



# The Newberry News

## What's in this issue:

- Message from the Head
- Cambridge Results Nov 2023
- Edible Curriculum
- Out and About
- Sports Talk
- Middle School productions
- Lourensford Community

## Message from the Head of Newberry

Dear Newberry Community,

There have been many highlights from Term one, which we are excited to share with you in the following pages.

This year, our focus is on embedding what has already been established in the following three areas:

1. **Education:** Our focus remains on embedding authentic Montessori education within every plane. We have been very encouraged by the consistent Cambridge exam results in our upper planes, and have been sharing how Montessori principles prepare our learners for the world of work through a series of articles on LinkedIn (it would be fantastic if you could follow our page if you do not do so yet!)
2. **Environment:** Our mission at Newberry is to showcase what is possible through our offering, including our Edible Curriculum, which we have been further embedding this year. This has been noticed by the wider community, where our learners have been invited to present at the SAMA Conference on how they are developing skills and experience to lead a sustainable lifestyle across all planes,
3. **Experience:** Real-life learning experiences are an integral part of education at Newberry, and we have continued to embed these within and outside the classroom this past term. We hosted our first swimming event, the Newberry Hiking Club kicked off in Jonkershoek this year, and exciting outings such as T20 cricket, Mamma Mia and our High School camp took place, in addition to the everyday experiences such as Middle School productions and Elementary Going-Outs.

Thank you so much for your support this past term; we look forward to continuing to embed our offering in the terms ahead.

Wishing you and your family a blessed, restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Best wishes,





# Cambridge Results Nov 2023

*Congratulations!*

The Cambridge International AS/A-level, IGCSE and Lower Secondary checkpoint exam results for 2023 were released at the beginning of the year and we are exceptionally proud of our Middle and High School learners whose results have exceeded global benchmarks.

As a school, our mission is to showcase what is possible through our model of authentic, quality Montessori and Cambridge International education, and these fantastic outcomes are a testament to the power of firm foundations laid through authentic implementation of quality Montessori education in the early and Elementary years, continuing throughout Middle School.

By the time they reach High School (Gr10-12), learners are empowered to take ownership of their learning journey, think critically, and apply their knowledge. This is what we celebrate most, where no matter what a learner's pathway may be after school, they can enter the world of adulthood with a lifelong love of learning and adaptability.

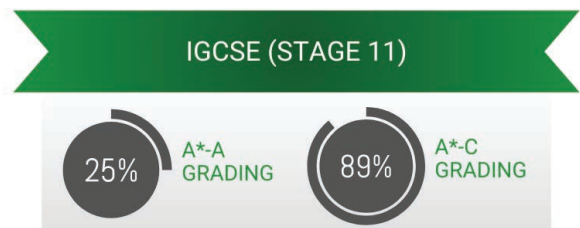
A few highlights:

**AS- and A-level:** We had 11 students completing their Matric, all of whom received their Matric certificates. This included 9 subject A grades.

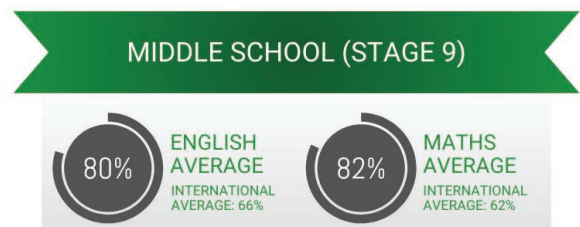


**IGCSE:** Our Grade 11 learners wrote 57 different papers across 14 subjects, where they achieved a 100% pass rate and the following results:

- A\* - A: 25%
- A\* - B: 54%
- A\* - C: 89%



**Middle School:** Our Grade 9 learners completed the Cambridge International Lower Secondary checkpoint exams, where they achieved an average of 80% for English (international average 66%) and 82% for Mathematics (international average of 62%).



Congratulations to our Cambridge learners for your tenacity, dedication and efforts throughout your learning journey. We are thankful for independent learners who show application, joy and effort in learning and are delighted to see so many of you having accomplished your goals.

Well done to the support team of educators and parents who invest into the lives of these students. We trust that these youngsters will leave a positive and lasting impact on our community.





# Edible Curriculum



Over the years, Newberry House has developed an “Edible Curriculum” where we introduce our learners to the importance of caring for, growing and ultimately harvesting their own produce.

This is a key part of one of our three pillars, namely “Environment”, where, in addition to cultivating a beautiful, inspirational campus, we aim to equip our learners with the tools they need to live a sustainable lifestyle.

Our “Edible Curriculum” has resulted in the incorporation of productive vegetable gardens into learning environments across the school:

- Our **Toddlers** are taught from an early age to care for plants and appreciate the role that they play in the greater community
- **Elementary learners** have access to their own plant boxes outside their classrooms, where they learn about planting and harvesting cycles of various edible plants (often sampled in the classroom!)
- **Middle School learners** are part of the Garden Grow “production”, where they prepare the soil, plant seeds and harvest produce according to planned schedules. 300 seedlings were planted last week, and the Garden Grow team also recently helped the Lourensford creche plant their own vegetable garden.
- **High School learners** are currently being guided by Indiana, one of our Newberry alumni, to design planter boxes that will form part of the campus’ supply of crops. They are pictured here creating signage for the garden.

Our aim is to create an environment that inspires our learners and everyone who sets foot on our campus, and to encourage a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

A group of Elementary, Middle and High School learners has also been invited to present on the Edible Curriculum at the upcoming SAMA Conference.

## Pumpkin Harvesting

Experiential learning at its best in Elementary!

A group of Upper Elementary learners harvested seven pumpkins, which they had nurtured from only two seeds planted back in November.

Another team explored different cooking skills and techniques in the kitchen, creating delicious pizzas for their community, educators and a few of our campus guests!







# Out and About

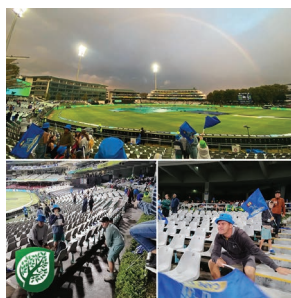
## T20 Cricket match

In January our Upper Campus students enjoyed a T20 Cricket match at Newlands, where they cheered on MI Cape Town, as they faced off against the Joburg Super Kings.

Despite the downpour of rain and limited overs, the students were in great spirits and even started a game of improv cricket, whilst waiting for play to return. A rainbow was also spotted over the cricket pitch, which lifted spirits even further.

A camera crew noticed the undeniable Newberry "gees" and interviewed our students to ask why they stayed loyal to their team in the wet weather. The students enthusiastic responses led to some great camera shots of our students in full support, when play finally resumed.

We are proud of our students and teachers for their positivity and perseverance throughout this event, which forms part of their real-life learning Experiences - a foundational pillar at Newberry.



## Mamma Mia

MAMMA MIA here we go again!

Our Upper Campus students and staff had a spectacular evening enjoying the live theater at the Artscape in Cape Town. They all sang, danced and cheered their way through the evening, which proved to be a truly magical evening!







# Out and About

## Newberry's Inaugural Outdoor Swimming Event

Towards the end of the term, we hosted our very first Newberry Interschools open water swimming event. Open water swimming has been part of our Newberry sports for the past two years, and we were very excited to invite Applewood Preparatory School, Beaumont Primary School, Somerset College to join us for our inaugural event this year.

Items included a 200m, 400m and 800m swim as well as a 4x 200m relay. One of the coaches remarked that the confidence that was instilled in those who took part was the most valuable part of the day.

A massive well done to all the swimmers who participated in the event. A special thank you also goes out to Orca Swimming and Fluidlines for the prizes and support, our event organisers and volunteers, as well as our team of fantastic swim coaches, Amy, Marele and Ronel, for their hard work throughout the season.

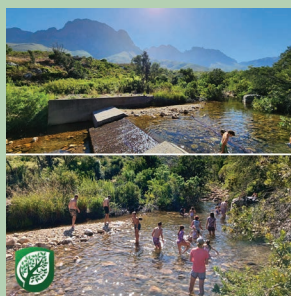


## Hiking Club

Our Newberry Hiking Club started the year with a hike in Jonkershoek Nature Reserve, this past Saturday.

Children, parents, and staff had a wonderful time walking together through the reserve, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. The children (and some adults) enjoyed a splash in the river and a picnic along the banks.

The Hiking Club has more outings planned for this year, so stay tuned for future events.







# Sports Talk

## SACSSA Athletics

Several athletes from Newberry took part in the SACSSA Athletics competition hosted at Curro Durbanville, this term. The event provided a platform for our athletes to challenge their endurance and skills in both track and field events, against peers from other schools in the region.

Two of our athletes also achieved new meeting records. Mia for the girls u/7 80m sprint and Emelie for girls u/10 long jump.



## Xterra Triathlon

We were thrilled to see three of our students take part in the Xterra Triathlon held on February 17th-18th 2024, in the scenic Elgin Valley, Grabouw.

Benjamin, Callum, and Charlotta displayed remarkable endurance and sportsmanship across all three stages of the race. Congratulations!



## Western Cape Schools MTB League Kick off

This past weekend marked the first Schools MTB League event for 2024, at Stettyn Family Vineyards.

Congratulations to Benjamin, Lukas, Franco, Lara, Len, Phillip and Logan and all others who completed the race and proudly represented Newberry.



## Cricket

Our U9 Cricket team took part in the Helderberg Mini Cricket league this term. They played 4 matches with good spirit and mutual respect between the teams. The players learnt about match dynamics and really enjoyed testing themselves against their opposition.

The hard work and commitment of everyone paid off. Special thank you to their coach (Louw - pictured with the team), as well as the players who flew the Newberry flag high!







# Middle School Productions (part 1)

In Middle School, our students have the chance to join different Production teams for a period of 6 months. This offers them the valuable opportunity to collaborate with experienced adults who provide experiential training in their respective fields. After 6 months, students are able to rotate teams and learn a new skill in the following 6 months.

Arts & Crafts	Catering
Construction	Creche
Drama & Music	Garden & Grow
Maintenance	MTB Trails

In this newsletter, we introduce 2 of these production teams and will showcase others in upcoming newsletters:

The **Construction team**, is spearheaded by Billy (pictured alongside the students). This year, this team has focused their skills on the design and construction of different sized Planter Boxes and have crafted a variety of beautiful boxes, that are available for sale.



The **Drama and Music team** are learning about different elements of the entertainment industry. They have been preparing monologues and have also written a 26-page script for a play, at the end of Term 2. This team is led by Demi, our Middle School English Teacher.



Another one of the aims of Productions is to enable our Middle School learners with the skills needed to gain economic independence. In March, our Middle Schoolers organised and hosted their own market, where they sold products made during their various Productions (Garden & Grow, Catering, Creche, MTB Trails, Arts & Crafts, Construction, Maintenance and Drama).

Items for sale included freshly-picked plants and veggies from our campus, hand-made jewellery stations, freshly-squeezed juices and fun games to raise funds for the creche. It was lovely seeing so many families from across our Newberry community coming out to support!

