



The Phoenix

Waterford Kamhlaba UWCSA Weekly Newsletter



“

It's not what we do that matters most, it's the reason we do it.

Unknown

”

PRINCIPAL'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

By Jackie Otula

In a world that's constantly changing, it's easy to wonder why things matter. Why does what we do every day matter? Why do our efforts in the classroom, in the hallways, and on the playing fields carry significance?

The answer lies within the power of impact. Every action, every word, every lesson learned, no matter how small, has the potential to ripple outward and shape the world we live in.

It matters because the lessons we share today build the foundation for tomorrow. It matters because the relationships we cultivate now—through kindness, respect, and understanding—create the bonds that hold our community together. It matters because the challenges we face, both big and small, offer opportunities for growth and resilience that prepare us for the future. It matters because we are building a common understanding about how we can live together - in harmony, regardless of where we come from - so that we can understand other people's ways of thinking, doing and living to accommodate differences. It matters because our service to the community touches and changes other people's lives here in Eswatini and beyond. It matters because we need to make the world a better place - by imparting knowledge, skills and the right attitudes in all our students. It matters because we all matter.

We are shaping not just academic minds, but compassionate hearts and innovative thinkers. Every moment we spend supporting each other, learning together, and striving for excellence, contributes to a collective vision of a brighter, better world.

So, let's remember: what we do here matters. It's not just about tests and grades—it's about growth, kindness, and the legacy we create for the generations that will follow. Every action you take, no matter how insignificant it may seem in the moment, builds toward something greater.

And as we continue to prepare for athletics day tomorrow, here's to wishing you the very best.

**May the best house win!
Let's continue to make it count.**

Newsletter Highlights

Principal's Weekly Message

SAMO Olympiad 2025

CAS

IB Pastoral day

MICHAEL STERN LECTURE APPRECIATION

By: Samantha Farrell IB1

Last Friday, the highly anticipated annual Michael Stern Lecture was hosted at Waterford Kamhlaba with the theme **“Michael Stern; a vision is born, the vision lives on”**. The community gathered to listen to Mrs. Therese Ndjeh, who descriptively led us through the different eras of the school; achievements, events and people who have shaped it into the institution it is today, while linking it back to Michael Stern’s original vision. It was an inspiring and informative lecture, followed by an engaging panel discussion comprised of staff members who are Waterford Kamhlaba alumni; speaking about their time at the school and how the vision has evolved and grown. The Alumni Panel consisted of the following who are all now teachers at WK



Lisa Simelane
Deputy Principal: Academic



Quinton Reissmann
Science



Nosimilo Khumalo
Geography & Global Perspectives



Moya Laufer
English & TOK

The annual event was thought provoking and interesting for all members of the Waterford Kamhlaba community. The day also commemorated the school’s birthday which is actually 3rd February 1963 and we ended the evening with a beautiful and tasty 62nd birthday cake. We would sincerely like to thank all that supported the lecture and even those who joined us online. If you missed it, you are most welcome watch it.



ADMISSIONS FOR 2026 ENTRY

We are pleased to confirm that we will be conducting local Entrance Testing for 2026 entry here on campus on **Saturday 8th and Saturday 15th March** – starting at 8am. Please **register** your child with Martha Dlamini at **martha.dlamini@waterford.sz**. Please also spread the word through your family, friends and professional networks. We do appreciate the ongoing advocacy of current parents in our recruitment efforts. Boarding applicants are welcome on any weekday by making an **appointment** with John Storer at **careers@waterford.sz**. We will be in Nairobi on Saturday May 24th for our East African pool and in Harare at a date tbc next term. We look forward to meeting the latest crop of wise and kind candidates – further **details** can be found at **www.waterford.sz/admissions/apply**

Thank you!

MATHEMATICS

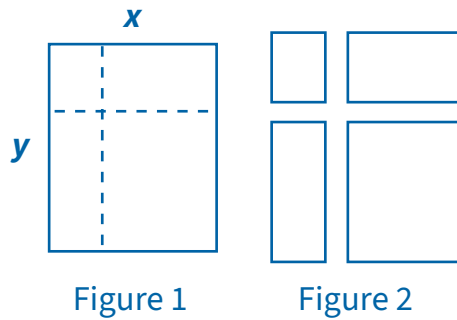
The International Day of Mathematics shall be celebrated on **14 March 2025** at Waterford Kamhlaba with the event name:

Math Meets the World: A Day of Discovery at Waterford.

All students are asked to be creative to have activities for the day in the different classes and phases. Mathematics is fun as it concerns itself with discovering patterns, solving mysteries and thinking creatively.

Reminding everyone to sign up for the SAMO olympiad coming soon. SAMO is calling on all curious minds to step up, think deeper and compete with the best. As you prepare yourself for the olympiad try the following question:

A rectangle has width x and length y , as shown in Figure 1. The rectangle is cut along the horizontal and vertical dotted lines in Figure 1 to produce four smaller rectangles as shown in Figure 2.



The sum of the perimeters of these four rectangles in Figure 2 is 24. The value of $x + y$ is?

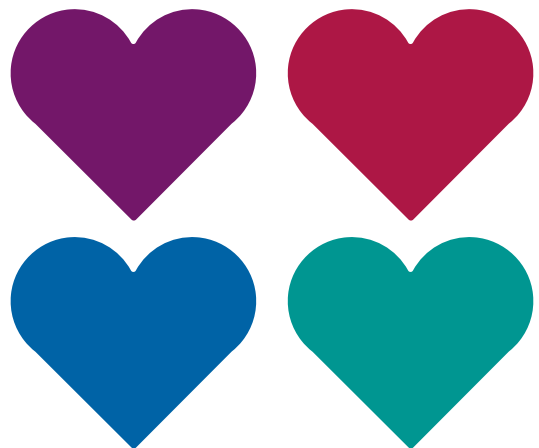
Did you crack it?

LIFE ON CAMPUS - I-DEDICATE

By: Liv Toussaint IB1

Apart from St Valentines day, the most anticipated event on Campus in February is I-Dedicate, a show organized by the WK link group, a student led club in which anyone can perform and dedicate to their loved ones.

This year, we had a wide range of talents performing for their friends and family. Poems, songs and even a dramatic performance which made us all emotional. I-dedicate reminded us that love is not only romantic, but can also be platonic appreciation of the important people for us.



FRENCH

DELFL November 2024 results



Congratulations to all our students who took the DELFL exams in A1, A2, and B2 last November. The following students have been awarded diplomas.

B2

Marianna Flatman

A2

Vikelwe Mavimbela

Fred Paluku

Tanya Mavingire

Gabriella Murungi

Taizya Mpande

Precious Kambala

A1

Sabrina Chiu

Laura Baraza

Esther Eze

Bulelani Dlamini

Chloë Groenveld

Kirabo Isa-Mogoba

Kalvin Kagwa

Gabriella Komuhendo

Ayanda Maepa

Okuhle Mkhathswa

Kimmy Msiska

Sean Mukundi

Panashe Musasira

Margret Mwila

Sofia Rhuggenaath

Realeboha Sematlane

Raphael Shaheen

Coral Taman

Ariel Thiga

The next DELFL session will take place in June. We will keep you updated on the exact date. For more information about the DELFL examinations, please don't hesitate to reach out to your French teacher.

Tapiwa Chilipaine

IT

The IT department at Waterford Kamhlaba serves as the lifeline that connects our school to the wider world, enabling students, staff members and the wider community to thrive in an increasingly digital and interconnected environment. We are excited to share some of the recent developments within the Waterford Kamhlaba community that have positively impacted teaching, learning and wellbeing through the strategic efforts of the IT department. A number of our classrooms have received smartboards to enhance teaching and learning. We are also thrilled to see technology becoming an integral part of the learning experience. The recent introduction of Toddle as a learning management system has enhanced communication, streamlined access to instructional material and learner engagement to learning resources. Furthermore, with the continuous monitoring of our systems, network and security protocols, the IT team ensures that the technology we rely on is always functioning at its best, providing a stable and secure foundation for both students, staff and all stakeholders that we serve and work with.

We are also thrilled to see technology becoming an integral part of the learning experience.



From left to right – Musa Tsela (IT Manager), Bongani Hlophe (System Administrator), Menzi Khumalo (IT technician), Mduzuzi Nkambule (IT Centre Supervisor) and Satiso Tsabedze (Network Administrator)

SPORTS

By: Ella Malaika Begg IB 1

It's Athletics Week! This Saturday, the Waterford Kamhlaba community is hosting our annual Inter House Athletics from 8am-4pm where our three house teams, Henderson, Guedes and Stern, will compete against one another to stand a chance to win the Inter House Athletics Cup. The house teams are gathering athletes to participate as well as roaring up the team spirit, as the Spirit Cup is also up for grabs!

Multiple stalls with different products ranging from food to clothes will be showcased on Saturday, so be sure to bring money and support.

For Day students please be aware that buses will run at normal times on Saturday morning and they will leave campus in the afternoon at 4:15pm.



CAS - OUR TRIP TO MPAKA REFUGEE CAMP

By: Khue Hoang IB1

The welcome we received at the Mpaka Refugee Camp was unlike any other. Children came running from every direction, arms wide open, greeting us like we were long-lost friends. For some of us, it was the fulfillment of promises made, a reunion with familiar faces. For others, it was the chance to make new ones. When I asked a boy around 10 years old, “Are you excited for the balls?”, his answer surprised me, “No, I’m excited for new friends.”

Once these children clung to our arms, they held on tight. They seemed to savor every moment, as if afraid that if they looked away, we would disappear until next year. Life for the younger children was full of joy, play, and laughter. The teenagers, meanwhile, carried the weight of additional responsibilities. They would sneak peeks at us, eager for a moment of fun before returning to household chores. The Mpaka Refugee Camp has a wide range of age groups, from kids of just a few months to 19 years old.

Yet, no matter their age, they all shared a love for music, a love for dancing. For them, this was the highlight of their Saturday. Sundays were reserved for church and preparing for the school week ahead. The mention of “school” would light up their faces with an enthusiasm that initially seemed unfamiliar. They spoke eagerly about math, literature, and siSwati, their language of pride.

Despite the hardships they face, these children remain driven by a thirst for knowledge and dreams of the future. A girl about my age said, “I want to be a scientist one day. Or maybe a car designer.” Though life may take many things from them, it cannot extinguish the spark in their eyes, crush their dreams, or dull their excitement about what lies ahead.





PASTORAL - Safeguarding Presentation: Building a Safe and Supportive Community

Last week during our weekly community assembly, there was a safeguarding presentation focused on our shared responsibility to keep each other safe. The session covered key topics, including respectful social media interactions, supporting students with special needs, and the importance of open, consistent communication. We also reinforced the need to use reporting mechanisms when facing uncomfortable situations and encouraged students to speak up about concerns. Together, we are committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive school environment.

We encourage you to have regular, open conversations with your child about online behavior, personal boundaries, and speaking up when something doesn't feel right. A simple question like "How do you feel about safety at school and online?" can spark important discussions. By reinforcing these messages at home, we strengthen our collective commitment to a safe and supportive community. If you have any matters to report or suggest, please send an email to safeguarding@waterford.sz

Still on Pastoral...

IB1 PASTORAL DAY

By: Isaiah Mwesiga IB1

Pastoral days at Waterford Kamhlaba are special occasions where an entire cohort comes together to bond, reflect, and engage in meaningful discussions that go beyond the academic curriculum. These days provide students with the opportunity to strengthen their relationships, develop important life skills, and participate in activities that promote personal growth and well-being.

The day was designed to foster discussions on important topics related to well-being, relationships, and responsible decision-making, ensuring that students were equipped with essential knowledge for their personal development.

For the IB1 students, their pastoral day was both informative and engaging, as they spent time learning about sexual health in a safe and open environment. The day was designed to foster discussions on important topics related to well-being, relationships, and responsible decision-making, ensuring that students were equipped with essential knowledge for their personal development. While the discussions remained respectful and age-appropriate, they encouraged students to ask questions and engage in thoughtful conversations, breaking down common misconceptions and fostering a culture of awareness and responsibility. Beyond the educational aspect, the pastoral day also included interactive activities that allowed students to connect with their peers in a relaxed setting, reinforcing the sense of community that Waterford Kamhlaba values. By the end of the day, students had not only gained valuable insights into sexual health but had also strengthened their relationships with classmates, making the experience both meaningful and enjoyable.



EKHAYA LINK FAMILY

Ekhaya Link Family Program is hosting an Info Night on: **Monday, Feb 17 from 5:00pm-6:00pm** on campus! (Classroom D5) We are inviting any families that are interested in hosting an international student. **Here is an overview of the program.** The event will also be available on zoom. **Here is the link.**

Please email ekhayalink@waterford.sz with any questions and to confirm your attendance.

We hope to see you there!

STATIONERY SHOP

We have new items at the stationery shop

Duracell AAA / AA calculator batteries | Pencil cases in different colours
Book bags with zip in different colours | Liquid Gel pens black/blue, 0.5 / 0.7
Prestik | Pritt | Sharp scientific calculators | Journals A4 / A5 in different colours
Notebooks A4 / A5 in different colours | Mechanical pencils, 0.5 / 0.7
Carry folders in different colours | 5 subject notebooks | Packaging tapes
Maths sets | USB flash drives 32g, 0.3 | Fine liners colours pens



**Please note that the images provided are for illustration purposes only, and the actual products may vary.*

IMPORTANT DATES

- 15 February 2025:** Interhouse Athletics
- 19 February 2025:** Interhouse Swimming Gala
- 28 February 2025:** Half term begins
- 04 March 2025:** Half term ends
- 08 March 2025:** Entrance Testing for 2026
- 15 March 2025:** Entrance Testing for 2026
- 05 April 2025:** UWC Day
- 15 April 2025:** Parents Evening
- 16 April 2025:** Lessons end
- 17 April 2025:** Term ends

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

Staying in touch with you is our top priority! In order to do so, we also kindly request your co-operation by updating your contact details. It is important for the school to always have your most recent contacts.

ASSEMBLY



***Move with the beat.
Amapiano dancers bringing
the energy to life!***



***The band brought the
rhythm and got the people
moving.***

HELP US IMPROVE OUR NEWSLETTER (FEEDBACK)

Help us improve our newsletter (Feedback) We kindly ask for feedback concerning this newsletter. The purpose of the weekly newsletter is primarily to inform parents about anything and everything school-related, from school activities on campus to management decisions, news, schedule changes, updates, event, and other community developments. We kindly ask for your feedback or ideas in terms of how to improve the newsletter – we would like to know whether or not it is helpful and how best to improve it.

Send us an email: communications@waterford.sz