotte Louw
Academic Prize	Rui van der Merwe		Keira Rottcher		Vihaan Suriakumar
Progress	Mwalimu Gumede		Langalibalele Ledwaba		Khloe Murray
Endeavour	Mia Zietsman		Thandolwethu Thabethe		Lukhanyo Mlambo
Class Prize	ZamaNcabane Mkhabela		Keitumetse Mokoena		Riley Smit

Gr 5G		Gr 5M	
Academic Prize	Thenora Mgwenya		Academic Prize Sofia Dimitriou
Academic Prize	Caitlin Pappas		Academic Prize Ayva-Mae Moffett
Academic Prize	Kopano Shabangu		Academic Prize Mark Smit
Academic Prize	Anashe Zumbika		Academic Prize Logan van der Westhuizen
Progress	Lana Tressel		Progress Ian Ntimba
Endeavour	Thomas Creighton		Endeavour Oliveah Fourie
Class Prize	Arianna Tecklenburg		Class Prize Thoriso Nyathi

Courageous Challenges			
Abigail Ardé	Oliveah Fourie	Ayva-Mae Moffett	Mieke Swanepoel
Trent Arntzen	Amy Freeman	Hope Mohajer-Ashjai	Arianna Tecklenburg
Neve Berry	Samuel Hauptfleisch	Rosie Pranglely	Logan van der Westhuizen
Thomas Creighton	Liam Kruger	Hayden Ralph	Fletcher van Zyl
Sarah Dane	Adam Lea	Kopano Shabangu	Kyra Vosloo
Femke de Kok	Tyra Mabuza	Lloyd Skinner	Anashe Zumbika
Sofia Dimitriou	Thomas McEvoy	Mark Smit	

Gr 6B

Academic Prize Emily Green
 Academic Prize Lesego Monareng
 Academic Prize Eva Mullins
 Academic Prize Ethan Rottcher
 Progress Tsakani Zwane
 Endeavour Isla Stephen
 Class Prize Nandi Zwane

Gr 6D

Academic Prize Riley Brooks
 Academic Prize Anita Ikekhuah
 Academic Prize Benjamin Lintvelt
 Academic Prize Cara Mills
 Progress Guy Hulley-Miller
 Endeavour Jocelyn Dengler
 Class Prize Felicity Zumbika

Gr 6L

Academic Prize Ethan Esterhuizen
 Academic Prize Lexi Joubert
 Academic Prize Mechael Monyela
 Academic Prize Motjatji Sebopela

Progress Hope Mkhathswa
 Endeavour Chloe Rautenbach
 Class Prize Pippa Roberts

Gr 7M

Academic Prize Kate Dane
 Academic Prize Gregory Davis
 Academic Prize Nkosinathi Khoza
 Academic Prize Sunny Grace Manganyi
 Progress Christian Kassimatis
 Endeavour Zain Greeff
 Class Prize Amilla Pieters

Gr 7SM

Academic Prize Alexandra Knott
 Academic Prize Joslin Kruger
 Academic Prize Olivia Storm
 Academic Prize Trystan Watt
 Progress Deborah Malalane
 Endeavour Aiden Naidoo
 Class Prize Mika Vosloo

Gr 7ES

Academic Prize Rachele Goosen
 Academic Prize David Mullins
 Academic Prize Zipho Nkabinde
 Academic Prize Sancha Reingruber

Progress Connor Berry
 Endeavour Lulama Kwinika
 Class Prize Morgan Smit

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

Anje Stoltz

Tanith Gebhardt

Daniel Stoltz

Rachele Goosen

Mika Vosloo

Mika Vosloo

Morgan Smit & Mika Vosloo

Mika Vosloo

Zipho Nkabinde

David Mullins

Senior Phase Prizegiving

Uplands College Annual Scholarship Awards

Uplands College is delighted to announce the recipients of its annual Scholarship Awards in the Open Academic, Open All-Rounder, Open Culture, Open Sport and the Closed categories to pupils who are entering Grade 8 in 2025.

A competitive field of youngsters from primary schools in

Botswana, Eswatini, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Mozambique and Zimbabwe submitted applications of a high standard and wrote the Scholarship Examinations.

Exceptional results were achieved, which led to Uplands making the following Scholarship Awards.

Academic Open

Danyaal Nomani
Zoey Grove

Nelspruit Primary
Middelburg Primary

All-Rounder Open

Bella James
Diyaana Nomani
Eirina Svouraki
Tristan Slabbert

Uplands Preparatory
Nelspruit Primary
Curro Nelspruit
Uplands Preparatory

Sports Open

Aiden Naidoo

Uplands Preparatory

Daniël Bosman
Emma Jack

Riverview Preparatory
Uplands Preparatory

Cultural Open

Amilla Pieters

Uplands Preparatory

Uplands Closed

Mika Vosloo
Morgan Smit
Zipho Nkabinde

Uplands Preparatory
Uplands Preparatory
Uplands Preparatory

“Applications for Scholarships in 2025 were of an extremely high standard, and as a result I extend my congratulations to the recipients on their outstanding

achievements and look forward to welcoming them when they commence their high school journey with us in 2025,” said Allan Laing, Head of Uplands College.



Aiden Naidoo



Amilla Pieters



Bella James



Emma Jack



Mika Vosloo



Morgan Smit



Tristan Slabbert



Zipho Nkabinde

Senior Phase Prizegiving

Co-Curricular Awards (Sport)

Athletics

Certificate for the
Most Improved Girl athlete *Lulama Kwinika*

Certificate for the
Most Improved Boy athlete *Luca Bakker*

The Isabella Bucellato Trophy for
the Best Girl athlete *Kate Dane*

Tony Ferreira Trophy for
the Best Boy athlete *Elsan Oliveira*

Cricket

Trophy for the
Most Improved Girl cricketer *Mika Vosloo*

Craig Nel Trophy for the
Most Improved Boy cricketer *James Velleman*

Trophy for the Best Girl cricketer *Emma Jack*

Gaydon Trophy for the
Best all-round Boy cricketer *Loukas Dimitriou*

Cross-Country

Certificate for
Most Improved Girl athlete *Kai Goodman*

Certificate for
Most Improved Boy athlete *Fynn Harman*

Trophy for the Best Girl athlete *Lulama Kwinika*

Trophy for the Best Boy athlete *Callum Baird*

Equestrian

Trophy for the
Most Improved rider *Sancha Reingruber*

Trophy for the
Best Rider of the Year *Eva Mullins*

Golf

Most Improved golfer *Nicholas Springorum*

Mullins Golf Trophy for the
Best Golfer of the Year *Abhay Suriakumar*

Hockey

Uplands Hockey Trophy for the Most
Improved Girl Player *Ella Ralfe*

Uplands Hockey Trophy for
the Most improved Boy Player *Gregory Davis*

The Mayhew Trophy for
the Best Girl Hockey Player *Aiden Naidoo*

Uplands Trophy for the Best
Boy Hockey Player *Samuel Spring*

Mountain Biking

Clarke Cycling Trophy for the
Most Improved Girl cyclist *Marizaan Calaca*

Clarke Cycling Trophy for the
Most Improved Boy cyclist *Thomas Thirkettle*

Vosloo Trophy for the
Best Boy cyclist *Tanith Gebhardt*

Netball

The De Wet Netball Trophy for the
Most Improved Girl Player *Karla Masinga*

The Sharkley Trophy for the
Best Netball Player
Shared: *Lulama Kwinika & Ella Ralfe*

Rugby

Trophy for the
Most Improved Boy player *Samuel Spring*

Trophy for the
Best Boy player of the year *Zipho Nkabinde*

Soccer

Badenhorst Trophy for the
Most Improved Girl player *Bella James*

Minolta Trophy for the
Most Improved Boy player *Elijah Ardé*

Mngomezulu Trophy for the
Best Girl player of the year *Ella Ralfe*

D A Green Trophy for the
Best Boy player of the year *Keyaan Choonara*

Squash

Certificate for
Most improved Girl Player *Jess Bagge*

Certificate for
Most improved Boy Player *Michael Magidi*

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

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

Senior Phase Prizegiving

Co-Curricular Awards (Sport)

Swimming

Carolyn Davis Trophy for the
Most Improved Girl Swimmer *Pippa Roberts*

Grant Davis Trophy for the
Most Improved Boy Swimmer *Sean Murray*

Michelle Cockhead Trophy for the
Best Girl Swimmer *Rachelle Goosen*

Michelle Cockhead Trophy for the
Best Boy Swimmer *Luke Hulley*

Tennis

The Urmson Trophy for the
Most Improved Girl Player *Emma Jack*

The Urmson Trophy for the
Most Improved Boy Player *Keyaan Choonara*

The Ponting Trophy for the
Best Girl Player *Ella Ralfe*

The Ponting Trophy for the
Best Boy Player *David Mullins*

Co-Curricular Awards (Culture)

Ludi Cup

Awarded for progress in Music
Morgan Smit

Dixie Goodwin Music Cup

Awarded to the most outstanding
Music Pupil
Nandi Zwane

Certificate for Progress in Art

Zain Greeff

Aasiya Gardee Floating Trophy

Awarded to the Best All-Round Artist in Grade 7
Anje Stoltz

Sue Kloeck Speech and Drama Trophy

Awarded to the Grade 7 pupil who shows
remarkable potential in the Speech and Drama
arena
Amelia Pieters

Special Co-Curricular Awards

Ellen Graham Memorial Cup

Trophy for the best overall achievement in
General Knowledge
Benjamin Lintvelt

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.
Lulama Kwinika

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.
Zain Greeff

Robert Rorich Service to Culture Award

This trophy is awarded to a pupil who actively
promotes the Uplands values and ethos in
everything they do. This pupil does not necessarily
excel in cultural activities but serves the culture
department to the best of their ability. He/she
will go beyond the call of duty for their school and
department

Michael Liebenberg

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
Ethan Estherhuizen

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

Kate Dane

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 Storm

Gwynn Mason Trophy

Most Versatile Sports Girl of the Year

Ella Ralfe

Brent Pirow Trophy

Most Versatile Sports Boy of the Year

Shared: *Keyaan Choonara & Callum Baird*

Holmes Trophy

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

Ogilvie

Grade 7 Dux Scholar

Mika Vosloo



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

Guy Hulley-Miller



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

Kate Dane



Leadership Award

Awarded for outstanding qualities of positive leadership

Zipho Nkabinde



Good Sportsmanship Award

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

Ella Ralfe



Good Fellowship Award

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

Bella James



Headmaster's Award

Awarded to the most outstanding overall contribution to school life

Amilla Pieters



CONGRATULATIONS

2025 UPLANDS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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Sports Open

Aiden Naidoo	Uplands Preparatory
Daniël Bosman	Riverview Preparatory
Emma Jack	Uplands Preparatory

Cultural Open

Amilla Pieters	Uplands Preparatory
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Uplands Closed

Mika Vosloo	Uplands Preparatory
Morgan Smit	Uplands Preparatory
Zipho Nkabinde	Uplands Preparatory

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Academic Open Award
Danyaal Nomani
Nelspruit Primary



Academic Open Award
Zoey Grove
Middelburg Primary



All-Rounder Open Award
Bella James
Uplands Preparatory



All-Rounder Open Award
Diyaana Nomani
Nelspruit Primary



All-Rounder Open Award
Eirina Svouraki
Curro Nelspruit



All-Rounder Open Award
Tristan Slabbert
Uplands Preparatory



Sports Open Award
Aiden Naidoo
Uplands Preparatory



Sports Open Award
Daniel Bosman
Riverview Preparatory



Sports Open Award
Emma Jack
Uplands Preparatory



Cultural Open Award
Amilla Pieters
Uplands Preparatory



Uplands Closed Award
Zipho Nkabinde
Uplands Preparatory



Uplands Closed Award
Mika Vosloo
Uplands Preparatory



Uplands Closed Award
Morgan Smit
Uplands Preparatory