



Laerskool Paardekraal

Registration Number (EMIS): 700250803

Pay Point Number: 902076 / School ID Number: 4028002050009

Newsletter 24/08 August 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians

Another week of term 3 is gone already, and all learners and teachers are very busy with teaching and learning. Please take note of the following matters for the coming week.

GRADE 7 SPELLING BEE PARTICIPATION:

Three of our Grade 7 learners proudly represented our school in the recent Circuit Spelling Bee. While they did not advance to the District level, their dedication, perseverance, and commitment throughout their preparation were truly commendable. We are extremely proud of their efforts and the way they represented our school. A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Essack for her unwavering support and dedication in guiding and preparing these learners. Your efforts in creating meaningful opportunities for our students to grow and excel are deeply appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

GRADE 3 ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE WEEK:



Congratulations to the following **Grade 3 learners** who made us very proud this week:

Top Left: Noah Moabi obtained a third place in the **Physical Education Cluster Level Challenge**.

Top Right: Tamsone Visagie obtained a fourth place in the **Physical Education Cluster Level Challenge**.

Bottom Left: Daluxolo Pheza took part in the **Maths Challenge** on Cluster Level on Thursday. We are eagerly awaiting the results.

Bottom Right: Salome Mashaya took part in the **Mental Maths Challenge** on Cluster Level on Thursday. We are eagerly awaiting the results.

Keep up the good work Grade 3s.

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UPDATED CONTACT DETAILS:

We are experiencing ongoing difficulties reaching some parents due to outdated or invalid contact details. Additionally, very few students can provide an emergency contact number when needed.

To ensure your child's safety, please make sure they carry a valid contact number for a parent or guardian in both their school bag and diary. Emergencies can happen at any time, and it is essential that we are able to contact you without delay.

If your contact information has changed, we kindly ask that you update your details with the school office as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

We continue to face significant challenges with punctuality in the mornings. Several learners are being dropped off late—some as late as 08:30—directly at the school gate. Please note that the late arrival forms completed at the gate are being documented as evidence of our ongoing efforts to promote punctuality.

Regular late arrivals negatively impact your child's education and disrupt the learning environment. If you consistently pass other schools on your way to Paardekraal, we urge you to reconsider whether this is the most appropriate school for your child. Enrolling your child in a school closer to home may provide the opportunity to walk to and from school, significantly reducing the issue of late arrivals.

Persistent lateness will be reported to the Gauteng Department of Education. In such cases, transfers to a school closer to your home may be arranged, as it is ultimately in the best interest of the learner, who suffers most when valuable learning time is lost.

• Afternoon Pick-Up Concerns

Late collection of learners in the afternoon also remains a serious concern. On many days, school staff are left supervising children well beyond 16:30. It is unfair to expect our staff to remain on duty indefinitely. This often results in staff members being contacted by their own children's schools, as they are late to collect their own families due to these extended responsibilities.

We kindly ask all parents and transport providers to respect the school's operational hours and ensure that learners are picked up on time. Please remember that our staff have families and obligations of their own.

To date, we have refrained from involving Social Services or the Police, as we are mindful of the distress this could cause for learners. However, if late collections persist, we will have no option but to escalate the matter to the relevant authorities to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children.

• A Note of Appreciation

We extend our sincere thanks to most parents who consistently drop off and collect their children on time. Your continued support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT CERTAIN LEARNERS' SAFETY:

It has come to our attention that several of our learners are leaving the school premises at dismissal time and making their way to various locations in town—unsupervised—to wait for their transport. We understand that in some cases, transport providers are collecting high school learners first, returning only later to collect primary school children.

Please be aware that these unsupervised children are at risk, as they are not under the care of the school or any responsible adult during this time.

We have received a formal complaint from the Shell Petrol Station located next to the school. Management has reported that many of our learners are gathering on their premises while waiting for transport. This has led to several serious safety concerns, including children running and playing in the forecourt, which has resulted in near-accidents involving vehicles entering or exiting the station.

In addition, children have been seen playing with sticks, cans, and other objects—some of which have been thrown at vehicles. The petrol station has made it clear that they cannot accept responsibility for children on their property, as they do not have permission to wait there. They have also stated that any damage caused will be the financial responsibility of the parents concerned.

We urge all parents to ensure they are fully informed about where their children are waiting in the afternoons and to verify the instructions given by transport providers. If transport arrangements require your child to wait for extended periods, it is essential that this is done in a safe, supervised location.

The safety and well-being of our learners is a top priority, and we request your immediate attention and cooperation in addressing this matter.

Thank you for your continued support.

SCHOOL UNIFORM, JEWELLERY, HAIR AND NAILS:

We have noticed an increasing number of learners arriving at school wearing clothing items that do not form part of the official school uniform. This includes jackets, trousers, and shirts in various colours. While we understand that the colder weather may require additional layers, we kindly request that any non-uniform items be worn underneath the school uniform, not over it.

Additionally, we encourage all parents to ensure that school uniforms are kept clean and presentable. Some learners are arriving at school in uniforms that are visibly dirty and, in some cases, have an unpleasant odour. Regular washing of uniforms is essential for maintaining a hygienic and respectful school environment.

❖ Jewellery and Grooming Guidelines:

- **Girls** may wear one pair of small gold or silver stud earrings, or small gold or silver sleepers. Earrings featuring the school emblem (available from the front office) are also permitted.
- The only other jewellery allowed for girls is a **signet ring** and a **watch**.
- **Boys** are not permitted to wear earrings. The only jewellery allowed is a **watch**.

❖ **Hair and Nails:**

- Hair must be neat, clean, and appropriate for school at all times.
- Long hair must be tied back securely.
- Hair spraying, colouring, or any hairstyle that does not comply with school regulations is not permitted.
- Nails must be clean, short, and without any nail polish.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain high standards of appearance and discipline. These guidelines not only reflect pride in our school but also promote a sense of equality and readiness for learning.

Thank you for your cooperation.

GRADE 1 AND GRADE 8 APPLICATIONS FOR 2026:

Applications for Grade 1 and grade 8 for 2025 are still open. Please ensure that you apply online if you are seeking space for your child into grade 1 or grade 8 for 2026. Please remember that space is limited in most schools, so please do not delay this very important process.

CURRICULUM MATTERS:

The **assessment plans for Grades 4 to 7** have already been distributed to learners. If you have not yet done so, please sign the **tear-off slip** at the bottom of the plan and return it to school as soon as possible.

We urge all parents to take note of the important assessment dates listed in the plan. If a learner is absent on the day of an assessment, a **doctor's certificate** will be required in order for the learner to be granted a second opportunity. This policy is in place due to a pattern of learners becoming "ill" specifically on assessment days.

Your support in helping your child prepare for these assessments is essential. Many learners will need to put in significant effort to ensure they meet the promotion requirements by the end of the academic year. The good news is that there is still ample time to work hard and improve.

Thank you for your continued involvement in your child's education.

SPORTS DAY – 16 AUGUST:

Please be advised that our annual **Sports Day** will take place on **Saturday, 16 August**. We are excited to welcome neighbouring schools to join us for a fun-filled day of **netball and soccer**.

We kindly ask you to **save the date** and encourage all parents to come and support our learners. As always, the day promises to be filled with **exciting sports, delicious food, and plenty of fun and laughter** for the whole family.

Please note that all raffle lists must be returned to school on the 15th of August at the latest. The raffle will be drawn on the 16th of August at the Sports Day and we want to afford all raffle buyers equal opportunity to be part of the draw. Children who handed

their forms back on or before the 15th may wear their civvies on Friday the 15th, as a thank you from our side for their commitment to raise much needed funds for the school.

The presence and support of our Paardies parents at the Sports Day, will mean a great deal to the learners and the entire school community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

NETBALL:

Practice Time: 13:45- 15:00.

Practice days: *Wednesdays and Thursdays.*

Please arrange transport accordingly. Players who are not collected timeously will unfortunately be removed from the team, as educators cannot be expected to look after players outside of practice times. Please note that should it rain practices will automatically be cancelled.

SOCCER:

Soccer practice for the week will be as follows:

U/13 – Monday from 13:45 until 15:00

U/12 and U/13 Tuesday from 13:45 until 15:00

U/12 and U/11 – Wednesday from 13:45 until 15:00

U/11 - Thursday from 13:45 until 15:00

Please arrange your child's transport accordingly, as we cannot wait with children who are fetched later than the stipulated times. Players not fetched on time will unfortunately be removed from the team. We thank you for your cooperation.

Please note that should it rain practices will automatically be cancelled.

WOMEN'S DAY – 09 AUGUST:

On this special day – 9 August, National Women's Day – we extend our heartfelt appreciation and admiration to each one of you.

Today, we honour your strength, your resilience, your wisdom, and the many ways you inspire and uplift our school community every day. Whether you're a student, teacher, staff member, parent, or supporter – your presence and contributions are deeply valued and make a lasting difference.

As we reflect on the significance of this day and the powerful legacy of the women who came before us, we also celebrate your courage, your dreams, and the unique paths you walk. May you continue to grow, thrive, and lead with confidence and pride.

Happy Women's Day – today and every day, we celebrate you... with respect and gratitude.

GENERAL:

Enjoy the weekend with your friends and families. Luckily the weather is getting warmer now and Spring is on its way. Please stay warm and safe.

Kind regards



H M BESTER
Principal

“When we treat people merely as they are, they will remain as they are. When we treat them as if they were what they should be, they will become what they should be.”
- *Thomas S. Monson*

VISION & MISSION OF LAERSKOOL PAARDEKRAAL

- Our vision is a smart delivery of quality public education, which promotes a dynamic citizenship for socio-economic growth and development in Gauteng and South Africa.
- We will be at the cutting edge of curriculum delivery and provide access to quality lifelong learning opportunities.

Teacher: "You know you can't sleep in my class!"
Student: "Maybe if you were just a little quieter, I could..."



NATIONAL
Women's Day
AUGUST 9