



Our Lady of Fatima
Dominican Convent School
EST. 1954

FATIMA FOCUS

The official newsletter of Our Lady of Fatima Dominican Convent School



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Although rain threatened as we officially began the school year on Wednesday, 15th January, the weather could not dampen the buzz and excitement that filled our school. Our buildings were once again alive with the chatter and laughter of our girls. It has also been a pleasure to welcome 124 new learners to our Fatima family this year, and I am hopeful that each of our girls, both new and returning, is settling into their classrooms and routines.

On 26th March 1999, in his final speech in office before the elections, Nelson Mandela shared these poignant words: *"I am a product of Africa and her long-cherished dream of rebirth, that can now be realized so that all God's children may play in the sun."* What a beautiful dream for our people. This year, we embrace this sentiment as we explore our 2025 theme: **IN THE SUN**. Our hope is that each of our girls will find a place to shine and leave a lasting mark, both for our school and in their own memories.

Our Matrics of 2024 have upheld our tradition of academic excellence, achieving an impressive group average of 75%. This accomplishment is a testament to the nurturing environment created between teacher and learner, where every child feels supported on their educational journey. It is especially fitting that this year's top achiever, Julia Wellbeloved, who was named on the IEB Outstanding Achievers' list, spent all 12 years of her schooling within our walls.

While we celebrate our girls' academic achievements, we are most proud of the well-rounded young women they are becoming. Our educational approach is deeply rooted in the four Dominican pillars: **Study, Prayer, Service, and Community**. We are committed to growing not only their minds but also their faith, hearts, and sense of family and connection.

We look forward to another enriching and memorable year together as "Sisters in Blue".

Mrs.C Lourens

SPIRITUAL

As we begin an exciting year as the "school on the hill," tasked with shining Christ's light and setting an example for the community around us, we reflect on the beautiful metaphor Jesus used in His teachings: "Salt and Light"

Salt and light are two essential elements in the world. Salt preserves and enhances the flavour of food, while light dispels darkness and guides people on their way. Similarly, as Christians, we are called to preserve the goodness in the world, making it a better place through our actions. We are also called to be beacons of hope, pointing others to Christ through our words and deeds.

Pope Francis often speaks about our mission to be witnesses of God's love. He reminds us, "We are called to be missionaries, to be light in the world. You are the light of the world, and your light must shine!" (Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel). This is an invitation to live authentically as followers of Christ, showing His love and mercy to everyone we encounter. Whether through a kind word to a friend or standing up for justice in the face of injustice, we are called to reflect God's love in all that we do.

And so, our challenge to you: Let your light shine brightly, not for your own glory, but for the glory of God. Through your example, others will come to experience the transforming love of Christ and be drawn to His light. The world is waiting for you to be the light it needs. So, be bold, be bright, and let Christ shine through you today and always.

Miss T. Nanak

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Mrs Wedderburn and her husband on the joyful arrival of their son, Harland David, on Thursday. Welcome to the Fatima family, Harland



PARENT'S CORNER

OUR LADY OF FATIMA COLOUR FUN RUN

The PTA would like to invite all the students,
Grade 1 - 12 for the Colour Run

Place: Our Lady of Fatima School
(Registration - Grass court next to the pool)

Date: 7 February 2025

Time: 17H00 - 18H30

R150 per ticket

What to wear: Your funniest or
funkiest outfit (old clothes)

Best dressed prizes

Tickets available on Karri App
A free ice-lolly at the finish



PTA AGM - School Hall - 17h30

3 February 2025

All are welcome.

FOUNDATION PHASE

Our newest little Fatima girls have enjoyed a wonderful start to school this year. The Grade One girls have embraced the new and exciting aspects of big school and have really impressed their teachers with how well they have adapted.

While learning through play and celebrating new knowledge, the girls have engaged in a wide range of activities. Some of these activities include letter formation with play dough, a game to consolidate the concept of '1 more' and a teddy bear picnic after revising the letter 't'.

With this warm Durban weather we have been experiencing, the girls have loved cooling off during their swimming lessons. The girls are grouped according to their swimming ability and each group has their own coach. We cannot wait to watch our little mermaids go from strength to strength.

We look forward to spending this year together. May we all THRIVE in 2025!



SENIOR PRIMARY

Senior Primary Leadership Assembly

We held our leadership assembly in the primary school.

Our Grade 7s embrace the principles of servant leadership, discovering the value of leading through service. Through our "Leaders in Learning" programme, each girl is given the opportunity to step into a leadership role, gaining valuable skills and insights that prepare them to guide and inspire others effectively.



FATIMA FAMILIES



Our first Fatima Families meet up for 2025! The girls were introduced to their sisters in blue and much fun was had as you can see. This concept was designed to nurture the sisterhood and connection amongst our Grades 1 to 7 girls. This tradition encourages younger girls to feel welcomed and guided by their older "sisters", while senior girls develop mentorship skills. Fatima Families instills a sense of unity and belonging, ensuring that every girl feels supported within our school community.

HIGH SCHOOL

MATRIC RESULTS

We are extremely proud of the **CLASS of 2024**

63 CANDIDATES

- 100% Matric Pass
- 100% Bachelor Degree Pass
- 8 rankings in top 1% of subjects nationally
- 18 A aggregates
- 155 Subject As
- Group average of 75%

1 Outstanding Achiever

Julia Wellbeloved - Top 5% in 6 or more subjects nationally and over 80% in LO

1 Commendable Achiever

Zara Atkinson - Top 5% in 5 or more subjects nationally and over 80% in LO



Julia Wellbeloved

7 distinctions

IEB Outstanding Achiever

Top 1% in History and Mathematics



Zara Atkinson

7 distinctions

IEB Commendable Achiever

Top 1% in CAT, Mathematical Literacy, and Consumer Studies



Iliana Christodoulou

8 distinctions



Amy Young

8 distinctions



Emma-Grace Headicar

7 distinctions

Top 1% in English



Sophia Kerr

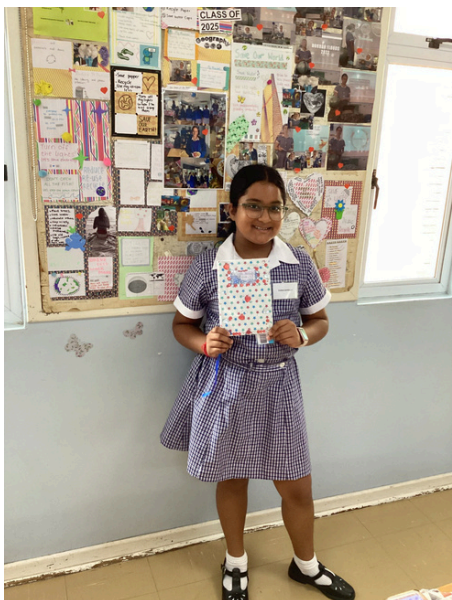
7 distinctions

Top 1% in Life Sciences

Filipa Groppo Top 1% in Mathematical Literacy

CRAFT CLUB

The high school craft club started off the year by personalising their journals.



MARIMBA

The High School Marimba Band kicked off the year with a bang attending a 2.5 hour workshop on the first Saturday of the school year. The marimba specialist and extraordinaire, Calvin Human, took them through their paces and a productive morning was had by all. We look forward to hearing some of their summer tunes at the next Fatima event as the marimba girls bring all the vibe.



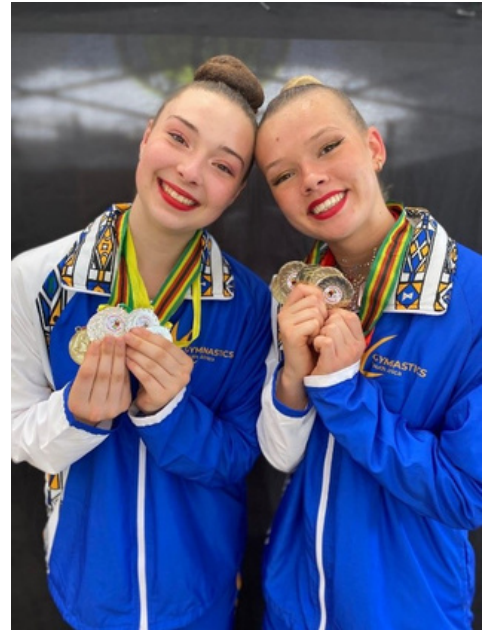
SWIMMING

Indiana de Villiers represented South Africa at the Salnikov Cup in St Petersburg, 19-21 December. Indiana swam 6 individual events and participated in 3 relays. She achieved 4 personal best times and made 3 B Finals for 50 back, 50 fly and 100 fly. What a fantastic experience and achievement!



RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Almoné Bosch and Amy Rose George represented South Africa at the Rhythmic Gymnastics Region 5 Competition in Harare in December. SA won gold in the Junior team (which consisted of Almoné and Amy), and individually Amy Rose won gold, and Almoné Bosch won silver. Well done girls!



NETBALL

Emma Schoombee and Caitlin Thorresson represented the KZN Barbarian Netball team at the Dubai 7's at the Emirates Stadium. Their team qualified for playoffs and finished 2nd in the pool.

WATERPOLO

Our first team water polo have been playing friendly games in preparation for the Aquatics Festival at the end of January. The team played a friendly vs Westville Girls High School and won 11 – 4, vs St Mary's and lost 4 – 6, and vs Maris Stella and lost 3 – 9. We wish all the girls all the best for the upcoming Aquatics Festival.



INDOOR HOCKEY

This past weekend, our U14A, U16A, and 1st Team indoor hockey teams participated in their respective Age Group Tournaments. We are incredibly proud of our girls and their outstanding performance. Wishing all the teams the very best for the season ahead!

Here are the results:

U14 -Final placing 2nd

Opposition	Result	Score
Thomas More College	Won	6 – 1
St Mary's	Won	4 - 0
Maris Stella	Won	6 - 0
St Mary's A (Finals)	Lost	1 - 3

U16A-Final placing 2nd

Opposition	Result	Score
Thomas More College	Won	5 – 1
DGHS	Won	5 – 1
Ashton	Won	3 – 0
Maris Stella	Won	1 – 0
St Mary's (Finals)	Lost	2 – 3

1st -Final placing 3rd

Opposition	Result	Score
Danville	Won	2– 1
DGHS	Won	4 – 0
DGC	Lost	0 – 2
St Mary's (Semi's)	Lost on shootouts	2 – 3
Ashton (3rd & 4th play off)	Won	2 – 0

Congratulations to Kayla Driver who was selected as the Keeper of the Tournament for the 1st team.



Week 1 Indoor Hockey League Results

Team	Opposition	Result	Score
U14A	St Mary's RHU	Lost	1 – 4
		Won	10 – 1
U14B	St Henry's AD GC B	Won	2 – 0
		Lost	1 – 2
U16A	DGC DGHS	Lost	3 – 6
		Won	6 – 1
U16B	St Henry's A WGHS A	Won	6 – 1
		Won	4 – 2
1st	TMC St Mary's	Won	5 – 0
		Lost	1 – 3
2nd	Kloof GH 1st NGHS 1st	Won	7 – 0
		Won	4 – 3



Growing MINDS
Growing FAITH
Growing HEART
Growing FAMILY

NEWS

Celebrating the First Day of School with Grade 1 and Grade 8 bell ringing



DEDICATION MASS FOR 2025

The four pillars of Dominican life are Prayer, Study, Community, and Service. Inspired by the example of Saint Dominic, the founder of the Dominican Order, these pillars are essential for spiritual growth and living a meaningful life.

As Dominican Catholic Christian traditions are at the heart of our educational offering, the primary and high school celebrated dedication masses, committing our school year to God. These celebrations embody the Dominican pillar of prayer.



JOIN US at one of our

OPEN DAYS

ADMISSIONS 2026

Open Morning

Grade 1-11 • 15 February 2025
09h00-12h00

Open Evening

Grade 8-11 • 17 February 2025
17h00-20h00

Bursary Applications

Grade 8 2026

Book a tour via our website • www.fatima.co.za



Our Lady of Fatima

DOMINICAN CONVENT SCHOOL | Est 1954

Growing MINDS • *Growing* FAITH • *Growing* HEART • *Growing* FAMILY

JUBILEE TRUST

A cursory study of the history of the Convent School on top of the hill in Durban North will reveal that from its humble beginnings in 1954, the school has reached heights and garnered a reputation that its founders could hardly have imagined. From its establishment as a school for young girls (and boys in the junior classes) in the fledgling suburb of Durban North looking for a Catholic-based education, the school has faced and overcome a number of challenges to its existence.

For the first few decades enrolment numbers were a concern – could we remain viable? Some old girls will remember having to join forces with Oakford Priory to compete as Combined Convent in the D Section of the D&D Swimming gala. The government of the day and its apartheid policies also posed a challenge to the school, which was one of the first to open its doors to children of colour. Did you know that the decision to build the swimming pool was in response to the municipality not allowing non-white learners to swim at the Durban North Baths which the school used for swimming lessons and galas?

The last years of the previous century and the first of this one saw the opening of a number of private schools in the north Durban area, again posing a threat to Fatima's existence. Fortunately, the Newcastle Dominican Sisters and leaders of the school did not panic and, by staying true to its founding intent of providing affordable, quality education rooted in Christian values, the school continues to exist. But we do more than exist. Indeed a case can be made that the school has flourished in the face of growing competition. Today, our learners compete on the national academic, cultural and sporting stages and it would not be an understatement to say that Our Lady of Fatima is regarded as one of the premier schools of its kind in South Africa today. To help to continue the legacy, we need your support.

Allow us to introduce you the **FATIMA JUBILEE TRUST**

In terms of its Trust Deed, the Jubilee Trust has as its main objective, to receive donations, allocations, bequests and similar receipts for purposes of promoting the objectives as indicated below:

- oThe attraction and retention of staff and learners who meet the agreed criteria
- oThe development of infrastructure and buildings
- oThe provision and upgrading of technology, resources and equipment.

From the outset it was anticipated that parents, alumni and supporters of the school would be the main contributors to the Trust. To make the Trust attractive to donors, the vehicle itself is registered in such a way that contributions can be tax deductible in the hands of individual or corporate donors in addition to qualifying for corporate SED spend criteria. The Trust itself is independent from the school and is administered by a Board of Trustees together with a professional trustee. This ensures that the appropriate governance is in place and that objective decisions are made regarding the nature and essence of any funding.

Since 2014 the Trust has made a significant contribution to the success, including the transformation, of the school. Building on the proud record of its first seventy years and the momentum generated in recent years is critical if the school is to prevail in a fast-changing world, and we would like the Jubilee Trust to play its part in ensuring continued success. To do this, we need your support! If you would like to make a donation, please contact either Nic Horn @ nich@citadel.co.za or Andrew Campbell @ andrew@oilco.co.za