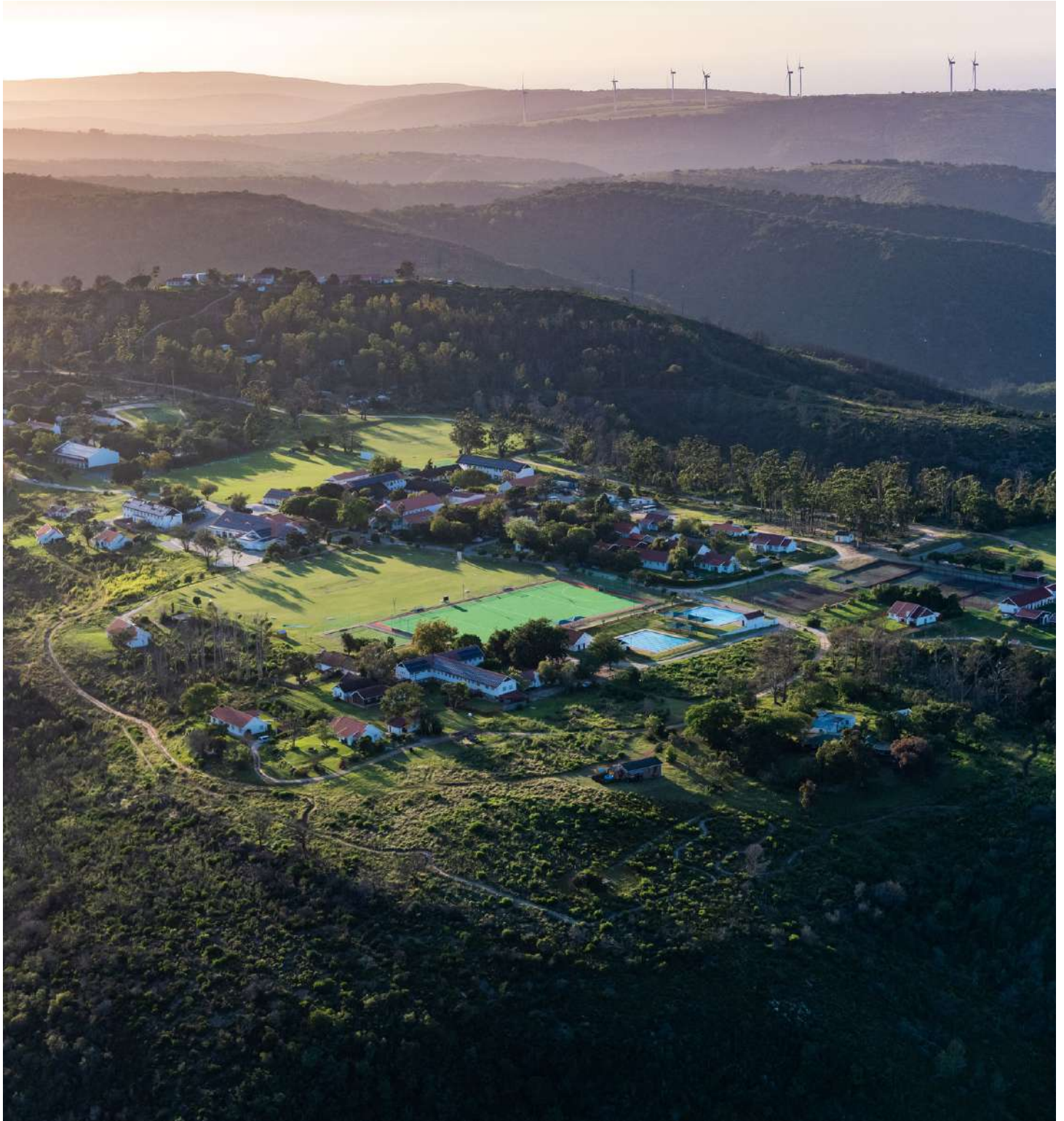




WOODRIDGE PREPARATORY

more than a school...an experience



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Parents Trail Run & Walk



FROM THE HEADMASTER RAISING CHILDREN WHO KNOW THEY MATTER

As parents and educators, we naturally want the very best for our children. We want them to flourish academically, to make first teams, to perform on stage, and to discover and develop their gifts. Healthy striving, commitment, discipline, and excellence are all deeply worthwhile pursuits. At Woodridge Preparatory, we believe strongly in encouraging children to pursue their potential with courage and enthusiasm.

But an important question quietly sits beneath all of this:

What are our children hearing us praise most loudly?

Are they hearing that they are valued primarily for what they achieve? Or are they hearing that they are valued for who they are becoming?

There is a profound difference between the two. Recent research around child development and well-being warns of what some psychologists are calling a “toxic achievement culture” — an environment where children begin to believe that their value is conditional upon performance. When praise and affirmation become tied almost exclusively to outcomes, children can slowly internalise the belief that success equals worthiness and failure equals inadequacy.

The danger is not in encouraging excellence. The danger lies in narrowing our definition of success.

One of the most powerful ideas I encountered recently is the concept of “mattering” — the belief children hold that they are valued, significant, and loved regardless of outcomes. Children who know they matter deeply to the adults in their lives are far more resilient when setbacks come. And setbacks will come.

A disappointing result. Not making the A team. Falling short of a goal. Struggling socially. Losing confidence. Experiencing failure.

These moments are not interruptions to childhood; they are part of the formation of character.

As adults, we have the opportunity to help shape how children interpret these experiences.

Psychologist Carol Dweck’s work on growth mindset reminds us that children flourish when they are praised not only for success, but for qualities such as perseverance, courage, kindness, discipline, humility, curiosity, teamwork, and effort.

When children learn that mistakes are not verdicts on their identity but growth opportunities, they become more willing to embrace challenge and persist through difficulty.

In sport, this may mean praising the child who encouraged a teammate after a loss, showed grit at practice, displayed humility in victory, or demonstrated commitment when nobody was watching.

Academically, it may mean noticing diligence, improvement, resilience, creativity, or a willingness to ask for help rather than simply celebrating the highest mark in the class.

These quieter qualities are often the foundations upon which meaningful lives are built.

At Woodridge Preparatory, we speak often about educating the whole child. Our aim has never been solely to produce high achievers, but rather young people of character, purpose, compassion, courage, and integrity.

Young people who understand that their identity is far greater than any result sheet or team selection.



FROM THE HEADMASTER **RAISING CHILDREN WHO KNOW THEY MATTER**

Of course, achievement matters. Standards matter. Hard work matters. Excellence matters.

But these things must remain in their proper place. If children begin to believe they are loved most when they are succeeding most, the pressure can become overwhelming. Eventually, achievement itself can cease to bring joy when it becomes driven primarily by fear.

As a school community, perhaps we need to remind ourselves regularly that childhood is not meant to be a constant performance review. Our children need homes and schools that remain safe places to land — places where they know that their mattering is never in question.

As parents, coaches, and teachers, perhaps one of the greatest gifts we can offer our children is perspective. To remind them that while results are important, they are not ultimate. Who they are becoming matters more than any accolade they may accumulate along the way.

Long after marks are forgotten and trophies gather dust, character endures. And perhaps that is the deeper work of preparatory education: not merely preparing children for high school, university, or careers, but preparing them for life itself.

A life marked not only by achievement, but by resilience, kindness, purpose, humility, courage, and the deep understanding that they matter.

Further Reading & Research

Blackwell, L. S., Trzesniewski, K. H., & Carol Dweck. (2007). Implicit Theories of Intelligence Predict Achievement Across an Adolescent Transition: A Longitudinal Study and an Intervention. *Child Development*.

Mueller, C. M., & Carol Dweck. (1998). Praise for Intelligence Can Undermine Children's Motivation and Performance. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 75(1), 33–52.

Jennifer Breheny Wallace. (2023). *Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic — and What We Can Do About It*. Portfolio/Penguin Random House.

“

Grit is living life like it's a
marathon, not a sprint.

~Angela Duckworth

YOURS SINCERELY

Clifford Reed



IMPORTANT SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Important Communications

As parents and educators, we all share the responsibility of helping our children develop habits of responsibility, organisation, and accountability. There are two important matters we would like to bring to your attention.

Communication Regarding Collection and Bus Arrangements

We would also like to remind parents that all communication regarding changes to collection arrangements, bus schedules, or early collections must be directed through the front office and not via class teachers.

While we fully understand that emergencies and unexpected changes do arise, our teachers are unable to manage ongoing WhatsApp messages and last-minute changes throughout the school day while teaching and supervising children. Staff have been instructed to prioritise teaching, coaching, and pupil safety during the day and may therefore miss messages sent directly to them.

Wherever possible, children should arrive at school already aware of their collection arrangements for the day. Any emergency changes should be communicated directly to the front office, **specifically through Mrs Lizaan Stamos**.

Please note that any changes relating to the early bus must be communicated by no later than 10:00 on the day in question so that final bus registers and supervision arrangements can be accurately completed.

These procedures are essential to ensure effective safeguarding and to allow us to account accurately for the whereabouts and collection arrangements of every child in our care.

We appreciate your understanding and support in helping us maintain safe and efficient systems for all pupils.

Lost Property

We are currently experiencing a significant volume of lost property passing through the Preparatory offices on a daily basis, including brand-new tracksuit tops, lunchboxes, water bottles, sports equipment, musical instruments, and other personal items. Unfortunately, many of these items are unlabelled, making it extremely difficult to return them to their owners.

To streamline the process going forward, all unclaimed lost property will remain in the Prep office until Friday each week. Any items not collected by Friday will then be sent to the School Shop for sorting. Labelled items will be returned to pupils via their class teachers, while unlabelled items will be redirected to the second-hand shop.

We ask all parents to please ensure that every item brought to school is clearly labelled and to have conversations with your children around personal responsibility and caring for their belongings.

YOURS SINCERELY

Clifford Reed

RESPONSIBLE RAMI



EXPERIENCES AT WOODRIDGE... *FROM OUR GRADE 7 2026 PARENTS*

At Woodridge, every smile, curious question, and small victory tells a story—and our parents are the heart of those stories. Below are heartfelt reflections from families who've seen their children flourish here through unique experiences. Read their words to get a true sense of the warm community, thoughtful learning, and joyful growth that make Woodridge feel like home.

Thank you so so much to Mr Boreham and all the Grade 7 teachers, interns and the rest of the staff for making this unforgettable journey possible for our kids.....we are so so grateful!
~ Anonymous: Grade 7 Parent

Makes my heart sing to hear such happy children immersed in nature! This is why we send our kids to Woodridge.
~ Anonymous: Grade 7 Parent

I'm so proud of all the kids for completing such a tough couple of days. Mentally and physically, with the weather really trying to make things more difficult, they all achieved something not many other schools are doing. While most kids are in 4 walls and a roof, ours were challenging themselves, pushing the limits. After they set up their tents, it looked like a scene from a movie with a beautiful backdrop and perfect weather, and all you could hear was laughter. I don't know if those kids realise how special that moment was!
~ Anonymous: Grade 7 Parent

It was absolutely incredible. We sat there for 20 minutes just watching them swim and have fun. Hollywood couldn't have scripted a more poetic and beautifully shot scene. It's a moment I won't ever forget.
~ Anonymous: Grade 7 Parent

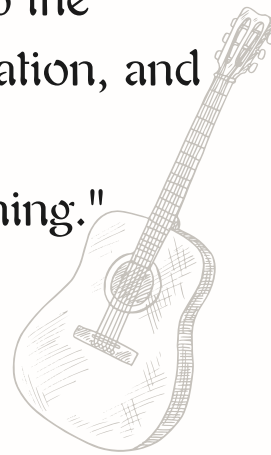


Knock on Wood Festival



“ 

Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything."
~Plato

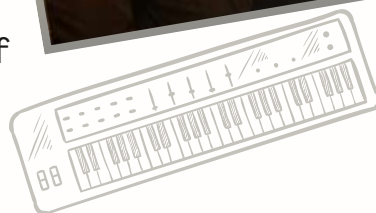


The school music festival was a vibrant and exciting event that brought together several schools to celebrate talent and creativity through music.

Pupils showcased a variety of genres, from classical and jazz to contemporary and cultural performances, creating an atmosphere filled with energy and enthusiasm.



It was inspiring to see the children so dedicated to their disciplines, performing with confidence, passion, and determination as they gave their very best on stage.



Thank you to our music staff for their dedication and care during the Knock on Wood Arts Festival.

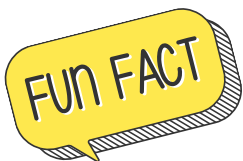


KNOCK ON WOOD FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



World Bee Day

The Foundation Phase pupils had an amazing lesson during our celebration of World Bee Day. They learned about bees, their role in pollination, and why they are important for nature...



Food Security: Bees pollinate roughly (75%) of the world's leading food crops, meaning one in every three bites of food depends on them.

WHY BEES MATTER

Biodiversity: They help maintain healthy ecosystems by enabling wild plants to reproduce, which provides food and shelter for countless other wildlife species.

Economic Impact: Pollinators directly support the livelihoods of millions of agricultural workers and rural communities.



Good food. Fresh air. Breath-taking views...

FARMER'S MARKET



It was a wonderful spectacle on Saturday, witnessing our parents and staff working together to host an outstanding Farmer's Market / Derby Day.

We would like to thank all parents and staff for setting up stalls, volunteering for shifts, and donating items. Your contributions made the day such a success.

We raised R50 000, which will be allocated to various departments within the school. We will share a list of items purchased and areas upgraded in due course.

A special thank you as well for the Winter Warmers donations.



DERBY DAY Just Play. Have Fun. Enjoy the game...

Our pupils enjoyed a day filled with sporting fixtures against multiple schools, including Greenwood Bay, St Francis, Victory, St George's, and Parkside Primary.

It was lovely to have these schools on campus, as well as the College hosting York, their fiercest rivals.

The campus was abuzz with amazing sport and wonderful support from parents throughout the day.

Sincerely Anda Sakube



highlights



STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Tanya von Berg on the birth of little Handré! Wishing Anrich and Tanya endless joy and precious moments as they begin this beautiful new chapter.

A special mention to Janco, who is already proving to be a loving and doting big brother.

Wishing Tanya, Anrich, Janco, and Handré a lifetime filled with love, happiness, and good health.



A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."
~ 2 TIMOTHY 1:7



IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been selected for the Eastern Province Hockey teams for the IPT 2026.

We wish them every success as they proudly hold the Woodridge flag high and represent both their province and school with pride, commitment, and sportsmanship.

Well done on this outstanding achievement!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



WOODRIDGE



**INDUSTRO
PLUMBERS**



ALGOA JOINERY
MANUFACTURERS OF ALUMINIUM
SHOPFRONTS - WINDOWS - DOORS - SHOWERS



CityPaint&Tool
we coat your world

CLICK HERE TO INVEST IN OUR HOCKEY PROGRAMME &
SEE YOUR BRAND SHOWCASED AROUND OUR TURF!



PARENTS

Trail Run & Walk

📍 BEFORE THE SPORT. TOGETHER. ❤️

Let's start the Saturday with fresh air, good company and great energy! ❤️



MEET AT:
PREP PARKING LOT
(Enter off Old Main Road)



TIME:
7:30AM
(Budget about an hour)



EVERY PARENT WELCOME!
Walkers and runners welcome. ❤️



IF MTB IS MORE YOUR THING –
you can do that too!



❤️
**JOIN US FOR A
TRAIL RUN / WALK
ON THE WOODRIDGE
TRAILS &
FLOWER RESERVE**
❤️

IF YOU'RE KEEN TO BE A PART OF THIS,
join the WhatsApp group! ❤️



**CLICK THE LINK
TO JOIN** ↓



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EjstYz461XICDCmiv62fpU>

See you on the trails! ❤️



STRONGER TOGETHER. ONE COMMUNITY. ONE WOODRIDGE. ❤️

Building connections. Supporting each other. Living the *Woodridae Spirit.* ❤️

