



The Newberry News

Message from the Head of Newberry

Dear Newberry community,

As 2023 draws to a close, we have a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the past year, which has been one of many highlights for Newberry House. Although many of these have been shared throughout the year, here are some worthy mentions again:

Education

Three of our Cambridge students were invited to the Cambridge Outstanding Learner's Awards; in addition to this, the British Council nominated Nicolas du Toit as Student of the Year, and Liezel Pienaar as Teacher of the Year. We also received an independent school quality assurance visit from OISESA, who awarded us with their highest rating for teaching and learning. Although we celebrate the external validation of our model of education, our focus remains to instil a lifelong love of learning, which will equip our learners to succeed in life.

Environment

The Newberry campus has seen much development over the past year, where the newly renovated Yellowwood Lower Elementary class and two new Middle School classes were in use for the first time. Various capex projects were undertaken this year, including a new High School exam centre, numerous minor upgrades to classrooms, as well as beautification of the grounds, with most classes now having access to their own vegetable garden as part of our edible curriculum.

Experience

There have been a number of highlights regarding real-life learning experiences. A number of parents signed up to assist with the Elementary going-out programme, and our Middle School teams built MTB trails (used by the W2W), started a catering business and established a vegetable garden for the Lourensford creche. Our sports offering has also grown, and many of our learners have been fantastic ambassadors for Newberry through demonstrating excellence in various extracurricular pursuits. On a cultural front, we held a music and art festival, participated in a choir festival, held an amazing talent show and ended the year on a high note with a drama club production.

At the beginning of the year, we outlined our mission, which is to be an example of what is possible through quality, authentic Montessori and Cambridge International education, in a healthy environment, through real-life learning experiences. My hope is that, as you page through this final edition of Newberry News for 2023, you will be inspired by a few of the examples of how we aim to live this out on a daily basis, as well as to continue doing so in times to come.

Thank you for all your support this past year, and may you and your loved ones have a refreshing time over the upcoming holiday period.

Best wishes,
Alistair

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Teacher Appreciation

Thank you!

During the month of October, we had the chance to recognise the continual commitment of all our wonderful teachers and assistants.

TODDLERS (18 months - 3 years): The Montessori toddler classroom offers very young children a unique time of self-development in a tender atmosphere of special understanding, respect and support. The teachers in this plane display immense patience with the children, as the core foundation of life skills are being developed.

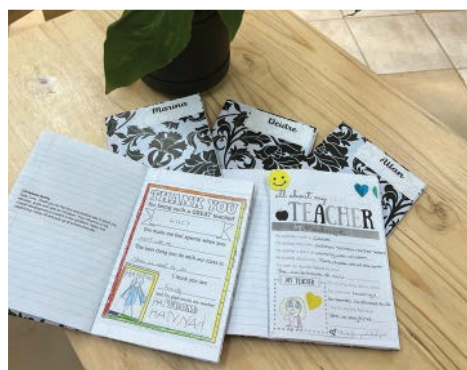
PRE-PRIMARY (3 years - 6 years): The Pre-Primary classroom includes practical life exercises which enhance the development of task organization and cognitive order through care of self, care of the environment, exercises of grace and courtesy, and refinement of physical movement and coordination. These teachers have the ability to provide children with the opportunity to begin expressing independence while granting them the freedom to do so, in a structured environment.

UPPER AND LOWER ELEMENTARY (7 years - 12 years): Children in these age groups are interested in their cultural environment. They ask questions about how things work and why. They need to be given the facts and their questions need to be answered. Teachers in this plane have the wonderful ability to allow the students to develop self-confidence, imagination, intellectual independence and self-efficacy.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (12 years - 15 years): The aim of this phase is to help the adolescent become an adult that is equipped with the confidence in themselves and actual skills to live in the real world. The teachers in this plane are wonderful examples to these students and allow them the freedom to answer the burning questions "Who am I? Where do I fit into society? and How can I be of use?"

HIGH SCHOOL (15 years - 18 years): Our High School follows the highly acclaimed Cambridge International curriculum, the world's largest provider of international education programmes, which is recognised in over 120 countries. We are also an accredited Cambridge examination centre, where both internal and external students can write any of the 70+ exam subject offered by Cambridge. There is a fantastic overlap between Montessori and Cambridge, as both encourage an active learning approach, focus on critical thinking and application of knowledge in various contexts. Our High School educators are subject specialists, and play an amazing role in fueling the love of learning, which in turn results in our learners being prepared not only for exams, but also to think critically and to be equipped for life after school.

As an extra special way of thanking each teacher, our students and parents had a chance to write personalised thank you notes. The teachers were then given a book as a reminder of their monumental impact in the children's lives.



Toddlers
18 months - 3 years
"A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning."

Pre-Primary
3 years - 6 years
"A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others."

Upper Elementary
9 years - 12 years
"A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart."

Lower Elementary
6 years - 9 years
"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

Middle School
12 years - 15 years
"Teaching is more than imparting knowledge. It is inspiring change."

High School
15 years - 18 years
"If you have to put someone on a pedestal, put teachers. They are society's heroes."



Congratulations!



Eco Schools Award

Newberry House is one of 59 Schools worldwide to have received the Platinum Level 5 Eco Schools award for environmental awareness, and we are currently working towards our prestigious Diamond status this year.

The Eco-Schools Awards are designed to highlight a small number of Green Flag schools, colleges, and nurseries each year, who have delivered and shared especially innovative, inspirational, and impactful Eco-Schools work globally.

At Newberry we believe that living an environmentally conscious way, is more than receiving an award, and have chosen to embrace a sustainable lifestyle as something just as important to pass on to the next generation, as academic knowledge.



Our grounds are tended using organic techniques and are free from artificial chemicals, pesticides and herbicides, allowing our children to roam in an environment that is as close to nature as possible. Proper soil health and making our own compost also lays a solid foundation for a flourishing and healthy campus, which boasts over 100 food-bearing plants for the enjoyment of our community.

We are currently developing an "Edible Curriculum", where our aim is to educate our learners about various sustainable food growing techniques through first-hand experience. Most of our classes across all age groups now have access to their own vegetable gardens, which are frequently harvested.



Our ultimate aim is to feed our school and community from our campus, and advocate for a sustainable, healthy lifestyle.

Maths Olympiad

We were thrilled to have five of our students write the SA Math Olympiad on the 30th August.

- Certificates of participation were awarded to : Sarah Bie, Callum and Benjamin (Grade 7)
- Bronze award: Caleb (Grade 6)
- Silver award: Joel (Grade 5)

We are super proud of each of them for being willing to participate!



Student Achievements

We are always thrilled to see our children doing well in their individual pursuits and enjoy celebrating their accomplishments with them:

- Caleb and Joel were selected to play in the Cape Town Premier League (CPL) for hockey.
- Abigail competed at SA Gym games in Centurion and won gold for the beam in the Level 4, 7-9 years category.
- Rebecca qualified for her Western Cape Colours for Gymnastics.
- Nina achieved Cum laude in Piano at the Helderberg Eisteddfod.



Well done and thank you to our learners for being such great ambassadors for Newberry in so many different areas!





Out and About

Dutch Principal's visit

It was a pleasure to host a group of principals from the Netherlands at Newberry House recently, through Onderwijs Maak Je Samen, a Dutch organisation focused on the professional development of educators.

Every year, they organise a trip to Cape Town for school principals to explore South African education and culture.

We are honoured that Newberry House was included on the itinerary for the second year, and had the opportunity to share more about how our model of authentic Montessori and Cambridge International education aims to shift paradigms in the South African education space.

The Netherlands is also home to the headquarters of Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), with whom Newberry has had many opportunities to collaborate. Founded in 1929 by Maria Montessori, AMI is the recognised international authority on Montessori education.

To date, many of our educators have completed training through AMI as we seek to uphold this international standard of quality, authentic Montessori education at Newberry House.

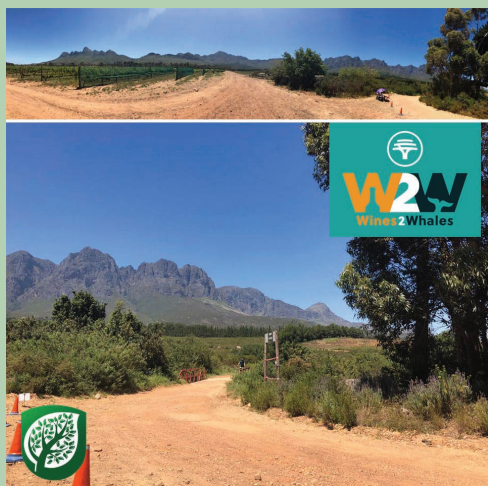


Wines to Whales

The Epic FNB Wines 2 Whales MTB race took place in October, and featured starting and finishing points for certain stages at the Lourensford Estate. The route also took riders along sections of trail that were built by the Newberry MTB trail team!

Our Deputy Head, Pete, achieved a remarkable feat in the event, securing a place in the top 50 for Stage 2; the team was thrilled to welcome him back home!

A big thank you to the members of our Newberry community who assisted as volunteers and marshals for the first-ever W2W Kid's race, as well as our High School students and staff who assisted with catering and marshalling on route.





Out and About

Lower Elementary: Day Camp

Our Lower Elementary children enjoyed a wonderful day camp filled with lots of fun in the sun, which included a visit from the Eagle Encounter sanctuary in Stellenbosch, as well as games on our sports fields and a fun slip and slide, which saw many kids and adults joining in!

After supper the children participated in a magical nature walk on our beautiful grounds.



Middle School: 4-day Hike

Our Middle School students attended their annual multi-day camp in Term 3.

The 4-day hike saw them cross beautiful terrain and develop special bonds with fellow middle schoolers. The theme this year was Survivor and each student was placed in one of 4 teams, which built great team spirit and wonderful memories.

A great time was had by all and a huge thank you to the parents and educators that made the camp possible!



Community Giveback



We aim to create opportunities for sustainable living to become a lifestyle, and one of our goals is to equip our learners to feed not only themselves, but also others, from our campus.

Our Middle Schoolers recently spent time with the Lourensford creche, where they put their experience into practice and helped the local community to establish an edible vegetable garden. We trust that "seeds" have been sown that will bear natural produce, as well as a lifelong love of living sustainably with a wider community focus.





Sports Talk

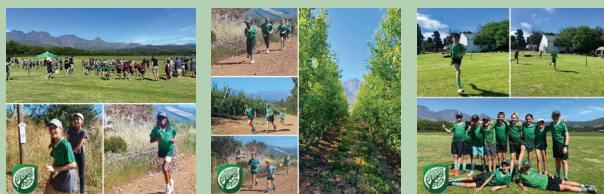
Interschools Athletics Day

Our much anticipated annual Interschools Trail Running event took this term.

This year, we were joined by Applewood and Good Hope Christian School and were able to share our beautiful trails on a stunning afternoon. It was great to see the enthusiasm all round, as we had children as young as 5 years old joining in on the fun.

A great sporting spirit was shown by all involved and we'd like to thank the schools that participated, as well as all the marshals, helpers and parents who made this event such a success!

A massive thank you as well to the Wedgewood Emporium on Lourensford for their generous donation of prizes for the event!



Mini Sports Day

Our toddlers recently had a mini Sports Day, which saw them participate in a range of fun activities that encouraged gross and fine motor skills.

Maria Montessori believed that children must move, and practice moving, to develop strength, balance, and the stability needed to fully participate in the rigours of daily life.

Thank you to the parents and teachers who enthusiastically cheered these little ones on!



Meet our Sports Ambassador



Many of us know Ronel as the friendly face standing next to the sidelines of all our sporting events, enthusiastically cheering our players on with words of encouragement. However, Ronel herself is also an extremely accomplished athlete, who represented South Africa at the Trail Running World Championships in 2013 and has recently just taken part in the HOKA + UTMB 20th Anniversary Challenge race in France, where she covered a distance of 53km, in an impressive time of 8 hours. As such, Ronel leads our Sports department from the front and is often seen running or cycling the trails alongside our learners.

Where did your love of sport start?

I have always loved being active, especially running and one of my fondest memories was athletic days at school.

What lessons have you learnt most from sport?

The discipline and dedication that sport teaches you and that you always get out what you put in. Sport is also a universal leveler and door opener - you get the chance to see children shape their own future, by applying themselves and receiving direct rewards from their efforts. Grit is also a big one, as there are always challenges on any given race (weather, terrain, gear, etc.) and you need to learn to adjust - just like you would have to do in life. I also believe that sports can be a lifelong adventure and that you should continue your passions long after your schooling days.

Less than 12 months ago you underwent a knee surgery, but managed to run the UTMB Challenge Race (53km) this year. Tell us about this.

Running comes with injuries, so I had to learn early on how to handle injuries. In 2017 I had a serious hip operation where my surgeon said that I wouldn't be able to ever run again... and I told him, watch me! ;-). This hip operation taught me many lessons on how to recover properly and to ensure that you give your injury adequate time to heal. So when I went through the knee surgery in 2022, I knew exactly what I would need to do to get back in top form again.

Ronel's words to live by:

"If you put your mind to something, you can do it (through the Lord's strength)."



Matric Farewell

The Newberry Matric Farewell was an exciting grand finale to our high school graduating class of 2023. Our matrics exuded charm and confidence as they took center stage one last time at the beautiful setting of La Pineta, just outside Stellenbosch.

Between croquet on the lawn, instant photo booths and lots of celebration on the dance floor, our matrics also had the chance to reflect on their unique journeys at Newberry House as they enjoyed an unforgettable meal together.

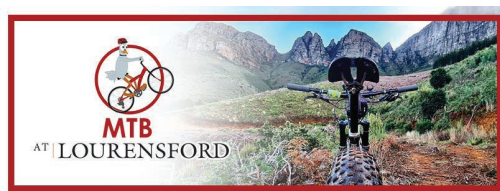
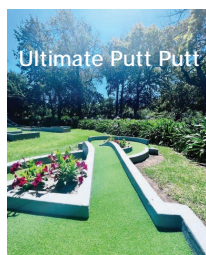
Thank you to the staff, parents and students who helped arrange a wonderful evening to celebrate our Matric class of '23, as well as the decor provided by Simply Sparkles Party.





Lourensford Community News

We would like to thank the Lourensford Community for their ongoing support of our school this year. It is greatly appreciated!



Newberry House
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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