



2024 UPLANDS PRE-PREPARATORY



Today's thinking child is tomorrow's achiever



AfterCare



Message from the Head of the Pre-Preparatory

"Little Uplands" is a magical place full of love and laughter, where every day is filled with kindness, happiness, and the joy of being together as we learn and grow. 2024 has been a year filled with discovery, creativity and fun, where our children have had endless opportunities to explore, experiment, and reach for the stars. This year also brought a time of change for our school. We bade a heartfelt and sad farewell to our outgoing Headmistress, Heather Prior. Her dedication and leadership shaped this school in ways that will remain a part of us for years to come. I am honoured to have joined this incredible community during this special time. It is truly a privilege to be a part of a school that fosters a nurturing ethos, a commitment to academic excellence and incorporates the best practices in early childhood development. It is this special blend that allows us to nurture our children as they grow into confident, compassionate and curious learners. We have worked hard to foster a learning environment where values like kindness, integrity, resilience and diversity are at the heart of everything we do. This year, we have embraced Heather Prior's inspiring book "Wild Adventures", beautifully illustrated by Morné van Rooyen, where each of our grade names represents these important qualities.

Our Leaping Leopards in Grade 0 continue to show courage and a fearless spirit as they take on new challenges. The Happy Hippos in Grade 00 spread joy and kindness, always ready to lend a hand or share a smile. Our Zippy Zebras in Grade 000 are full of energy and enthusiasm, teaching us that resilience is all about pushing forward, no matter the pace. And our littlest learners in the Cuddly Cubs Grade 0000 remind us how to embrace our individuality and celebrate our uniqueness. Even in Aftercare, our Eager Elephants encourage honesty and integrity.

This year has been full of exciting events, both for the children and their families, that have brought out creativity, fun and the spirit of togetherness. Our children have had a blast with all sorts of activities, from art and science projects to outdoor adventures, each one offering a chance to learn through play. We have also had several family-focused events, from family days to community gatherings such as Sports Day, Parents' Day, Grandparents' Day, the Annual Spring Picnic and, of course, the cutest end of year concert. These moments have been so important in bringing us all together, fostering a sense of belonging and support that we truly value.

Through our Reggio-inspired approach, we have encouraged learning through play, hands-on exploration and experimentation, allowing the children to ask questions, discover the world around them, and grow in their love of learning. Every moment has been about fostering curiosity, building friendships and developing essential skills.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a beautiful natural environment at Uplands, where the outdoors is an extension of our classrooms. Nature, open space, playground equipment and freedom to play allow our children not only to grow physically, but also to encourage creativity, problem-solving and teamwork. As we look ahead to the coming year, I am filled with excitement and gratitude. It's a true privilege to be part of this community, where we continue to nurture values like kindness, integrity, resilience and diversity. I can't wait to see all the wonderful things the future holds for our children and their families.

Thank you to our amazing staff, our incredible children and our supportive families. You make Uplands the special place it is, and I look forward to many more adventures with you in the year ahead.

Ms Janine Stott
Uplands Pre-Preparatory Head





“The Wild Adventures” concert

“The Wild Adventures” was the title of the Uplands Pre-Preparatory year-end concert at Uplands. The play was based on the wonderful story written by Heather Rogers and beautifully illustrated by Morné van Rooyen. Countless hours of hard work and practice went into what turned out to be two unforgettable nights filled with laughter and much applause from the audiences.

The children looked absolutely stunning in their animal costumes, and the painted faces added that extra spark. Most importantly, the children had so much fun throughout the entire experience. Although tired afterwards, we can all agree that our children did an amazing job of putting on a truly memorable Lowveld great!





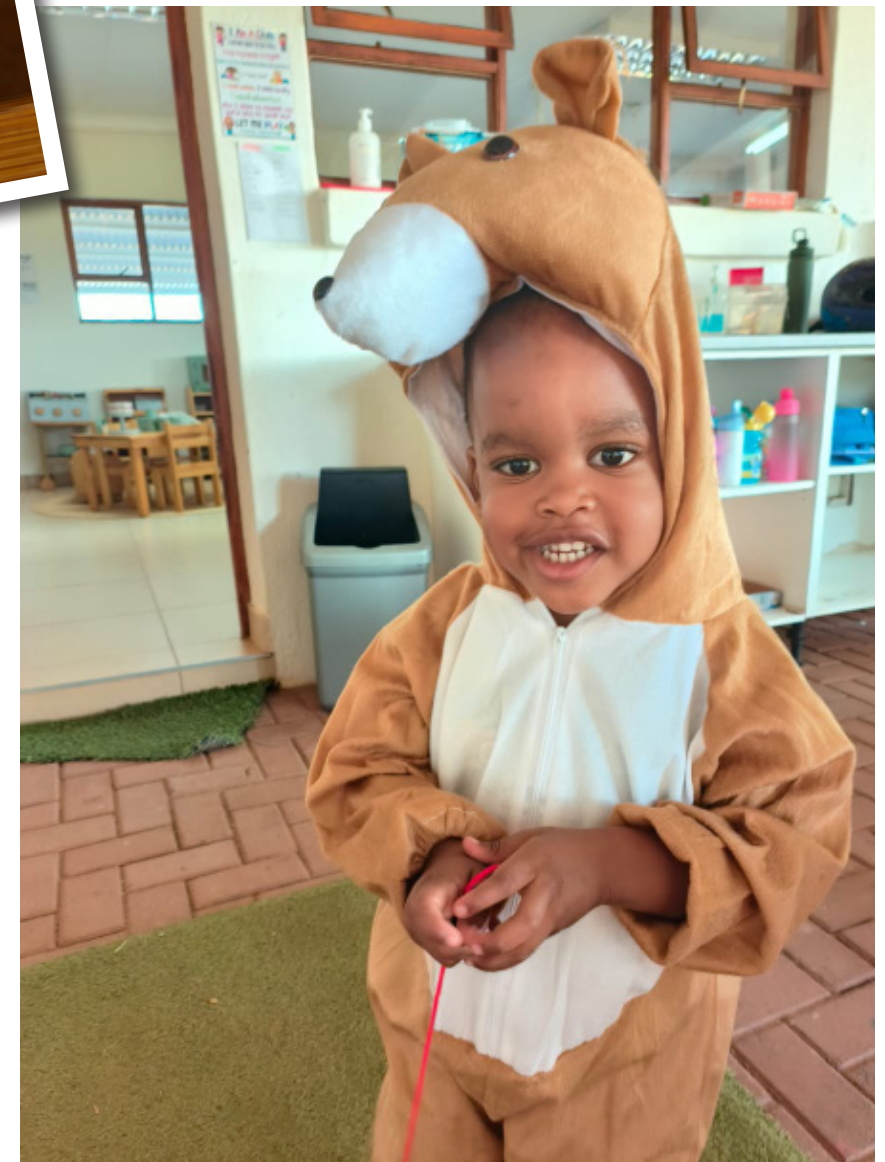
World Book Day

Giving our children opportunities to enjoy reading and celebrating creative and fun books is so much better than critically judging their reading abilities and proficiency. Reading should be, and is, FUN! It starts with us as adults encouraging the enjoyment of books. Nowhere were there more wacky adults dressed up in amazing costumes to rival the creatively attired children than at Uplands Preparatory and Uplands Pre-Preparatory on World Book Day on 23 April 2024. Spaceboy took the prize on the day, followed closely by Jemima Puddleduck and King Neptune. Well done to all on a fantastic day!



Barefoot Day

On the chilly morning of August 1st, the pupils from Uplands Pre-Preparatory, Uplands 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.





Dog Show

Our Uplands Preparatory pupils and “Little Uplanders” Pre-Preparatory pupils were treated to a very special visit from the Incredible Dog Show and what a “paw-some” experience it was! The talented canines performed tricks and showed off their skills with their handler, Lloyd Bristow, thus bringing 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 – truly an hour full of wagging tails and happy hearts!

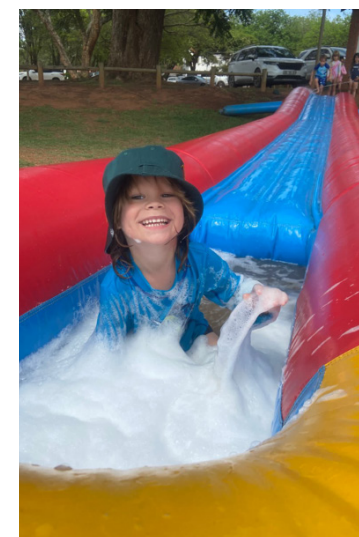
Father Christmas visits



Incredible Fun Day

What an Incredible Fun Day they had! Our Uplands Pre-Preparatory Fun Day was an absolute blast, and the children had the time of their lives! The water slides brought endless laughter and squeals of joy. The little ones loved their pony rides and had heart-warming moments bonding with the horses. The obstacle course challenged their adventurous spirits – so much fun and determination! Dancing to the music and chasing bubbles created magical memories for everyone. And the day wouldn't have been complete without delicious snacks and refreshing ice lollies to cool us down.

A huge thank-you to our wonderful teachers for their energy and enthusiasm, making the day truly special for the children. Seeing their smiles and hearing their laughter made it all worthwhile! They can't wait for their next Fun Day!





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.



SPCA

The Uplands Pre-Preparatory pupils joined Uplands Preparatory pupils in collecting food for all the cats and dogs at the SPCA.



Puppet Show





Mini Olympic Sports Day



What a fantastic day we had at the Uplands Pre-Preparatory Mini Olympic Sports Day on Saturday, the 2nd of March! The weather was perfect, the activities were so much fun, and the support from our families was amazing. This event provided an ideal opportunity for our little Uplanders to demonstrate their skills in various exciting sporting disciplines and games. The children made a grand entrance to the song 'Chariots of Fire' while enjoying the spectators' applause. The parents, families and friends enthusiastically cheered as the children participated in all the activities and races with great eagerness.



Parents' Day

What a spectacular morning we shared with our incredible parents! From laughter to proud moments, Parents' Day was nothing short of heartwarming! Parents peeked into the enchanting world of their little ones, witnessing their budding creativity, kindness and curiosity in action! Our little stars and their parents teamed up for a morning filled with entertaining activities and boundless fun! Some of the activities included dancing sessions, crafting, obstacle courses, and so much more: every moment was precious and filled with love and togetherness! Thank you to all the parents for joining us and adding an extra sparkle to our day.





National Down Syndrome Awareness Day

On the 18th of October, Uplands Pre-Preparatory proudly celebrated National Down Syndrome Awareness Day with the theme, "Beauty is in the Genes", by wearing jeans. This day was about raising awareness, promoting understanding, and celebrating the unique beauty of individuals with Down Syndrome.

The theme, "Beauty is in the Genes," reminds us that true beauty comes from within, and that the uniqueness in our genetic makeup makes us who we are. Celebrating this day helps build a culture of respect, kindness and acceptance in our school community, ensuring that every child feels valued and loved.



Little Lab Coats

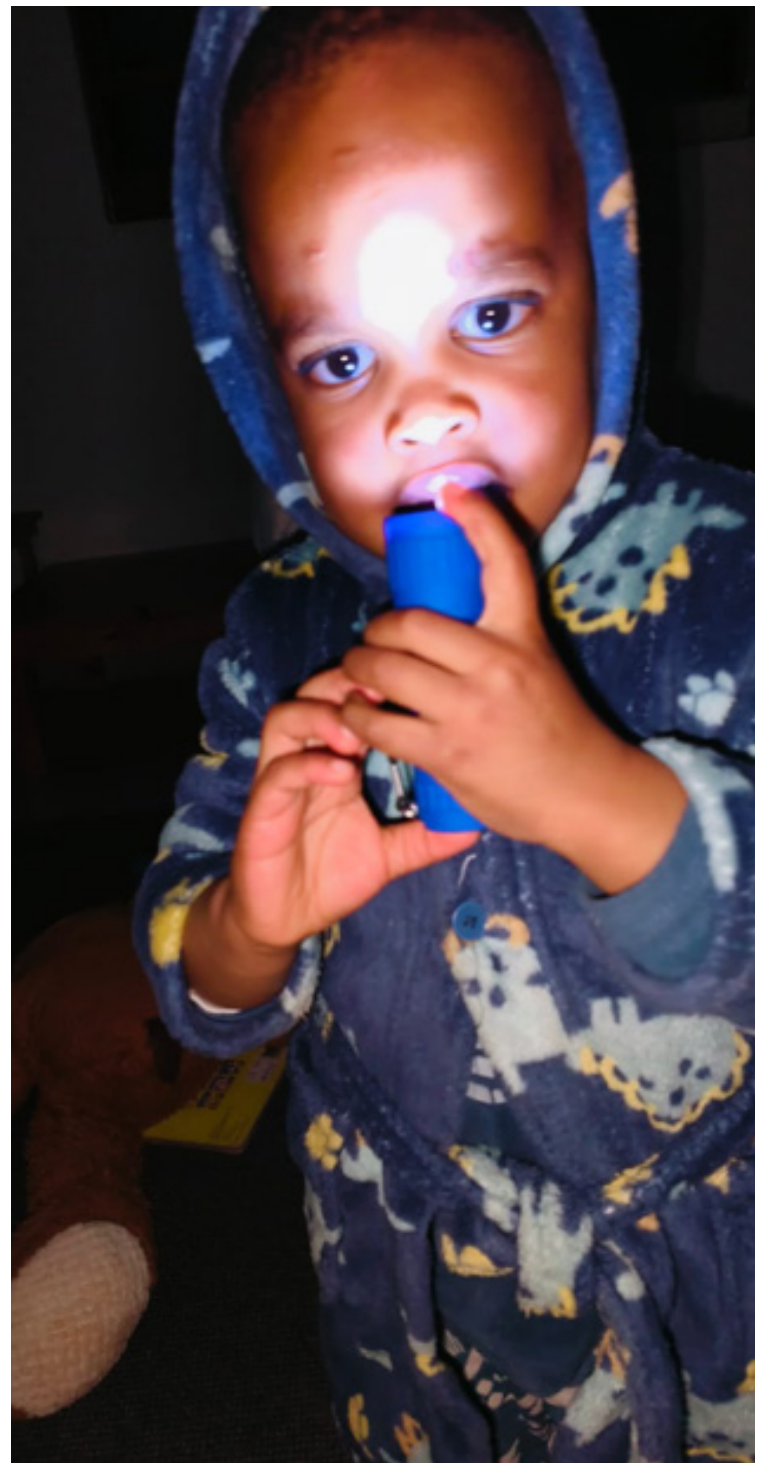
Dalena demonstrated a lesson on volcanoes to our Grade 0000s and 000s. The Grade 00's lesson was all about 'panning for gold', and the Grade 0's lesson was titled: 'Is it magic or is it science?' As always, these science lessons are inviting, interesting, thought-provoking and exciting for the children. They have the wonderful opportunity to learn, ask questions, and explore the world around them through these hands-on experiences. Thank you to the most incredible Little Lab Coats ladies for their fun and fascinating lessons!



Nelson Mandela Day

We celebrated Nelson Mandela's birthday, with a cultural dress-up day and shared traditional food with their classmates.

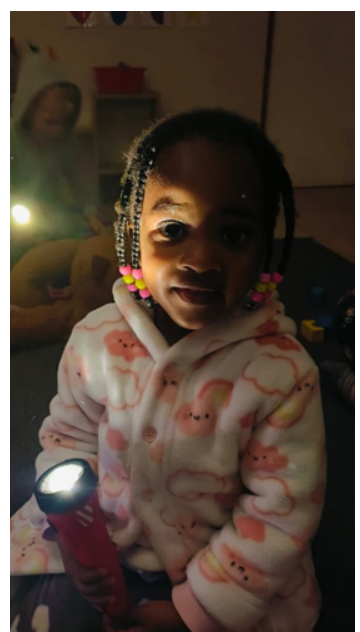




PJ Party and Parent Talk

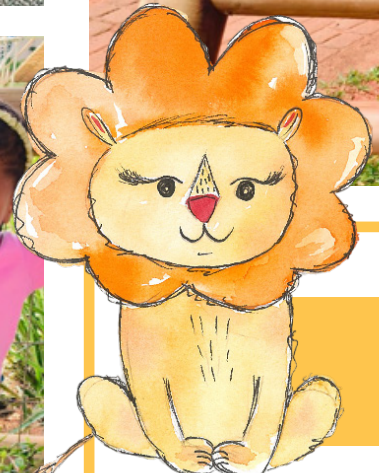
The Uplands Pre-Preparatory recently hosted the PJ Party and Parent Talk. While parents attended an informative evening led by Speech and Language therapist, Mrs Gillian Scorgie, titled "The Power of Parent Talk," their children enjoyed a lively PJ party in their classrooms.

Gillian emphasised the profound impact of how we communicate with our children, explaining that our words play a crucial role in shaping their cognitive and emotional development. Meanwhile, the kids had a blast, dressed in their favourite pyjamas, and got to experience the rare thrill of being at school in the dark. The evening was a perfect blend of learning and fun, with parents gaining valuable insights while their children made happy memories with their friends.



Perry Bridge Reptile Park

The "Little Uplanders" had the privilege of having Mr Jason Stewart from Perry Bridge Reptile Park to visit them. He brought along a ball python, a bearded dragon and a tortoise to show the children. With a spark in his eye, Jason taught the children interesting facts about the different creatures. The children absolutely loved seeing the animals in real life, and even being able to touch the snake! The children were mesmerised as Jason shared his enthusiasm and extensive knowledge about the world of reptiles.



Cuddly Cubs

This year, the Cuddly Cubs proved that when children feel loved, supported and free to explore, they flourish in ways that astonish us all. Reflecting on the past, 2024 marked a year of creating connections among classmates, friends, and even within themselves. Each friendship created, each lesson learnt and each memory established contributed to every child growing stronger, developing compassion, and being better connected to their surroundings.





UPLANDS PRE-PREPARATORY 2024 | GRADE 00000 A



UPLANDS PRE-PREPARATORY 2024 | GRADE 0000 P



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UPLANDS PRE-PREPARATORY 2024 | GRADE 000 S



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UPLANDS PRE-PREPARATORY 2024 | GRADE 00 B



UPLANDS PRE-PREPARATORY 2024 | GRADE 00 M





UPLANDS PRE-PREPARATORY 2024 | GRADE 0 K



UPLANDS PRE-PREPARATORY 2024 | GRADE 0 S



Grade 0 Praise Giving Ceremony

On Monday 2nd December, we celebrated our incredible Grade 0s at our Grade 0 Praise Giving Ceremony. Each child received a certificate praising their individual achievements and celebrating their unique qualities, including their kindness, creativity, curiosity and enthusiasm. We are so proud as they graduate from Uplands Pre-Preparatory and are excited for their journey into Grade 1. A huge thank-you to our wonderful Grade 0 teachers for their guidance and care!





UPLANDS PRE-PREPARATORY 2024 | STAFF