

DEC 2024

Q4 NEWS



NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2024



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WELCOME FROM THE FOUNDER



Warm Greetings

As we conclude the year, I am filled with gratitude, and my heart overflows with appreciation for the many blessings we have received. This year has been remarkable, particularly due to the strength of our dedicated team, which has finished the year on a high note. Our relationships and team spirit are robust and healthy, enabling us to effectively lead, nurture, and inspire every student entrusted to our care. This vision is truly wonderful!

Additionally, we have welcomed many new students to our "banqueting table," allowing them to partake in the offerings that God has provided. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your invaluable contributions in making this possible.

We eagerly anticipate another exciting year in 2025!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Kitty Phillips

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THE MIB NEWS



Visitors

We were thrilled to welcome back *Kathy and Steve Sjostrom* from Montana for their second visit to Orange Grove Schools, where they sponsor two remarkable girls. Their presence brought an overwhelming sense of joy and inspiration to our community. This visit was particularly emotional, as the bond between the sponsors and the girls has grown stronger over time. To make the day even more special, *Amo*, one of our talented students, showcased her newfound baking skills using the equipment generously gifted to her by Kathy and Steve. The delicious treats she prepared were a heartfelt gesture of gratitude, symbolizing the positive impact of their support. It was a beautiful reminder of how love and generosity can uplift lives and create lasting connections.

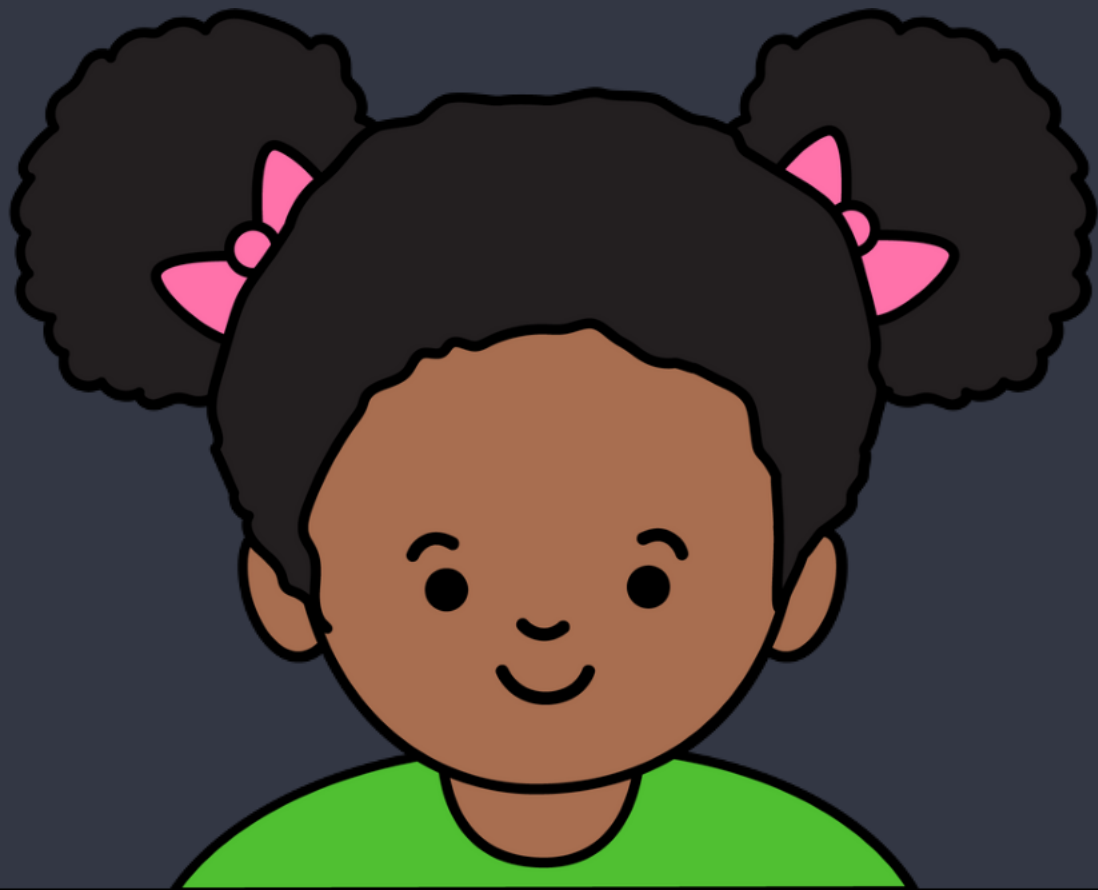


We express our sincere gratitude to our sponsors and donors for their unwavering support of our mission. Your generous contributions have been crucial in propelling our vision forward, allowing our students to achieve remarkable successes.



PRESCHOOL NEWS





We have had a wonderfully fulfilling year. The Grade R students participated in the *Back to Nature* program and enjoyed their first camping experience with Uncle *Duncan*, which they all cherished. For many, this was their first time riding in the back of a truck or sleeping in a tent. Some of the younger children in *Nandi's* class attended school for the first time, and they are diligently learning a new language. We are incredibly proud of all their accomplishments.

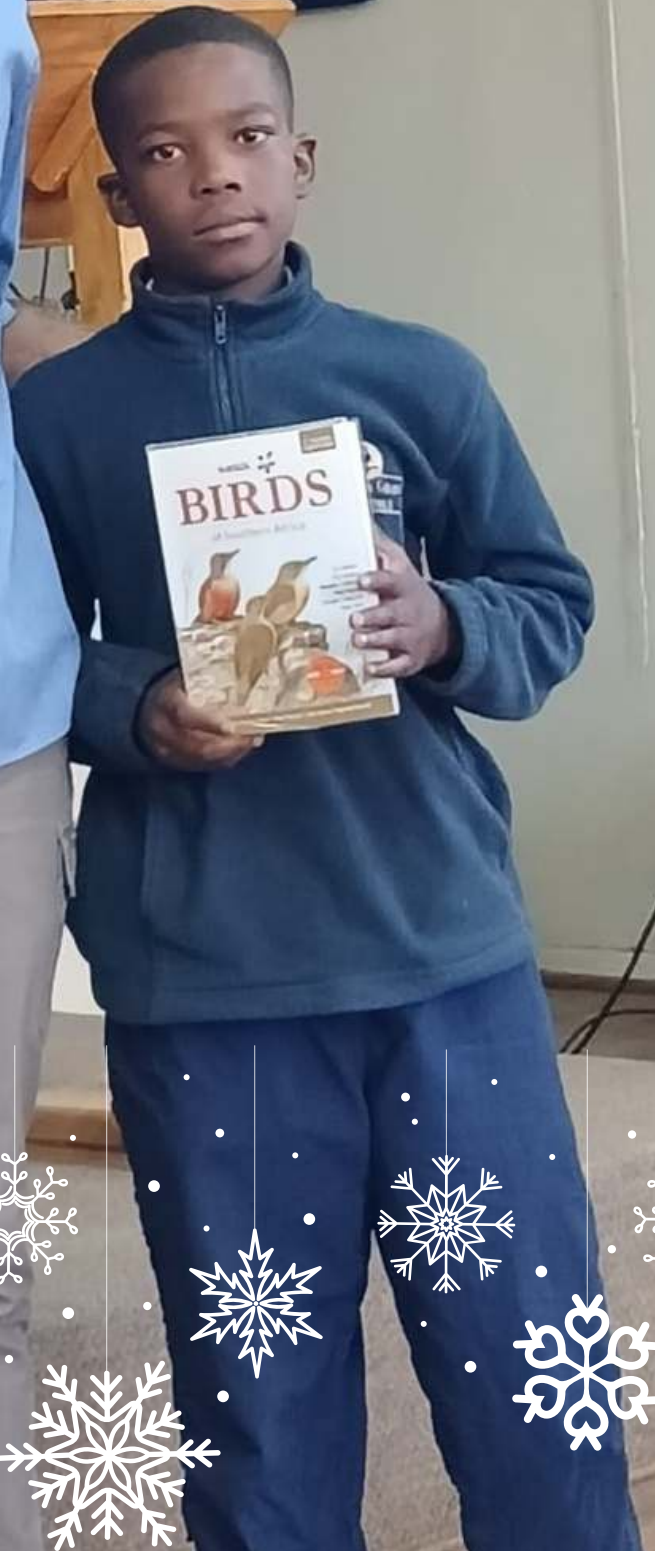
Throughout the year, we engaged in various activities, including the cross-country event, Water Day with the slippery slide, inter-house sports day, and athletics. We also enjoyed nature walks, planted seeds, and expressed our creativity through art. The Grade R students learned a new sound each week and mastered it, while Aunty *Nandi's* class focused on counting and benefitted from our new *Joy* program.

We would like to extend our gratitude to *Sino*, for her unwavering support when we needed it most, and to Uncle *Clyde* for crafting the Jeep and plane. We sincerely appreciate their efforts. Lastly, we are grateful to all the parents for enabling myself and *Nandi* to pursue our passion for teaching.

Congratulations to all the graduating Grade R students as they transition to Grade 1 next year!



OGS NEWS



ACADEMIC NEWS



Classroom news

In terms of academics at OGS, this term has been relatively quiet. Our Grade 8-10 students have completed their final exams through Hatfield College Online School and are now eagerly awaiting their results. We remain hopeful for positive outcomes! In between the exams, they, and the Grades 6-8 celebrated their Honor Roll achievements with a dedicated Esports Honor Roll Day, enjoying a morning filled with racing and strategy games.



As we prepare for the upcoming year, we extend our congratulations to *Alicia Solani* on her promotion to Grade 1 Supervisor for the next academic year. *Alicia* is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Education online, and we look forward to witnessing her growth in this new role. Additionally, we welcome *Ayola Siqaza*, who will transition from her volunteer position working with our Skills Development girls to become the Monitor for the Grade 2 and 3 class.

Leonie Van Tonder will be moving to the Grade 6-8 class next year, while *Cathy Hood* will assume responsibility for the Tutorial Centre, which encompasses all Grade 8-12 students studying either through Hatfield College Online School or those pursuing their GED online.

We are thankful for the consistent progress our students have made in their academic endeavours this year, and we pray for continued blessings from God in 2025!



Skills program

Well done to our skills boys on a busy and successful term 4 and year!

This term we started with a reminder on measurements and then started on projects that combined the use of all the key skills that were learnt this year. We started with basic electrical projects, each student had to plan and make a working bedside lamp. They had to use wood, metal and electrical parts. Each student also made a serving tray using wood. Both items are on sale or have already been sold.

Our boys also continued their work on Auntie Rosie's house as well as with the cattle on the farm and the processing of meat for the school. We also ventured off campus this term to help a fellow farm neighbour with the clean up on his farm yard.

We look forward to a new and exciting 2025 with new projects and skills being learnt and completed.

It has been an awesome and great experience to be part of the skills program this year. The girls have excelled in showcasing their skills and being open to learning new skills. This term we applaud *Jadeanne Nortje* for being consistent with her work and showing great commitment and improvement in her hand work tasks.

We look forward to 2025 and all the challenges and new skills it brings.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."

1 Peter 4:10



SPORTS & CULTURE

every moment matters



ORANGE GROVE SCHOOLS

We started our year off with Cricket and Athletics and a bit of tennis here and there! We then went on to hockey ,soccer, cross country and netball. We played many matches against schools like Cradock Primary ,Tarka Primary , Hangklip , and Winterberg School Trust, Yellowwoods, Michausdal and Carinus to mention a few.

Our biggest event of the year was our Interschools athletics hosted by Orange Grove school . This year we had 4 schools who participated and we hosted around 160 athletes. The day was a big success with many great wins for our athletes as well as the hosted teams. Well done to Winterberg School Trust who won the day.

Our mini-cricketers played in a number of tournaments this year! We had excellent results and we are so proud of all of you! All batted , bowled and fielded like superstars.

A special thanks to all the coaches and teachers and parents who helped and gave up their personal time for sporting events. It is truly appreciated.

The House Trophy for 2024: During the 2024 sporting year we played many inter house matches. Hockey , soccer , netball , fun games , athletics and more . We gave our students points for all these events as well as honour rolls , participation at sport events and certificates. A huge congratulations to Kudu for winning the 2024 sporting year.

The Sportsman of the year award went to *Junior Smouse* while *Khumo Smouse* bagged the Sportswoman of the year award.

Well done to all our students for a great sporting year!





OUTDOOR NEWS



Back 2 Nature

Last term it was elephants, this term it was zebras. We took two groups on a day trip the Mountain Zebra National Park, where we not only saw the endemic Mountain Zebra but also a host of other antelope and birds. Our oldest students did a day trip to the nearby Tsolwana Game Reserve where they also got to see zebras and various antelope species as well as take a short walk to some San rock art. The grade R's and 1's didn't venture as far from home but did a drive on our very own Orange Grove Farm where they ALSO saw zebras as well as some magnificent views of their house animals - gemsbok and kudu. Between the field trips, we squeezed in a spot of springtime birding and everyone from grade 4 and up wrote a test on what they had learned this year.

Archery

We started off the fourth term with a trip down to Grahamstown with five of our archers, where we participated in the indoor archery nationals. Since Covid, this event has been shot at numerous different locations around the country, making it much more accessible to us. All the scores from across the country are compared for the final result. Our five archers brought home two silver and one bronze medal in their respective categories and we are exceedingly proud of their achievement. We also had lots of fun practicing on our range, shooting 3D animals and some of our young archers achieved Feathers awards for shooting well at 10 and 14 metres.

Outdoor Centre

Our Outdoor Centre hosted a fun day for the boarding house children from a school in the (relatively) nearby town of Sterkstroom. It was action packed with lots of games, archery tag, paintball challenges, an obstacle course, climbing, and of course good food. It was a challenge to co-ordinate activities for kids ranging from 6 to 16 years old, but everybody mucked in and had a lot of fun. A large number of the school's staff also joined us for the day and although they didn't join in the games, they were able to observe their students in a completely new environment being challenged to do hard things and we hope that they got some valuable insights into their students' strengths and fears in the process. In the end much fun was had by all, and we left with promises that this would be the first of many such days. We look forward to the next round.



Alumni news



On October 11th, 2024, *Jonty and Caroline Fletcher* (née Price, graduate of the Class of 2013), welcomed their first child, *Amelia Grace Fletcher*. The couple is overjoyed to embark on this new chapter of parenthood, and we extend our warmest congratulations to them as they embrace the joys of raising their daughter. Congratulations as well to *Charles and Angela Price* on the birth of their first grandchild, *Amelia*.

"Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him."
Psalms 127:3 (NLT)



Just eleven days later, on October 22st, 2024, *Ben and Abby Friedemann* (née Wardle), who both graduated in 2013, celebrated the birth of their second daughter, *Aurora Friedemann*. *Aurora* joins her big sister, *Hayley*, and the family is excited to watch their girls grow together.

We wish both families an abundance of health and happiness as they navigate this wonderful journey of parenthood. May *Amelia* and *Aurora* bring endless joy and love into their lives. **Congratulations to the Fletcher and Friedemann families!**

Special Note

We are pleased to announce that our newsletter editor, *Asa Smouse*, has received a prestigious book award for her debut novel, "One-of-a-kind: survival guide for invisible scars." Should anyone be interested in purchasing a copy, you may contact her at ithemba@gmail.com.





from the

Ithemba & OGS Family

MERRY
Christmas



IF YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN JOINING THE ITHEMBA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT ANGELA AT ITHEMBATRUST@GMAIL.COM

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FOUNDER & TRUSTEE



ANGELA PRICE
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