



Laerskool **Paardekraal**

Registration Number (EMIS): 700250803

Pay Point Number: 902076 / School ID Number: 4028002050009

Newsletter 08/06 March 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians

Time is passing so quickly, and we arrived at yet another Friday. Please take note of the following matters for this week:

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY MATTERS

Congratulations to the following parent members of the Governing Body who were elected to the following portfolios for 2026:

Principal: Mr H M Bester

Chairperson – Mr Edwin Makhari (Parent Member)

Treasurer – Mr Buti Sithole (Parent Member)

Secretary – Ms Maureen Tau (Parent Member)

Other Parent Members:

- Ms Vernolia Malepe
- Ms Gopolang Taelle
- Mr Innocent Ngobeni

Teacher Representatives:

- Mr D Breedt
- Ms A Martignone
- Ms E Van der Merwe

Support Staff Representative:

- Ms Thembi Ntombela

Congratulations once again. We are privileged to have your support.

RETIREMENTS AT SCHOOL

You are hereby informed of the following staff members retiring at the end of the first term. (27 March 2026), effective 31 March 2026.

Mr H M Bester – Principal

Ms E Van der Merwe – Deputy Principal

Ms S Goosen – Grade 4 Mathematics Teacher

Ms S Galloway – Grade 2 Teacher

Ms A Martignone will act as Principal and Mr D Breedt as Deputy Principal from the 1st of April until the vacant posts are filled through the Departmental procedures for appointments are concluded. I hope you find the above information in order.

E-mail: laerskoolpaardekraal@absamail.co.za

Pretoria Street, Private Bag X2038, Krugersdorp 1740, Tel: (011) 953-1930, Fax: (011) 953-1390

CONGRATULATIONS, KUTLWANO!



We proudly congratulate Kutlwano Phillips on receiving his D2 Colours for his outstanding achievement in athletics (Long jump). This is a wonderful accomplishment and a testament to his dedication and hard work.

Kutlwano will be representing our school at the Gauteng Championships on 13–14 March, and we are incredibly proud of him.

We wish him the very best of luck and know he will represent the school with pride. 🏆 🌟

Seen on the photo with Kutlwano is from left to right:

Ms A Martignone and Ms L Da Silva, both Team Managers and Mr Tumi Masiza who is the coach. A very proud Kutlwano shows off his D2 Colours.

ASSESSMENT

We have reached the end of our assessment period for term 1 and teachers are very busy to get all marks finalised. I have seen certain learners' marks during the week, and I am convinced that some parents are going to be very disappointed when they receive the report cards at the end of the term. Many children did not hand in or completed their assignments. Others decided to stay away on assessment days and did not turn up for their second (and third) opportunities. Unfortunately, no marks can be allocated for no work done and many children will receive a "bad" report card due to their own lack of commitment and work ethics. Luckily there are many children who did exceptionally well during this term. Congratulations to the children who put a lot of effort into their schoolwork. Your report cards will speak of your perseverance and dedication.

BANK DEPOSITS

Thank you to the many parents who are using bank deposits or EFTs to pay the school fees. It is a much safer way of payment for the parent as well as for the school, as the risk of carrying cash is hugely reduced.

When putting a reference on the deposit, please use your school fee account number. That is the number starting with a 3 followed by the first few letters of your surname and then ending in an 01, 02, 03 etc. The number will have the following format and appears on your school fee statement: 3BEST01

Should you not have the account number handy when paying your school fees, please use your child's name, surname and grade as a reference, for example, Nokululeko Ntuli - Grade 4T.

SUBSIDIES / EXEMPTIONS

There seems to be confusion regarding the subsidies / exemptions. Please take note of the following:

- As Laerskool Paardekraal is a quintile five school, we are responsible for our own funding and therefore our only income is by means of the school fees paid by parents. There very limited Government Grant for learners in a quintile five school.
- There is no funding from the Government for the day-to-day running of the school. We must make provision from the school fees paid by parents.
- If a child is exempted or subsidised, it means that other parents are paying for that child to school at Laerskool Paardekraal.
- Laerskool Paardekraal is a legal **FEE-PAYING** school, and for that reason school fees are not voluntary but mandatory.
- Please be mindful of the above, as the money available to help with exemptions is limited every year and reserved for people living in the direct area around the school, who are the poorest of the poor.
- If you pass any other school on your way to Laerskool Paardekraal, or if there is a school closer to your home, a request for exemption is then not applicable to you.

I hope that the misconception around subsidies / exemptions are now clear.

LATE COMING AND LATE DEPARTURE

Late coming remains the single, biggest problem we must deal with on a daily basis. Parents and transport providers have one of three excuses every day:

- My car broke down halfway to school.
- I had a flat tyre on my way to school.
- I had to wait in the line at a roadblock.

It is just alarming to see that it is mostly the same parents and transport providers who bring the children late every day. Please note that, should your child be late for school, he or she should return home in order not to disrupt the classes that started on time. Please remember that the school starts promptly at 07:20 and children should be seated in class by then.

Some children only enter the school premises after 8 o'clock in the morning after just being dropped off by either parents or transport drivers. The children are then left to fend for themselves.

In the afternoons there are many children waiting to be fetched until very late. Sometimes there are children as young as five- and six-years old waiting to be fetched. It is very unfair towards those children as they are still too young to understand that they will eventually be fetched.

Should you be unable to get your child to school on time or to fetch your child on time, please consider a school closer to home where a child can walk to and from school, as the school is obliged to report these regular late comers to the Department of Education for intervention and possible transfer to a school closer to your home. Please be reminded that there is no supervision after 14:10, and that children are waiting on their own for their transport, in a very dangerous part of town...

ABSENTEEISM

Children who arrive late for school and miss out on important assessment, will unfortunately not have a second chance to do the missed assessment. The same rule applies to children who are absent on assessment days without a valid reason. To have a second opportunity for an assessment, a valid doctor's letter must be submitted to school. We have far too many children who are "not feeling well" on assessment days and rely on second opportunities to get the assessments done. A zero will be allocated for the missed assessment and "absent without a valid reason" will be used as the remark on the late coming report and absenteeism report going to the Department of Education.

PARENT VISITS TO THE SCHOOL

This is just a kind request that parents always report to the office when they visit the school. We found it in the past where parents sign in at the gate and then go to their child's classroom without reporting to the office. Teachers are then addressing parents instead of teaching the children. Please make an appointment if you need to see a teacher.

Please remember that the entrance slip you receive at the gate, must be stamped or signed in the office before you can leave again.

Thank you for your kind cooperation in this matter.

DISCIPLINE MATTERS

Currently we have children who are making themselves guilty of provoking fellow learners and teachers and disruption of classes. When classes are disrupted by ill-mannered learners, all the other learners become victims of the situation. When classes are disrupted, the opportunity for the other children to be educated, is taken away by the perpetrators. Why must innocent children and teachers suffer because of certain children who just don't want to be at school, finding great pleasure by disrupting classes? Please also note that a few children are extremely close to be suspended from school. This disruptive behaviour cannot and will not be tolerated any longer. (Please see Discipline Strategies below)

BULLYING

Daily we receive complaints from parents regarding bullying at school and after school. Please encourage your child to report any form of bullying to a teacher immediately so that the matter can be dealt with.

Should bullying happen on the transport, children should speak up for parents to address the situation with the transport provider.

Please explain to your child that bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying is not:

- single episodes of social rejection or dislike
- single episode acts of nastiness or spite
- random acts of aggression or intimidation
- mutual arguments, disagreements or fights

- accidentally bumping into each other when playing.

These actions can cause great distress. However, they do not fit the definition of bullying, and they're not examples of bullying unless someone is deliberately and repeatedly doing them.

HOW TO PREVENT BULLYING

Parents, school staff, and other caring adults have a role to play in preventing bullying. They can:

- **Help kids understand bullying.** Talk about what bullying is and how to stand up to it safely. Tell kids bullying is unacceptable. Make sure kids know how to get help.
- **Keep the lines of communication open.** Check in with kids often. Listen to them. Know their friends, ask about school, and understand their concerns.
- **Encourage kids to do what they love.** Special activities, interests, and hobbies can boost confidence, help kids make friends, and protect them from bullying behaviour.
- **Model how to treat others** with kindness and respect.

Kids who know what bullying is can better identify it. They can talk about bullying if it happens to them or others. Kids need to know ways to safely stand up to bullying and how to get help.

- **Encourage kids to speak to a trusted adult** if they are bullied or see others being bullied. The adult can give comfort, support, and advice, even if they can't solve the problem directly. Encourage the child to report bullying if it happens.
- **Talk about how to stand up to kids who bully.** Give tips, like using humour and saying "stop" directly and confidently. Talk about what to do if those actions don't work, like walking away
- **Talk about strategies for staying safe,** such as staying near adults or groups of other kids.
- **Urge them to help kids who are bullied** by showing kindness or getting help.

GIRLS AND HYGIENE

This is embarrassing for me to address this matter with our parents, but I need your support to educate our girls on the use and disposal of sanitary ware. During this week our workers had to clean soiled sanitary ware from behind toilets, while there are sealed "she bins" provided for the disposal of the sanitary ware. When the "she bins" were opened, rotten bread, chicken, fruit and other types of food were found inside these bins. Worst part is that the bins were also infested with maggots. Some of the bins did not contain sanitary ware but only food.

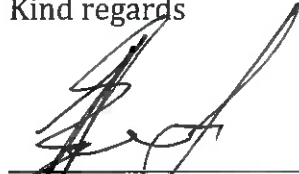
I, with the help of the deputy principal, have spoken to the grade 4 to 7 girls about this, but need our parents to please assist us by telling these girls that taking food into a toilet is unhygienic. Disposing of sanitary ware behind toilets instead of using the "she bins" are unhygienic. Girls should learn these things from home and should know how to conduct themselves when using a toilet.

Please ensure that your daughter always has a spare sanitary towel in their bags, just in case they need it, as we cannot continue to hand sanitary towels out to so many girls on a daily basis. We do keep a few towels in the office in case of emergency, but many girls come to the office daily to collect towels which should be brought from home.

GENERAL

I hope that you will all have a great weekend ahead. Spend time with your families and let them know that they matter. Life is so short...

Kind regards



H.M. BESTER
Principal

*"Some people are beautiful, not in looks, not in what they say, just in what and who they are."
- Marcus Zusak*

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.