



WOODRIDGE PREPARATORY

MORE THAN A SCHOOL, AN
EXPERIENCE...



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FROM THE HEADMASTER

A REFLECTION ON FOUNDATIONS

There are certain occasions in the life of a school that invite us to pause, look back, and reflect on the journey that has brought us to where we are today. Our recent Founders' Day celebrations were one such occasion.

Over the past week, I have had the privilege of sharing in several special moments, from the unveiling of our Foundation Stone to our Founders' Day Assembly. Along the way, I have had the opportunity to spend time with old boys, old girls, former staff, parents, and friends of Woodridge. As stories were shared and memories revisited, I found myself reflecting on a simple but profound question: What is it that has sustained Woodridge for ninety years?

The answer, I believe, lies in the foundations upon which our school was built.

Psalm 127:1 reminds us:

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain."

When Mervyn and Lesley Carter established Woodridge in 1936 with just sixteen pupils, they were not simply building a school. They were establishing a vision, which was deeply rooted in Christian faith, shaped by a love for children, and grounded in the belief that education is about far more than academic achievement.

Their dream was to create a place where character would be formed, where resilience would be developed through challenge and adventure, where service would be valued, and where young people would be equipped to lead lives of significance and purpose.

Ninety years later, I am struck by how much of that original vision remains visible in our community.

Of course, much has changed. The campus has grown. New facilities have been added. Generations of pupils have passed through our gates. Yet as I watched our pupils participate in the celebrations and listened to former Woodridgeans speak so fondly about their time here, I was reminded that the essence of Woodridge remains remarkably unchanged.

We are still a school that believes in developing the whole child.

We still understand the value of muddy shoes, outdoor adventures, teamwork, service, and challenge.

We still believe that character matters.

And perhaps most importantly, we remain committed to placing Christ at the centre of all that we do.

One of the highlights of the celebrations for me was seeing our Grade 7 pupils join the College OE Day and participate in such a special celebration of one of Woodridge's most treasured traditions.

Outdoor Education has long been a defining part of the Woodridge experience and remains one of the aspects that truly sets our school apart. It was wonderful to see our Prep pupils sharing in this occasion alongside College pupils, current families, Prep families, old Woodridgeans, and friends of the school. The day served as a powerful reminder of the enduring values that unite our community and of the unique educational journey that generations of Woodridge pupils have been privileged to experience.

The unveiling of the Foundation Stone was another particularly meaningful moment. While it marks our ninety-year milestone, it also serves as a reminder that every generation has a responsibility to build upon the foundations that have been laid before them.

As I stood alongside members of the Carter family and watched pupils from different generations gather around this symbol of our heritage, I was reminded that we are not simply beneficiaries of a vision established ninety years ago — we are custodians of it.

Our task is not merely to preserve traditions, but to ensure that the values and principles upon which Woodridge was founded continue to shape the lives of the young people entrusted to our care. Faith. Character. Service. Adventure. Community. These are not simply words from our past; they remain guideposts for our future.

I left the celebrations feeling deeply grateful. Grateful to the Carter family for their courage, sacrifice, and vision; grateful to the generations of staff who have faithfully served this community; grateful to the families who continue to entrust their children to us; and grateful for the privilege of leading a school with such a rich heritage and clear sense of purpose.

As we celebrate ninety years of Woodridge, may we honour those who have gone before us by remaining faithful to their vision.

May we continue to place Christ at the centre of all that we do. And may we build with courage, conviction, and hope, ensuring that the foundations laid in 1936 continue to shape and inspire generations of Woodridgeans for many years to come.

YOURS SINCERELY

Clifford Reed



Science

Fair Exhibition



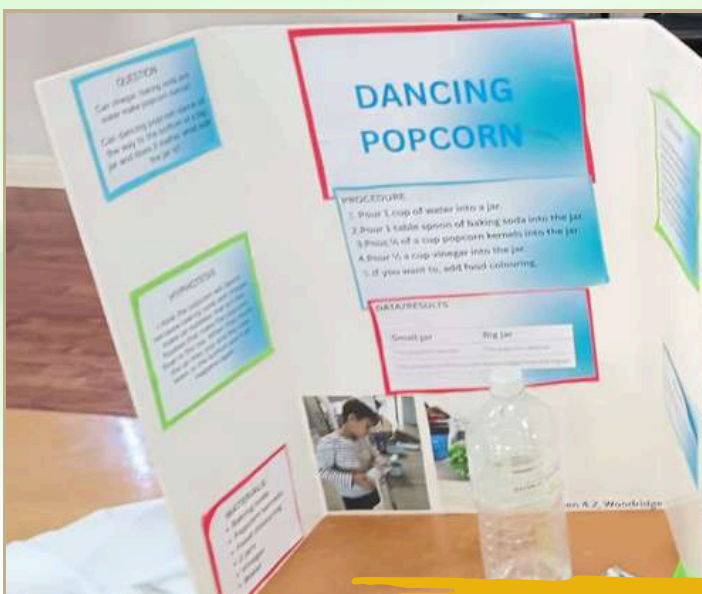
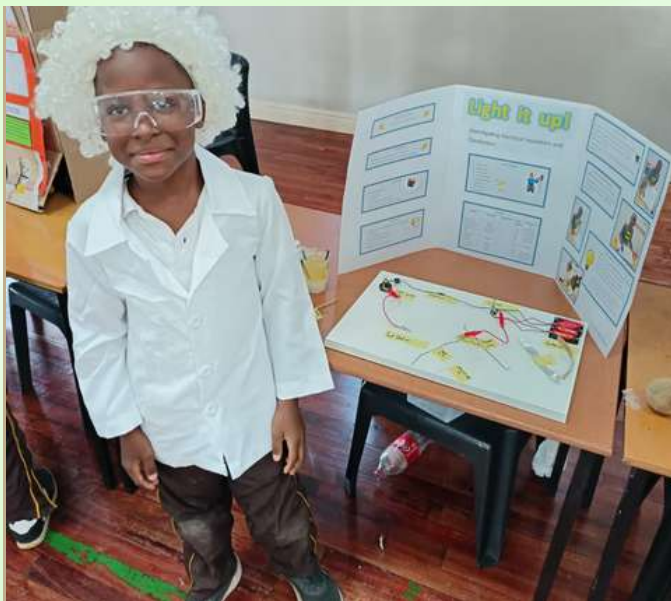
Interactive Experiments

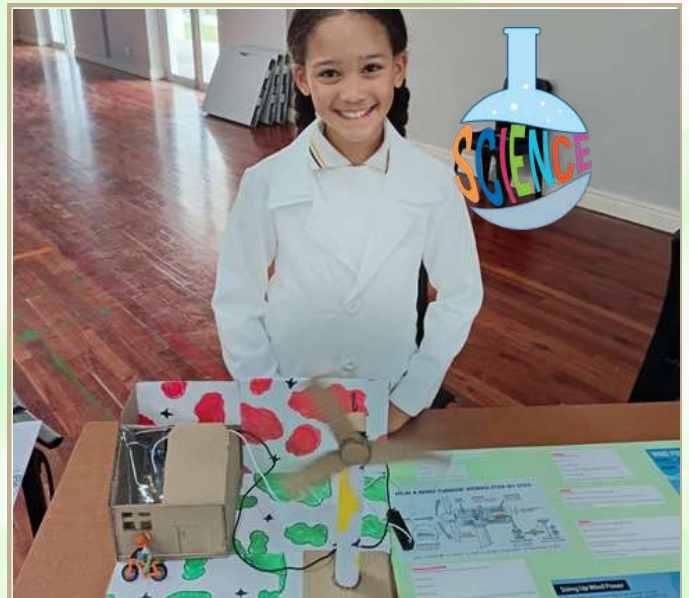
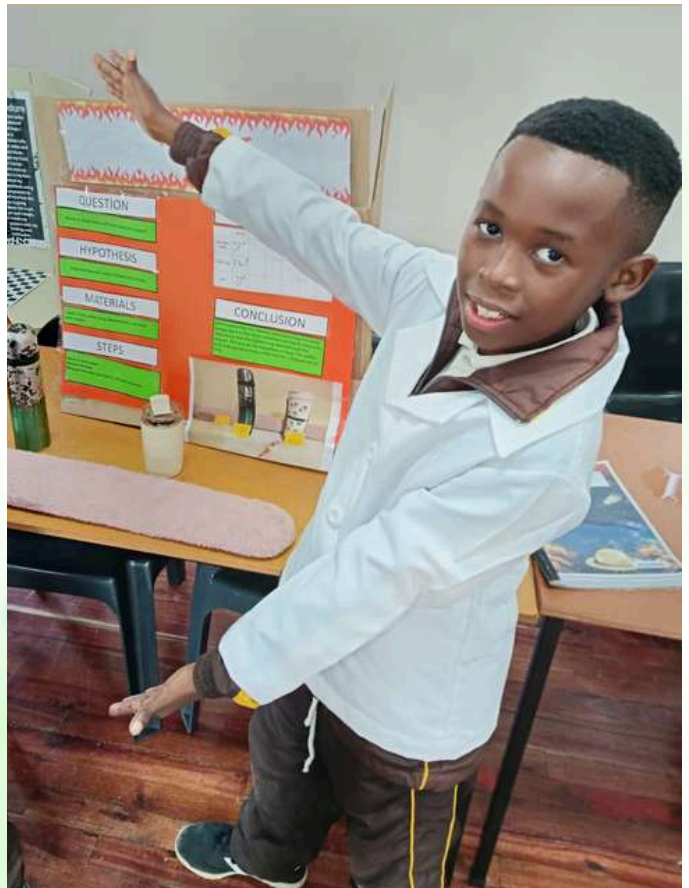
Our Grade 4 pupils impressed everyone at the Science Expo with their creative projects.

They eagerly presented their experiments, confidently explaining their findings and showcasing their curiosity, innovation, and enthusiasm for science.

It was wonderful to see their hard work and dedication on display. Congratulations to all our Grade 4 pupils on a fantastic science expo!







INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS RUGBY FESTIVAL

27 June-1 July 2026



The U13A rugby team enjoyed a highly successful Independent Schools Rugby Festival hosted by St David's in Johannesburg. The boys continued their outstanding run of form, displaying tremendous heart, character, resilience, and teamwork throughout the festival. They represented Woodridge with pride both on and off the field, embracing every challenge and opportunity the festival presented. This was Mr Reed's first ISRF as Headmaster, while Mr Sakube, Mr Mpahlwa, and Assistant Coach, Mr Thiso, took charge of the team for the first time.

A heartfelt thank you to the staff who made the tour possible and to the parents who travelled to Johannesburg to support the boys throughout the festival. We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors, Jendemark, McDonald's, and Revel, for their generous support. We are equally grateful to all the families who contributed through fundraising and other forms of support. Your generosity and commitment played a vital role in making this unforgettable experience possible for the boys. The festival provided far more than just rugby. It created lasting friendships, valuable life lessons, and memories that the players, coaches, and families will cherish for many years to come.

ST DAVID'S MARIST INANDA



Independent Schools' Rugby Festival 2026
U13

YOURS SINCERELY

Anda Sakube



7SRF Highlights



ECO-COMMITTEE NEWS



”

From the classroom to the outdoors, every moment at Woodridge Preparatory is part of an extraordinary experience...

🌱 Making a difference doesn't always require tools. Sometimes it starts with teamwork, determination, and a willingness to get stuck in!

Our Preparatory Eco-Committee took on the challenge of removing invasive alien Black Wattle trees from our beautiful campus, using nothing but strength, resilience, and teamwork. Some of the trees were surprisingly large; however, our pupils showed incredible perseverance and proved that together, they can achieve great things.

It was an afternoon filled with adventure, environmental learning, and a true sense of purpose. Every tree removed was a step towards restoring and protecting our indigenous environment.

A wonderful example of our pupils embracing the Round Square IDEALS of Service, Environmentalism, Adventure, and Leadership. 🌱



#WessaSchools
#ProudlyRoundSquare



HARNESSING THE WIND, using a windmill...

GRADE 6 INQUIRY IN ACTION

As part of their inquiry into energy, our Grade 6 pupils explored the question: Should South Africa invest in more wind farms? Through this engaging inquiry lesson, pupils developed a wide range of important skills. They read and comprehended information from different perspectives, identified key ideas, summarised information, participated in meaningful group discussions, and communicated their understanding in their own words. Pupils then used persuasive techniques to present and justify their viewpoints to the class.

The inquiry culminated in a collaborative LEGO windmill challenge, where pupils worked in teams to plan, design, build and test a windmill capable of withstanding the force of a fan.

This is inquiry in action: intentionally teaching the knowledge and skills from our curriculum in meaningful, engaging and memorable ways that our pupils enjoy. Through purposeful, hands-on learning, pupils are encouraged to think critically, communicate confidently, collaborate effectively and apply their learning beyond the classroom.





WOODRIDGE CAMPUS

BRIDGING THE GAP

KEY TOPICS >>>

- ✓ **Academic Transitions**
- ✓ **Parent-School Partnerships**
- ✓ **Learner Independence**
- ✓ **Literacy Development**



This term, Woodridge proudly hosted our first Bridging the Gap academic workshop, welcoming educators from St Andrew's, DSG, Theodor Herzl, St Francis College and St Dominic's Priory.

Together, we explored the important transitions from Grade 3 to Grade 4 and Grade 7 to Grade 8, sharing insights, challenges and practical strategies to better support our pupils as they move into the next phase of their learning journey.

The discussions highlighted several shared areas of focus, including developing independence and responsibility, strengthening executive functioning and literacy skills, managing the impact of screen use, and building strong partnerships between parents and schools.

It was an inspiring afternoon of meaningful collaboration and a valuable first step towards building a stronger academic network across our schools.



STAFF NEWS

Welcome To The Team



Gia Smith
Teacher Intern

Hi! I'm Gia, and I'm so excited to be joining the Woodridge family.

I've always loved learning, and teaching gives me the chance to share that with children while feeding off their curiosity, energy, and unique personalities. Every day is different, and I think that's one of the best parts of working with kids.

Outside the classroom, I'm definitely more of an arts and culture person. I love dance, theatre, fine art, reading, and anything creative. That said, I also really enjoy teaching maths and helping children build confidence in a subject that can sometimes feel a little intimidating.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know the learners and helping them grow.



LOOKING AHEAD

DATES TO DIARISE

[Click here for the Prep School Monthly Planner - 'Subject to change'](#)

AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30 Inter-house Athletics - Long Distance	31	1
2	3 Stairway to Heaven	4	5 King & Queen of the Mountain	6 Inter-house Athletics End of Term	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Boarders Return	1 School Commences	2	3	4	5

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:4-7 NKJV





WOODRIDGE

EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

more than a school...an experience

LITTLE RIDERS PONY DAYS

FOR PRE-PRIMARY CHILDREN

♥ AGES 4-7 ♥



DATES

1ST WEEK OF AUGUST HOLIDAYS

Monday 10 August 2026

Wednesday 12 August 2026

Friday 14 August 2026

LAST WEEK OF AUGUST HOLIDAYS

Monday 24 August 2026

Wednesday 26 August 2026

Friday 28 August 2026



TIME

10:00am - 12:00pm



COST

R350

per child per day



BOOK ALL 3 DAYS FOR ONLY R950
(SAVE R100)



LIMITED TO

15

CHILDREN
PER DAY

to ensure every child
gets quality pony time.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:



PONY RIDES



GROOMING & CUDDLES



PONY-THEMED CRAFTS



FEEDING TREATS



FUN GAMES & ACTIVITIES



PONY PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE BRING:



WATER BOTTLE



CLOSED SHOES



HAT



SUNSCREEN



No riding experience needed!



BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Spaces are limited to 15 children per day.



eleni.pullen@woodridge.co.za



Save the Date

The Woodridge Preparatory School
Production of

Disney
**THE LITTLE
MERMAID**

29-31 October 2026
Raymond Ritchie Hall

COMING SOON

Music by **ALAN MENKEN**

Book by **DOUG WRIGHT**

Music Adapted and Arranged by **David Weinstein**

Lyrics by **HOWARD ASHMAN &
GLENN SLATER**

1936 - 2026



**WOODRIDGE
PREPARATORY**

celebrating 90 years

**Ticket prices:
Pupils R50 &
Adults R100**

“Presented by arrangement with Dalro (Pty) Limited,
representing Music Theatre International (MIT)”

Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film

