



# The Newberry News

## Message from the Head of Newberry

Dear Newberry community,

Our current emergence from Winter into Spring here on Lourensford is quite a fitting metaphor in many regards.

After months of seemingly no activity, there is a sudden burst of life among the orchards and trees. The reality is that these sudden outward manifestations are a result of many months of preparation and development during the cold winter months. In a similar way, there is a beautiful term in Montessori education known as the “learning explosion”, where a new skill seems to be acquired almost overnight after long periods of apparent inactivity.

Examples include the first spoken words of a toddler, or an Elementary child suddenly grasping the abstract concept of square rooting after many hours of practice with the Montessori Math materials. The reality is that human development does not always occur in a linear fashion and is, more often than not, punctuated by short bursts of exponential growth after long periods of internal preparation.

As parents and educators, it is an honour to be able to continue on this lifelong journey of growth and development together with our children, and there have been many opportunities to share in this through parent education evenings and child-led conferences this past term.

Another quality of Spring is its variety, where we witness the re-emergence of many different sights, scents and sounds. In a similar way, it has been a joy to celebrate the variety of ways in which our Newberry community has blossomed (excuse the pun) over this past term, which will be covered within this issue.

May we continue to celebrate one another in this beautiful community and nation of ours as we enter the upcoming break.

My best,

**Alistair**  
 Head of Newberry House

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# Celebrations!

## Teacher of the Year - 2023

We were delighted to announce that our very own Head of Cambridge, Liezel, was awarded Teacher of the Year 2023, by the British Council.

Her efforts and teaching prowess, along with her passion for education and commitment to each of the learners, made her a worthwhile recipient of this award.

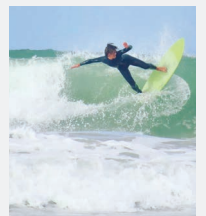
*Congratulations!*



## Achievements

One of the joys of a school community is observing how different interests, talents and passions are pursued within the community. We are excited to celebrate a few achievements of Newberry staff, parents and students in their various pursuits:

- Pete Miller, Johan Walters, and Neil Cocks (staff and parents at Newberry) represented various Western Province teams at the SA Masters hockey championships in Pretoria
- Maya and Skyelar: Gold medals in their age groups (DASA Dance Awards)
- Hannah and Anna-Rose: Selected for U16A Parel Vallei Hockey team and PV vs Pearson tournament
- Magdaleen: Silver medal at under 9 rhythmic gymnastics Western-Cape competition
- Xavier: 2nd place in U16 Cape Winelands Surfing competition
- Andre: 3rd place in U18 Cape Winelands Surfing competition
- Luca: Overcame horrific surfing accident and was back in the water a few weeks later.
- Abigail: 2nd place on beam, 3rd place on floor and 3rd place on vault - CT District trials, placing overall 3rd (Level 4). 3rd on beam and 1st on floor at WC Champs.
- Kayley: Silver medal WC Champs Gymnastics Competition (Level 2)
- Heike: Gold for Acro dance solo, Jazz solo, Duet and 4 group dances
- Storme: Gold for Lyrical solo and 2 group dances
- Francois: Helderberg Eisteddfod - Drums (Cum Laude)
- Caleb: Helderberg Eisteddfod - Piano (Cum Laude)
- Liam: Helderberg Eisteddfod - Piano (Cum Laude)
- Zac: Helderberg Eisteddfod - Hip Hop Dance (Cum Laude)
- Mackenzie and Caitlyn: Helderberg Eisteddfod - Dance (Cum Laude)
- Sienna, Martigny and Lara: Helderberg Eisteddfod - Dance (Gold Plus)







# Out and About

## Netball World Cup Match

At the beginning of August, the Newberry Netball children were fortunate to have an opportunity to watch the Jamaica vs New Zealand World Cup Netball game, being held in Cape Town this year.

The vibrant energy and electric atmosphere of the arena was felt by our youngest Elementary beginners right through to our skilled High School players, who picked up on moves that they will be using in upcoming fixtures.

We are grateful for this opportunity and the special memories that were made!



## Newberry Choir

On the 14th September, our newly formed Choir participated in the Somerset House Choir Festival.

It was delightful to see our Elementary children come together in this splendid celebration of music and song, after putting in weeks of dedicated effort. Well done to all involved!



## High Schoolers Work Experience

In line with providing real-world experiences to our students, the IG1 High School students were given the chance to shadow adults employed in careers of their interest, over a span of three days.

Experiences covered the exciting roles of project management, chef skills, marketing, electrical engineer, genetics testing, creative directing, elementary and pre-primary teaching.

Students had the opportunity to work on site at the University of Stellenbosch (Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute), Erinvale Hotel, Waterford Estate, Anything Creative, Robertson & Caine, Farmer Angus, LiveWire, The Centre for Biodiversity Conservation, Two Oceans Aquarium and Babylonstoren.

The knowledge acquired through these experiences was highly valued by the students and they returned with a newfound understanding of their chosen career paths.

Thank you to all the adults for sharing their time and experience!





# Growing with our Children

“Let us leave the life free to develop within the limits of the good, and let us observe this inner life developing. This is the whole of our mission.”

Maria Montessori

## Toddler Parent Evening

“Freedom Within Limits”: This empowering idea allows children to explore and learn on their own, fostering a sense of independence and capability. It teaches children how to be confident learners who respect the boundaries of their freedom. Montessori’s approach encourages freedom in various aspects such as movement, choice, time management, repetition, communication, and learning from mistakes. Our Toddler parents were guided through these teachings, understanding the importance of letting a child’s inner life develop.



## Pre-Primary Parent Evening

Our Pre-Primary Parent Evening focused on the theme of “Independence”. A guest speaker, Kym, was brought in to discuss this topic, which covered giving the child a chance to make their own choices, by providing gentle guidance and allowing them to learn at their own pace. A Montessori teacher hears “do it myself” as an invitation, not a challenge. A child who is willing to learn, is ready to learn. Everything from tying shoes to reading a book is best learnt, when a child wants to learn this themselves.



## Elementary Parent Evening

The focus with our Elementary Parents was the theme of Going Out, an integral part of the Montessori Elementary offering. These are outings arranged by a small group of learners, based on an interest that they share and would like to know more about. The learners are asked to arrange all the details around the outing, using a Going Out “passport”, which requires them to make all the arrangements from calling the relevant business to asking a parent to chaperone. Some of the outings have been to the Lourensford winery for a tour, Eagle Encounters, the Isiko Museum and supply runs to Westpack for projects.



# Community Giveback

## Nelson Mandela Day

In honour of Nelson Mandela Day and our commitment to supporting our community, the Newton Class (Upper Elementary) organized a thoughtful initiative. They generously made and donated blankets and meals to our dedicated ground and office staff as a gesture of appreciation and kindness.

Many thanks to a parent who donated the blanket squares which they carefully put together.

“It is in your hands, to make a better world for all who live in it.”

Nelson Mandela







# Sports Talk

## Helderberg League - Netball and Soccer

The Helderberg Netball and Soccer league has come to an end and we would like to say thank you to the schools we competed against. Namely Helderberg International, Helderberg College, Generations, Curro Sitari, Mondeor, Hope and Light, El Marine, Somerset House and Somerset College. We appreciate the spirit of sportsmanship that was shown at each match.

To our coaches, thank you for your dedication in working with each player. It is greatly appreciated!

To our players and parents, thank you for your support, determination and perseverance.



## Applewood Cross Country



The Elementary Trail Running team participated in the Interschools Trail Run Relay event at Applewood Preparatory School, this term.

This event was enjoyed by all the athletes who participated in teams of 4, and raced through the beautiful trails. Schools that participated were Applewood Preparatory School, Vyeboom Christelike Private skool, Ruens and Newberry House.

We were proud to see the sportsmanship and team spirit, which was exhibited.

## Springbok supporters

Our learners proudly wore their Green and Gold in support of our Springboks, ahead of the Rugby World Cup 2023.



# Go Bokke!







# Lourensford Community News

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## HERITAGE DAY LUNCH

24 SEPTEMBER 2023



SUNDAY LUNCH & LIVE MUSIC

12:30PM  
R600P/P



LIVE MUSIC  
BY



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## Story Evening

*with Dorian Haarhoff*

Join us for an interactive Storytelling Evening where we enter the world of story to recover our zest, energy and passion. Stories rekindle joy, help us heal and create a more abundant life. Everybody has a story.

WHERE: Lourensford Tasting Room

DATE: 29 September 2023

TIME: 18h00 - 19h30

PRICE: R200pp

RSVP: [ronel.lyons@lourensford.co.za](mailto:ronel.lyons@lourensford.co.za)

Includes a bottle of River Garden wine of your choice.

### Dorian Haarhoff

Poet, story-teller, mentor and speaker with 25 years of experience. He believes in the power of story to create new realities. A former Professor of English (Namibia), his workshops are based on his workbook 'The Writer's Voice'. A lucky draw wins a copy!



## Spring Specials

20% Discount Code:  
NEWBERRYSRING

[www.wellnessinthewild.co.za](http://www.wellnessinthewild.co.za)



Newberry House

MONTESSORI SCHOOL

### For more information on our school, please get in touch:

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