



WOODRIDGE PREPARATORY

MORE THAN A SCHOOL, AN EXPERIENCE



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August / issue # 10

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90 Years of Woodridge:

Past, Present, and Future

Dear Families,

In 1936, Leslie and Mervynne Carter opened Woodridge Preparatory with just three pupils. From those humble beginnings, the school steadily grew to a full complement of 80, thereby laying the foundation for the thriving community we are today. In later years, the Carters' sons, Roger and Godfrey, continued the family legacy by joining the school as staff members.

The College officially opened in 1967 with 24 pupils across three grades. While originally intended as a boys' boarding school, the presence of daughters of staff and neighbouring families meant that girls were part of the Woodridge story from the start. The first official group of girls matriculated in 1980, and by the 1990s, our bussing system had been established. Today, we are proud to be a vibrant co-educational community of boarders and day scholars. The original Cadle's Hotel building, which housed the school in 1936, still stands proudly at the heart of our Prep School—home to the library, reception, and offices.

This past weekend, we welcomed a number of Old Woodridgeans back to campus. Our Friday Founders Day Assembly was a particularly meaningful moment, with all 801 pupils—from Grade 0000 to Grade 12—gathered in the Raymond Richie Hall in celebration of our founders. As guest speaker, we were privileged to have Debbie Birch (nee Carter), granddaughter of our founders, who attended Woodridge from grade 1. Her reflections on her time at Woodridge and her life since leaving school were deeply appreciated.

In Debbie's words, "The heart of my message is simple: faith matters. Not just faith in a religious sense but faith in ourselves, in each other, and something greater than the immediate moment. When instilled from a young age, faith becomes the foundation for courage, resilience, and leadership."

[Click HERE to read Debbie's full speech](#)

As we look ahead to the 90th anniversary of the Prep School next year, plans are already taking shape for a truly special celebration. We will be inviting parent involvement—whether through our planning committee or by volunteering—and we look forward to working together to mark this milestone in style.

Service remains a cornerstone of our school ethos, and it has been heartening to see so many pupils actively living out that value. Whether through bottle tops and bread tag collections, thoughtful speeches of thanks, beautifying our junior library, or picking up litter without being asked, your efforts do not go unnoticed. A special mention goes to Carli Bouwer, Bella Watson, Holley Diedericks, Isabel and Stefan Ferreira, Kimber Rautenbach, Tyler van der Nest, Arnoldo Aylward, Jaimie Lues, and Riley Russett—thank you for showing such heart and initiative. These pupils are shining examples of what it means to be a Woodridgean.

On the cultural front, the Art, Drama, and Music Festival was a wonderful display of creativity. With 159 pupils participating across all three disciplines, it was wonderful to see such confidence, talent, and enthusiasm. Well done to every performer and artist—you've made us proud!

On an even higher note, the Marimba players deserve a resounding bravo! The group travelled to Cape Town recently and took part in a record-setting ensemble at the Grand Arena—an unforgettable experience! Performing alongside 1,137 musicians as part of a Guinness World Record attempt for the largest marimba ensemble. This extraordinary and unforgettable moment is something these 15 pupils will surely treasure for years to come.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce that five of our Grade 6 and 7 pupils will soon be embarking on a journey to attend a Round Square International Conference in Varanasi, India, hosted by Sunbeam School. The theme, "The Eyes Behind the I," invites deep reflection and global connection. After the conference, the group will also have the opportunity to visit some of India's most iconic landmarks, including the Taj Mahal. What an adventure awaits! We wish them safe travels and look forward to hearing all about their adventure upon their return.

Term 2 has been rich in energy, creativity, teamwork, and school spirit, amongst many other great things. A heartfelt thank you to all who came out to support our weekend derby fixtures—your presence on the sidelines brings so much encouragement and joy to our teams.

As we head into a well-deserved break, we wish all our families a restful and happy holiday.

Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership.

Yours sincerely

Trevor





GRADE 6S - 67 MINUTES FOR MANDELA DAY

To honour Nelson Mandela's legacy, the Grade 6s took part in a litter cleanup around the campus. It was truly commendable to see how enthusiastically they dedicated their time and energy to such a meaningful cause. Their spirit of service and care for the environment was a fitting tribute to Madiba's values.



LET'S GO HIKING GRADE 3S

Let's set foot on the hiking trail and discover the hidden beauty around every bend



The Grade 3 pupils enjoyed a guided Nature Walk led by Graeme Pienaar, a specialist in South African flora. He introduced them to indigenous plant species, explained their uses, and highlighted the importance of conservation, identifying endangered, invasive, and poisonous plants along the way.

It was a fun day spent outdoors with friends





THE INCREDIBLE DOG SHOW

What an exciting day it was for our Grade 1–3 pupils as they were treated to an incredible dog show filled with fun, laughter, and jaw-dropping tricks!

The pupils were absolutely mesmerized by the talented dogs as they performed everything from clever stunts to playful routines.

The highlight of the show? A stylish black poodle that made a grand entrance in its very own little car, stealing the spotlight and the hearts of everyone watching. It was truly a day to remember!



Arts, Music & Drama festival

The Arts, Music, and Drama Festival was a vibrant celebration of creativity and talent. Throughout the week, pupils had the opportunity to showcase their artistic abilities, and many special moments were captured as they took to the stage. It was truly inspiring to witness the energy, passion, and talent of our pupils in action.



In the News

LOGAN GOEDHALS



Logan represented the U11 Gqeberha Saints Lynxes team, who secured a 2-1 victory in the final to win the Priory Night Tournament.

It was a fantastic achievement, marked by excellent skill, teamwork, and determination.

Congratulations, Logan!



ANDRÉ BOUWER



André Bouwer placed 1st in the Boys 7-8 age division at the National Jiu-Jitsu Takedown Competition, held during the J-Bay Surf Fest. A remarkable achievement!

Congratulations, André!



In the News

BELLA WATSON



A big thank you to Bella Watson in Grade 7 for her outstanding initiative and creativity in bringing our junior library's blank wall to life!

We absolutely love it and truly appreciate your amazing contribution Bella!



CARLI BOUWER



Carli Bouwer earned second place in the Girls 9-10 Under 28kg division at the National Jiu-Jitsu Takedown Competition, held during the J-Bay Surf Fest.

Although she was the only competitor in her weight class, Carli showed exceptional courage and sportsmanship by stepping up to face a significantly older and heavier boy. An impressive display of bravery and determination – Congratulations, Carli!



In the News

CARLO PINEDA



Carlo's team, the Old Grey Eagles, competed in the Gqeberha Saints Night Tournament. Playing in the U9 Premier League division, they secured 3rd place overall.

Congratulations Carlo!



DANTE PINEDA



Dante's football team, the Old Grey Predators, took part in the Gqeberha Saints Night Tournament. Competing in the U7 Premier League division, they finished in 3rd place overall. Dante was also awarded 'Player of the Match', during the 3rd and 4th place playoffs for his team.

Congratulations, Dante!

