

# HIGH NEWS

CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOL

## 85 years young and thriving



Celebrating Our Achievements. PHOTO: Ms Nel

BY: Zara Smith

Eighty-five years ago, Hermanus High was just an idea. Today it's a legacy. That's 85 years of memories, milestones, friendships, hard work, school spirit, and generations of learners walking through the same gates we walk through today.

Hermanus High School officially became a high school in 1941, starting with only about 60

learners. Before that, education in Hermanus dates back to the late 1800s, when small mission and primary schools laid the foundation for what would eventually become the high school we know today.

From small beginnings and limited facilities, the school slowly grew – classroom by classroom, year by year.

As the town of Hermanus grew,

so did the school. By 1977, the high school moved to its current campus to accommodate the increasing number of learners. What started as a small institution became one of the leading schools in the Overberg region.

Today, Hermanus High is home to over 1 000 learners, and we are now blessed with countless opportunities and experiences that previous generations could only dream of. From rugby match-

es that bring the whole town together, to choir performances that give you goosebumps, to academic achievements that make headlines, and the service pillar giving back to the community – Hermanus High continues to build a legacy of excellence.

Over 85 years, it has shaped generations of learners who carry the values and lessons they learned here into their everyday lives.

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Hermies Making Memories PHOTO: Ms Nel

**From P1**  
But Hermanus High is more than just buildings and sports results.

It's easy to complain about early mornings, homework, and tests. But when we look at the bigger picture, we realise how fortunate we are. We have teachers who

show up every day to invest in our futures. We have facilities that allow us to compete, perform, and grow. We have traditions that connect us to decades of learners before us.

We are part of something bigger than ourselves. We are a sea of

green. A family. Eighty-five years from now, future learners will look back at us as part of the story.

So, as Hermanus High celebrates 85 years, let's celebrate not only the past but the present. Let's appreciate the opportunities we

have. Let's protect the spirit of the school. And most importantly, let's continue building something worth celebrating for the next 85 years.

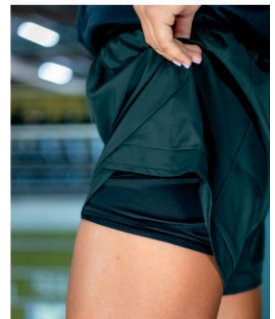
Happy 85th birthday, Hermanus High. Here's to the history behind us and the future ahead.



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# Choir 2026

BY: Leanté Barnard

Choir is more than just an after-school activity – it is a family, a team, and a place where every voice truly matters. From the very first rehearsal, you feel a sense of belonging. There is something incredibly powerful about standing on stage, knowing that each person's voice contributes to one beautiful, unified sound. I love choir because it builds confidence, discipline, and teamwork. It teaches us to listen to one another, to support one another, and to strive for excellence together. The feeling after a successful performance, when all the hard work finally pays off, is unforgettable.

This year promises to be an exciting one for our choir. We will perform at the Paassangfees on

12 April, the Curro Koorfees on 5 August, the Helderberg Eisteddfod from 19–21 August, enjoy a special Stellenbosch weekend from 21–23 August, and end the year on a high note at Classical Rendezvous on 21 October. If you love singing, want to grow in confidence, or simply want to be part of something meaningful, choir is the perfect place for you.



Treat for Choir members.  
PHOTO: Leanté Barnard



Koorkamp 2026. FOTO: Ms Boll

# How I Forgot Myself

BY: KAITLYN OLIVER

*It didn't happen all at once.  
No thunder, no clean breaking, just a slow misplacing,  
like setting down your keys and never remembering where.  
I left pieces of me everywhere.  
A laugh in a room I never returned to.  
An opinion swallowed to keep the peace.  
A dream folded smaller and smaller until it fit in someone else's  
pocket.  
My name started sounding like something I used to answer to.  
Mirrors became polite liars.  
They showed a face that functioned, nodded, smiled on cue,  
an outline of an unfamiliar form, coloured in with acceptable  
shades.*

*Meanwhile, somewhere far off, the original version of me  
kept living without supervision, running barefoot through unfinished  
thoughts, singing badly, wanting too much, not apologising  
for it.*

*I would feel her sometimes like phantom limb pain:  
a sudden ache for something that was supposed to be there.*

*People said I had changed.  
They meant improved.  
They meant quieter.  
They meant easier to hold.*

*If you forget a person long enough, do they forget you back?*

*Because when I finally went looking, calling my name into the  
dark rooms inside my chest,  
the echo came back unfamiliar,  
like I had dialled the wrong number and woken a stranger.*

*Still,  
sometimes, in unguarded moments,  
I catch a glimpse of her in the way my eyes light up at nothing,  
in the sudden urge to run,  
to scream, to speak, to refuse.*

*She is not gone.  
Just waiting  
for me to remember  
the way home.*

Hermanus



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# HH Newspaper Going Digital

BY: Klara Schoonraad

If you're reading this on one of your devices, you might be wondering why this newspaper is not in a printed format and whether it can still be called a newspaper.

The first reason for going digital is that printed newspapers use a tremendous number of trees. Trees are essential because they absorb carbon dioxide, help prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitats. By reading digitally, you help slow down the process of deforestation and protect biodiversity in forests.

Reading digitally also saves water. Producing a printed newspaper requires large amounts of water, not only for the growth of trees, but also for the paper-making process. This includes breaking wood into pulp, cleaning and bleaching paper, cooling machinery, and other stages that use significant amounts of water. By cutting down on paper consumption, there is less pressure on the

demand for freshwater resources, which is especially important in regions that experience water shortages.

Lastly, printed newspapers use more energy than digital ones. Their production requires energy for cutting and transporting

wood, printing, distribution, and running paper mills. While digital newspapers still use electricity for servers, phones, and computers, they generally consume less energy overall than printed newspapers.

To my knowledge, the term

"news digital" does not exist. Even though this is not in a paper format, you can still call it a newspaper. The important difference is that by reading digitally, you are reducing your environmental impact. Something that would not have been possible if you were reading a printed copy.



Technology is taking over! PHOTO: Kaitlyn Oliver



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# The importance of giving

BY: Lin-Mari Slabbert

Many families in our school community work hard every day to provide for their children. However, there are times when unexpected challenges, such as job loss, rising living costs, or medical expenses, make it difficult to afford basic necessities. During these difficult periods, receiving a food parcel can make a meaningful difference in the lives of families who are struggling financially.

For many parents, not being able to provide enough food for their children can cause stress, worry, and even feelings of embarrassment. No parent wants their child to go to bed hungry or come to school without lunch. When a family receives a food parcel from the school community, it can bring an immediate sense of relief. Knowing that there will be meals on the table for the next few days or weeks reduces anxiety and allows parents to focus on finding solutions to their financial challenges.

Children are also deeply affected by financial struggles at home. Hunger can make it difficult to concentrate in class, complete homework, or participate in activities. When families receive food support, children are more likely to come to school feeling nourished, focused,

and ready to learn. This not only improves their academic performance but also boosts their confidence and emotional well-being.

Beyond the practical support, food parcels send a powerful message of care and unity. Families may feel grateful and supported, knowing that their school community cares about their well-being. Acts of kindness like this strengthen relationships between the school and families, creating a sense of belonging. Instead of feeling isolated during hard times, families feel seen, valued, and understood. Receiving a food parcel can restore hope. It reminds families that difficult times do not last forever and that they are not alone. Even a small gesture can inspire strength and resilience. When communities come together to support one another, they build a culture of compassion that benefits everyone.

In conclusion, food parcels are more than just bags of groceries. They provide relief, dignity, encouragement, and hope to families facing financial hardship. By supporting one another, our school community can ensure that every learner has the opportunity to thrive, both in and out of the classroom. A huge thank you from the Interact Club to every Hermie learner for bringing food; it was a huge success!



ABOVE: Packing Food For The Food Drive. PHOTOS: Lin-Mari Slabbert  
BELOW: When All Hard Work Pays Off The Finished Results Always Shines



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## VALENTINE'S DAY

## Bringing love to those often forgotten



There Is Enough Love To Go Around. PHOTO: De Toit

BY: Jamila Kombe

While many teenagers spend Valentine's Day exchanging chocolates and roses, many residents at our local old age home, Huis Lettie, usually spend the day quietly and alone.

Like every year, our Interact Club decided to change that. We made it our mission to brighten their day through a simple but meaningful gesture: handing out flowers accompanied by a heartfelt letter. What may seem like a small act to us became a powerful reminder to the residents

that they are cared for and loved. As we greeted them and engaged in conversation, their smiles and laughter filled the room.

Valentine's Day is often centred around romantic love, grand gestures, and the youth. Despite this, our Interact Club believes that it is important to remember those who are often forgotten.

Loneliness among the elderly is often overlooked, yet it can easily be changed. Our gift served as a reminder that sometimes the greatest gift you can give is your time, presence, and heart.

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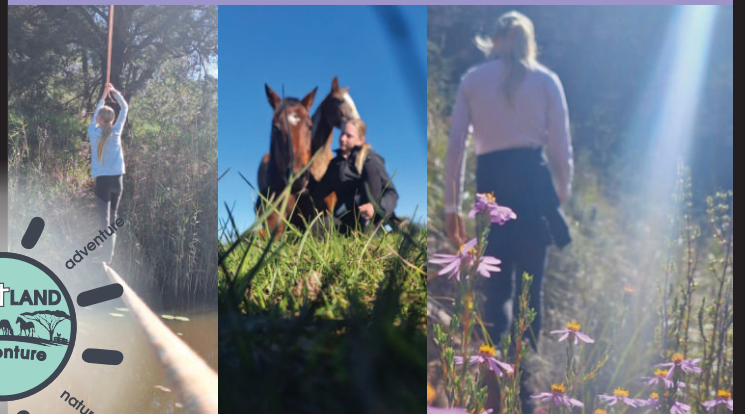
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# Dinge wat ek vir my graad 8-self sou sê

BY: Liya-Sophia van Wyk

Om van die laerskool na hoërskool toe te gaan voel vreesaanjaend en oorweldigend. Skielik is alles groter: die skool, die verwagtinge, die kinders. Maar ná 'n kwartaal weet jy al waar die badkamers is, watter onderwysers streng is en jy begin stadig maar seker jou plek vind. As iemand wat nou in graad 9 is, is hier 'n paar dinge wat ek wens iemand

vir my vroeër gesê het.

Eerstens: moenie werk aanhoudend uitstel nie. Werk vermevuldig vinnig, take raak meer, en "ek sal later" vang jou vinniger as wat jy dink... Tweedens, moenie alles so ernstig opneem nie. Hoërskool gaan nie net oor stres en oorleef nie. Lag, geniet die oomblik en moenie bang wees om jou eie ding te doen nie.

Nog iets belangrik: vriende gaan

verander en dis normaal. Party mense loop 'n pad saam met jou, ander net 'n stukkie. Dit beteken nie jy doen iets verkeerd nie. En die matrieks—hulle is nie jou vriende nie, maar hulle is ook nie monsters nie. Hulle lyk scary, maar hulle byt nie. Meestal is hulle net moeg en oorwerk.

Laastens: moenie jou waarde meet aan punte of populariteit nie. Jy is soveel meer as 'n rapport of hoeveel mense jou naam ken. En ook,

om eerlik te wees - niemand gee regtig om as jy pouse geval het nie. Almal is te besig om oor hul eie verleentheid te stres. Dis nie so diep nie, dit voel net so op daardie oomblik.

Op die ou einde gaan dit oor balans. Werk hard, maar leef ook. Wees vriendelik met jouself, gee jouself tyd om te groei en onthou: jy hoef nie alles nou al uit te figure nie. Jy is presies waar jy moet wees.

## Oorleef oriëntasie

DEUR: Singe Lessing, Isabella Hugo

As ek nog een keer die woorde "parade, parade!" moet hoor, gaan ek doodeenvoudig omkap! In ons eerste week by die hoërskool (meer van 'n oorlewingskamp) was dit die MX26 se geliefde woorde.

In daardie week was ons al babas, aangetrek soos ons toekomstige beroep, aangeval deur die matrieks deur watergewere en van kop tot tone natgespuit. Ons het al mure gewas. Waterballongegegte oorleef. Mense gevra om met ons te trou-vir handtekeninge natuurlik, en die seuns hoor gil soos meisies!

We had an amazing time, although it was tough guessing who had the longest sibling on the matric council for the blazer test! Matching their baby photos with their actual faces also took pretty long... Having slept over at the school, been rudely awakened, and marched into the school building in the dead of night. I can tell you that I do not want to walk into one of the matrics at night!

Na ons daardie gruwelike aand oorleef het en die matrieks trots gemaak het by die groentjie konsert, het ons gedink dis verby! Party van ons moes nog vieruur dieselfde oggend die blazer-toets oorskryf. Nadat almal op



Matric Council Training Newbies. PHOTO: Supplied

hulle maagvelle deurgeskraap het en hulle blazers ontvang het, kan ons onself trotse en ware Hermies noem.

We're so thankful for the matric council that made this an amazing and unforgettable experience!



The New Babies Of The School. PHOTO: Supplied

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## MAKING WAVES

## A New Chapter for the RCL of 2026

BY: Cassidy Capes

With a new teacher at the helm and a renewed sense of purpose, the Representative Council of Learners (RCL) is entering 2026 with energy, vision, and a clear intention: to make waves.

Under the leadership of Ms Gildenhuys, the RCL has adopted the motto, "Let's make waves, change the current." Her vision is rooted in service and growth. "I want the RCL to lead with integrity, represent the voice of the learners, and inspire meaningful, positive change within our school," she explains.

For the newly appointed Grade 12 chairperson, the journey into leadership began with a desire for representation. Although he says he felt "honoured but not surprised" when selected, he emphasises that the role is bigger than any individual. "It's not about me, it's about us. It's about us, the school."

As chairperson, his responsibilities include planning school events, managing committees, and ensuring that both staff and learners are heard. Rather than seeing the position as a duty, he views it as an opportunity that has amplified who he already is.

**REPRESENTATION AND VOICE**

At its core, the RCL exists to represent learners and act as a bridge between students and management. According to school leadership, concerns raised

by learners are brought to the teacher in charge, then presented to the Senior Management Team (SMT) for discussion. From there, decisions are communicated back through the RCL structure.

Mr Prodhel explains that while the school aims to maintain a standardised set of rules for fairness, discussions around certain policies – including hair regulations – are not ignored. "We do sit down and discuss things," he says, emphasising that learners are encouraged to raise concerns regularly, not only once a year.

One RCL member noted that hair regulations have been a prominent topic of discussion, particularly around how different hair textures may be affected by uniform standards. School management acknowledges that balancing fairness and practicality is complex, but maintains that processes are in place to review concerns through structured dialogue.

The message from leadership is clear: learners are welcome to engage through their RCL representatives, and concerns are addressed through formal discussion rather than dismissed.

**GROWTH THROUGH LEADERSHIP**

Beyond representation, the RCL's impact is also personal.

The chairperson describes his experience as "a chapter of growth, opportunity, and learning the importance of people, because who am I without the people



Our New RCL Of 2026! PHOTO: Cecilia De Villiers

around me?"

Ms Gildenhuys echoes this sentiment, highlighting that the RCL builds confidence, time-management skills, and decision-making ability. Members are encouraged to lead by example, show compassion, and engage in difficult conversations when necessary.

New initiatives this year include:

- An RCL wall to promote campaigns and events
- The "Seagull Support Box" in each register class
- Wellness posters and committee-led initiatives
- A Fun Walk Clean-Up Challenge
- Academic support advertising and tutor sessions
- Increased marketing and social media presence

Through these projects, the RCL aims to remain visible, accessible, and active within the school community.

**A CULTURE OF SERVICE**

The leadership culture being built within the RCL is centred on service, accountability, and courage. Members are expected to listen without judgement, treat concerns confidentially, and follow up where needed.

Most importantly, learners are reminded to know who their RCL representative is and to use that channel.

"Everyone wants to be heard," says Ms Gildenhuys. "Being listened to helps learners feel valued and strengthens their self-confidence."

As 2026 unfolds, the RCL hopes to continue shaping a school environment where students feel represented, supported, and inspired to contribute.

The current may be strong, but this year, the RCL is determined to make waves.





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# Drie Kleure. Een Verhoog: Agter die skerms van SIT 2026

BY: Liya-Sophia van Wyk

Op 17 Februarie het ons skoolsaal verander in 'n byenes van opwinding, spanning en kreatiwiteit. Die jaarlikse SIT (Skool Interteater) kompetisie is nie net 'n datum op die kalender nie - dit is 'n oomblik waar die wit-, blou- en groenspanne weke se harde werk omskep in 'n ervaring wat die gehoor vasganael hou.

Ons het met die breine agter die produksies gesels oor hul proses, van die eerste vonk van 'n idee tot die finale buiging.

## Luche Havenga (Blouspan: *Murder at the Ashton Manner*)

Luche, wie se span as die algehele wenners gekroon is, deel dat die pad na oorwinning een van samewerking en ontdekking was:

- **Die Konsep:** "My vriend, Daniel, en ek het die idee saam uitgedink. Ons wou iets heeltemal anders doen as die tipiese komedies wat mense gewoonlik vir SIT kies."

- **Die Hoogtepunt:** "Dit was eerlikwaar om te sien hoeveel pret almal tydens die oefeninge gehad het."

- **Lesse Geleer:** "Ek sou strenger gewees het met die oefeninge. Hoewel dit pret was, kon die koreografie, tydsberekening en projeksie meer aandag geniet het."

- **Gunsteling Karakter:** "Beslis Sherlock. Sy lawwe persoonlikheid en snaakse sêgoed was lekker om te ontwikkel en dit

was vreeslik pret om sy dialoog te skryf."

## Leanté Barnard (Witspan: *Doomscrolling*)

As wenners van die beste teks en regisseur, het Leanté die krag van moderne kultuur ingespan:

- **Die Konsep:** Leanté sê haar denke is geprikkel deur Tik-Tok-videos en memes, omdat sy geweet het dat kinders dit sal geniet, maar sy kon dit nie alleen uitbeeld nie, wat haar laat dink het aan die sosiale kwessie van "doomscrolling".

- **Die Verhaal:** Sy het 'n storie geskep rondom die idee van sosiale media en kinders wat te veel tyd op sosiale media spandeer, om 'n snaakse dog relevante boodskap oor skermtyd oor te dra (en die manne wat bietjie lyf wys was natuurlik 'n bonus). Vir haar was die belangrikste dat die gehoor dit moet geniet en lekker lag, karakters soos Donald Trump, jaloerse meisies en 'n paar jocks wat "clueless" oor hul meisies is het gesorg vir baie snaakse oomblikke.

- **Gunsteling Karakter:** "Definitief Sergio! Hy het baie gees gebring en het ALTYD 'n glimlag op sy gesig gehad."

## Die Groenspan (*Education Never Dies*)

Hierdie span het gewys dat die dood sy snaakse kant het met die begrafnis van die geliefde "Mnr. Sokkiestopper". Die teks was skerp en baie snaaks. Veral Stefan Stiegler, wat aangewys is as die



A Spectacular Comedy Show. PHOTO: Ms Nel

beste akteur met sy histeriese uitbeelding van 'n tipiese jock, het die gehoor laat skater. Megan-Leigh Smith is ook aangewys as die beste aktrise. Hul fokus op ensemble-werk het vrugte gewerp deurdat die hele groep as 'n eenheid die gehoor laat skaterlag het en hul het daarvoor die prys vir beste ensemble ontvang.

SIT 2026 het bewys dat dit oor

veel meer as wen of verloor gaan. Dit gaan oor die passie om 'n storie lewendig te maak en die spanwerk wat nodig is wanneer dinge nie altyd perfek verloop nie.

Dit gaan oor die moed om op 'n verhoog te staan en 'n karakter jou eie te maak. Elke leerder wat hul naweke opgeoffer het, het bygedra tot 'n aand vol gees wat nog lank onthou sal word.

Pryse van die aand:

Kategorie	Wenner	Produksie
Algehele Wenner	Blouspan	<i>Murder at the Ashton Manner</i>
Beste Teks & Regisseur	Leanté Barnard	<i>Doomscrolling</i>
Beste Akteur	Stefan Stieger	<i>Education Never Dies</i>
Beste Aktrise	Megan Lee Smith	<i>Education Never Dies</i>
Beste Ensemble	Groenspan	<i>Education Never Dies</i>
Beste Tegniese Span	Blouspan	<i>Murder at the Ashton Manner</i>





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**NETBALL 1<sup>st</sup>** | **NETBAL 1<sup>ste</sup>**

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PIZZA & PASTA

FLTR: Maryke Henn (Head of Netball), De Wet Laing – Food Lovers Market, Johan van Zyl – Toyota (Anchor Sponsor), Mr Mike Smuts (Principal) Emily Lamprecht (Coach), Lee-Ann & Jan van Wyngaardt – Blade Charters, Norman Goliath – De Jagers, Right Back: Mienka Henn (Team Manager)



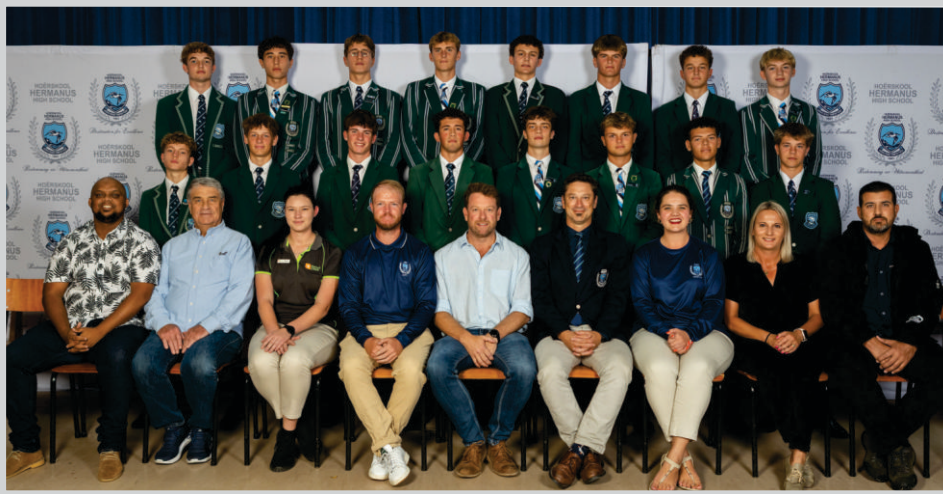
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FLTR: Rico Roos (Coach), De Wet Laing – Food Lovers Market, Klaradyn Stemmet (Team Manager), Ilze Botha – The Local Choice Pharmacy Sandbaai, Mr Mike Smuts (Principal), Lizelle Visser – FinGlobal (Anchor Sponsor), Norman Goliath – De Jagers

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FLTR: Norman Goliath – De Jagers, Steve Rundle – GasHub Hermanus, Ilze Botha – The Local Choice Pharmacy Sandbaai, Dylan Single (Coach), Chris Lochner – SPUR (Anchor Sponsor), Mr Mike Smuts (Principal), Welmari de Jager (Team manager), Lee-Ann & Jan van Wyngaardt – Blade Charters



**HOCKEY GIRLS 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**HOKKIEDOCTERS 1<sup>ste</sup>**

Middle Left: Doret Spykerman (Team Manager), Middle Right: Jolandi de Bruin (Coach).  
FLTR (Front): Johan du Preez - Du Preez Joinery, Steve Rundle – GasHub Hermanus, Chris Lochner – SPUR, Mr Mike Smuts (Principal), Ilze Botha – The Local Choice Pharmacy Sandbaai Lee-Ann & Jan van Wyngaardt – Blade Charters, Norman Goliath – De Jagers



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# Showing off

BY: Heinrich de Jongh

I felt the halls shake with curiosity. Hermanus High School opened its doors on 26 February 2026 to future learners and their families. They came to see what we have to offer and to decide if this is where their next chapter begins.

Visitors were divided into groups, each led by a member of the Matric Council. These leaders guided them from stop to stop. They explored a wide range of subjects, from sciences and mathematics to

languages, arts, and technology. The variety on offer was impressive, ensuring they experienced the Hermie lifestyle. Every stop offered a glimpse into possible futures.

In the physics lab, two students demonstrated how to make elephant toothpaste and a colour-change reaction, capturing the attention of the Grade 7 learners. In the biology classroom, students demonstrated with real specimens such as a snake, livers, hearts, and even a pig's head. Some learners were even given a hands-on experience. "I didn't think I'd get to feel a real brain today," said a Grade 7 learner.

Students described the school with pride and as full of opportunities, including service, culture, sport, and academics.

Hermanus High is more than it appears from the outside. It is a place full of love, laughter, and the Hermie gees. Even as the journalist of the day, I could feel what makes this place unavoidable: remarkable teachers who encourage every learner to know they matter and inspire them to aim higher than they ever thought possible.



Crazy Biology experience.



Ms Schulenburg showcasing First Aid. PHOTOS: Heinrich de Jongh



New gr 8s. PHOTO: Heinrich de Jongh

## New Grade 8s of 2026

BY: Charlize Matinka

Your new journey begins!

The hallways are hectic: new faces, new teachers, and, best of all, new friends.

All of the above come with new challenges, which you don't have to feel terrified about.

Unknown hallways and thousands of unfamiliar faces make you nervous; there is a whole year ahead of us.

I think the first term will be scary because of all the new subjects. Grade 8s of 2026, all of a sudden there is an expectation to take control. Remember: you make wise decisions and consider your future.

Just think – yesterday we were big fish in a small pond; today we are small fish in a big pond.

Swim to adapt, don't swim to regret, and think about your future.

We were used to our parents being in charge of WhatsApp groups to make sure everything was done perfectly and according to their expectations; now we have to take control. The communication is swift to us instead.

Enjoy your last few years in high school; time passes by so fast. We have the privilege to be part of the Hermies family.

Make the most of it.

# Valentine's dance

BY: Isabella Goncalves

The Valentine's Dance at Hermanus High was undoubtedly one of the most anticipated social events of the term. For weeks before the event even occurred, there was a noticeable sense of excitement and anticipation throughout the school corridors.

During breaks or even lectures, students would speak of what outfits they were planning to wear for the dance, which mask would complement their face and outfit the best, what music they hoped would be played throughout the night, and let's not forget who they were planning on going with for the occasion.

The theme of this year's dance was a masquerade ball, which made the event feel more unique, exciting, and sophisticated compared to previous years. Not only did the dance give us the chance to socialise and enjoy ourselves outside of the school routine, but it also allowed students to form deeper connections with their friends and even build friendships with the rest of their peers, who they come across every day at school and could even be in the same classes with, yet are complete strangers.

On this night, everyone was connected by the music playlist created by the DJ or in the bathroom stalls while freshening up, by complementing each other's outfits and engaging in small talk. The moment they hit the dance floor, they were given the chance to



**ABOVE: The Gymnasium Was Filled With The Sound Of Enjoyment.**

**RIGHT: Friends And Couples Dancing There All.**

**PHOTOS: Stephan Botha**

create new and beautiful memories that will last a lifetime.

However, when we all entered the hall, the setup immediately created a different atmosphere. Even though the hall was not decorated in the usual Valentine's colours, the masquerade theme stood out through the masks and the overall mood of the evening. At the front of the gymnasium, the DJ was set up with a mist box that released smoke onto the dance floor, which enhanced the lighting effect and added to the dramatic feel of the whole night.

At the start of the evening, most learners stayed in their friend groups, taking photos and complimenting each other's outfits. Every one had truly outdone themselves



when it came to dressing according to the theme. Some wore elegant dresses and heels, while others chose smart shirts and neat trousers, which was quite refreshing to see a different side to our peers outside their school uniform. The theme made the event feel more formal and exciting.

As the night went on and the music became louder and more upbeat, more people gathered on the dance floor. The DJ played a mix of popular songs, slow songs, and slower tracks, which kept the energy going throughout the entire night. Some couples danced only with each other, while others

just swayed and laughed with their friends.

What stood out the most to me was how everyone seemed to forget about school and all the stresses that came with it, if only for a while. With tests, assignments, exams, cultural activities, and even sports constantly on their minds, it was truly a breath of fresh air to just relax and have fun together.

Regardless of our grades or social groups, learners came together to celebrate and create lasting memories. It reminded us that school is not only about academics, deadlines, or sports, but something much deeper: friendships, unity, and being part of a family, the Hermie family, and that is something far greater than anything else.

As for the Grade 12s, this was their final school dance at Hermanus High. While others still had plenty more, they only had that one night, which made the occasion feel even more significant. It must have felt emotional, knowing that their journey in school was coming to an end and that moments like this were becoming limited. But their story has only just begun, and the new chapter they are creating will be far more beautiful than one can imagine.

Overall, the Valentine's Dance was a memorable experience. The masquerade theme, the DJ, and the mist effect made it feel different and special. More importantly, it gave us a chance to create memories and enjoy ourselves as learners of Hermanus High.

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# The day the stars began to fall

**BY: Cassidy Capes**

**N**o one noticed the first star. It blinked once and disappeared. I did not think much of it at first. Just a shooting star. But by the third night, the sky was bleeding silver, and people began to whisper. Scientists called it a phenomenon. Children called it magic. I knew the truth. The stars were falling because people had stopped believing, stopped hoping, stopped wishing.

I watched from the roof. The wind tugged at my hair. Each star left a jagged line across the sky. Streetlights flickered below, powerless. Cars slowed, and drivers stared upward, silent.

By the seventh night, panic spread. Shops closed early. Windows were drawn tight. People pressed their faces to glass, silently praying or cursing. The news repeated endless debates and explanations. None of it captured the truth. The sky itself was breaking.

I knew why.

I had stopped wishing. Not yesterday, not last week, but years ago. I had sat on an empty swing, waiting for someone who never came. I had learned that wishes were fragile, and the stars had noticed my doubt. Now they were teaching the world the same lesson.

Could one person change this? Could I? I felt the weight of lost wishes. The letters never sent, the dreams left unspoken, the hearts grown cautious.

Then I remembered something. Wishing is contagious. One spark can reignite a fire that has been smothered for years.

I whispered into the wind, "I believe."

The stars paused mid-fall. My voice echoed into the night. Slowly, others began to notice. A child on a balcony pointed. A couple in the park fell silent. Someone laughed nervously, then gasped. One by one, more people joined. The world seemed to hold its breath.

The falling stars hovered, balanced between sky and earth. For the first time, the universe felt fragile but alive.

By dawn, the stars had returned to their places. Trails of silver faded like tears wiped clean. People stepped outside, blinking, unaware of what they had nearly lost. Magic or hope had returned, quiet but insistent.

I do not know if anyone will understand what really happened. Maybe they will call it a miracle. Maybe a coincidence.

I know the truth. The stars fall when we stop believing. And perhaps the only way to save them is to start believing again.

That night, I made a wish. Not for myself. Not for anyone else. For the world. And for the first time in years, I felt a spark inside me that wouldn't be silenced.

Because hope, once remembered, is impossible to ignore.

**HEDY LAMARR**

## What you didn't know about our female icons

**BY: Rachel Hague**

Hedy Lamarr (Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler) was an Austrian and American actress born in 1914, Vienna, at the beginning of World War I to Emil and Gertrud Kiesler, assimilated Jews. At the time, she was regarded as one of the most beautiful women in the world but had received some controversy for appearing in the erotic romantic drama *Ecstasy*. She fled from her controlling first husband, Friedrich 'Fritz' Mandl, in 1937 and then proceeded to be married five more times in the span of twenty-five years. During World War II, her Hollywood career was at its peak, but she "didn't just want to sit there and make a lot of money when the world was in such a state." Lamarr had an inventor's brain despite having no formal engineering training and had always tinkered with things when she could. She had gained knowledge of weapons and arms manufacturing, as well as the rising tensions in Europe, through Mandl's business dinners, as he supplied ammunition to Italy. He was associated with fascist movements, including Nazi Germany, and was friends with Benito Mussolini. Lamarr didn't discuss her Jewish heritage, but she was probably aware that she could not return to Austria from America with the growing Nazi movement.

During World War II, together with composer George Antheil, she invented a "Secret Communication System" (SCS). It used frequency hopping to direct Allied torpedoes in an un-jammable way. The SCS made use of a piano-roll mechanism to change radio frequencies for both the transmitter and receiver, making the signal impossible to track. They received a patent for their invention, but it was never used by the US Navy during the war, and neither of them received any money for their invention before

the patent expired. Lamarr was instead told to use her fame to sell war bonds, which were used to finance military operations. She did, and during 1942 she raised \$25 million (around \$343 million in today's world). Her fundraisers consisted of "selling kisses" to a sailor who was 'randomly' chosen from the crowd. She promised a kiss if people bought enough bonds. However, it was a set-up, and she kissed the same sailor at every event.

The SCS was later used in military communications, including during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 after the patent had expired, and it was the predecessor to modern-day wireless technologies. With this system, the two unconventional inventors led telecommunications into the future, as concepts such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, and smartphones would be nearly unimaginable without it. The Jewish Museum Vienna has therefore dubbed their exhibition on Hedy Lamarr Lady Bluetooth.

She finally received recognition for her collaboration in the invention of the SCS in the 1990s and received the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) Pioneer Award in 1997. When told that she was going to receive this award, she reportedly said, "Well, it's about time," understandably, since it had then been fifty-five years since their patent had been approved and the system had been made available. In 2014, fourteen years after Lamarr passed away, she was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, this displays a common theme throughout our history of women only receiving recognition long after they have made incredible leaps forward for our society. Women's brains are no less than a man's, and they should not be treated as such; unfortunately, much of society has yet to realize that.

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# Umfutho! The heart of athletics

BY: Abigail Phiri

It was a scorching hot Wednesday. The bedazzled white Aliens were staged and ready to take over the planet, the blue Dallas Cowboys were set to bring the heat, and the Fast and Furious green machines revved up their engines, prepared to go right past the speed limit. The day began with a bang as athletes jumped, sprinted, and threw with absolute tenacity! Records were set, and a 23-year-old record was broken. However, for everyone else, it was more of a battle against the scorching heat on the pavilion.

To the girl sitting at the end of the pavilion, something special was about to brew. She stepped onto the pavilion, feeling more dead than grass. Should've just stayed home and watched Netflix, she thought to herself. Then suddenly, the green fellows gathered in a group. What began as a slow war cry flared up into magic, pride, and heart. Stomp! "Fakumfutho, green team, fakumfutho," they chanted slowly. Her heart began to race, and suddenly zoning in on a fly that was passing by felt like the most dreary thing in the world.

Louder and louder! They sang! They stomped! They jumped up and sang like it was their last, and for her, it was. One last time. "Fakumfutho, green team, fakumfutho," she screamed — they all did. A sea of green in unison. Voices echoing far beyond the irrelevant things that the world tells us are important. She felt whole and complete. Voices gone, moments passed. What remained? Memories that last a lifetime. Togetherness in the purest sense. She felt it, the clouds felt it, and just for a second, the earth stood still.

Just before the heavily anticipated relay, the Matrics of 2026 took a well-deserved victory lap. It was a moment of undeniable pride, a "one last time" moment, and it reminded everyone of why we compete, why we sing our hearts out, and why we give our everything when needed,

for the school. At last, the final results were out. The Aliens might have fallen short with the trophies, but they dominated the history books, with multiple athletes shattering school records in white. The Fast and Furious green machines didn't leave empty-handed; their energy earned them the Best Dirigente trophy, proving their cheerleaders are in a league of their own. It was ultimately the Dallas Cowboys in blue who dominated the day by winning the Spirit Trophy and the overall Athletics Trophy.

Gees, energy, umfutho! That's what colour athletics is all about — irrespective of whether you're in the blue, white, or green team. We're all united as Hermies!



Screaming Our Hearts Out For Interschools. PHOTO: Heinrich de Jongh



ABOVE: Dallas Cowboys feeling the spirit. PHOTO: Sita Hoogenboozem  
INSERT: Mr.Smuts Gazing With Pride At The Hermie's Victories!. PHOTO: Heinrich de Jongh



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# Fun walk 2026

BY: Louie Barnard

The day kicked off with amazing outfits, glitter and enthusiasm. We walked through the streets of Hermanus, our festive attire turning heads.

The 7 Km stroll along the cliff path was lovely. Back at the school, we were met with the smell of food from the tuck shop and the Coke waiting at the gate. The sunny day was perfect for soccer and tug of war, as well as the Coke chugging competition.

The Fun Day was a perfect break from academic pressures. The Matric council enjoyed their last fun walk cycling through the crowd in their festive gear. I can't wait for next year!



**ABOVE: Camphill fun day. PHOTO: Mrs Geldenhuys**  
**TOP RIGHT: Uplifting the spirit. PHOTO: Me de Villiers**  
**RIGHT: Princes and Princesses on a stroll. PHOTO: Me de Villiers**



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# The ball that didn't drop

BY: Klara Schoonraad

The sun crept slowly down by the cricket field, turning the grass into a shimmering green.

The air smelt of freshly cut lawn. A drop of sweat tickled down my cheek. After countless drills, my hands started shaking. I crouched behind the stumps, knees bent, back straight, and eyes sharp.

As he ran in, I could feel the thudding rhythmically beneath my feet. My heart hammered against my chest. The ball left his hand like a red bullet. My vision filled with white glare.

I looked chaotically for the ball, but there was nothing. For a brief moment, the ball passed directly in front of the sun, creating a perfect eclipse for me to spot the target, but I realised it was too late.

The ball wasn't dropping gently; it was charging towards me, unstoppable. No time to turn away. Thud.

On the 22nd of January, Matteo Lanuti was hit by a cricket ball. He was doing keeper drills



PHOTO: Mr Smuts

ABOVE: Matteo Lanuti Batting At Cricket.  
RIGHT: Matteo receiving medical attention.  
PHOTO: Mr Lanuti

and forgot to wear his helmet.

He was sent to the ER and had to wear an eye patch for a whole week. This seems to be a common occurrence, as this event was also experienced by Mr Grobler on the 26th of February. Although the incidents were painful and frightening, they became a powerful lesson in the importance of safety and staying alert on the cricket field.



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# The Green Team sinks their competition at the Interhouse Swimming Gala

BY: Lana Barnard

On the fourth of February, Hermanus High School held its annual Interhouse Swimming Gala. The event was a success, with learners showcasing impressive talent, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

They left the school with determination and enthusiastic school spirit. It was a day of fierce competition, record-breaking performances, and hard work.

The Green team emerged victorious with an impressive 242 points, the White team not far behind with 220 points, and the Blue team with 153 points.

The following learners received well-deserved awards for their accomplishments:

- Junior Victrix Ludorum: Diëm Peens (28 points)
- Junior Victor Ludorum: Jayden Breedt (36 points)
- Senior Victrix Ludorum: Isabé van Dyk (27 points)
- Senior Victor Ludorum: Ruben Brits (21 points)

At the end of the day, the 2026 Matrics took part in the annual tradition of jumping into the pool together for the last time.

Congratulations to all the winners and hardworking swimmers who took part and made the day a success. We can't wait for next year!



ABOVE: Feeling Goofy And Cheerful At The Swim Gala. PHOTOS: Stefan Botha  
BELOW: Having Fun After A Successful Day Of Swimming. PHOTOS: Stefan Botha



## Interhouse Colour Athletics 2026



Waving Our Victory Flag Just Because We Can. PHOTO: Gerhard loedolff



Hermies Sing There Hearts Out As One. PHOTO: Karien Erasmus

# Hermanus High School Interhouse Colour Athletics 2026



ABOVE: Every Little Voice Counts. PHOTO: Karien Erasmus



RIGHT: Embeth Once Again Amazes The Crowd. PHOTO: Sita Hoogenboezem

BY: Isabella-Caroline van Wyk

Wow, what a day to remember! The Hermanus High School sports field came alive on 21 January 2026 as learners from the Blue, Green, and White teams gathered for the annual Interhouse Colour Athletics Day. The day was filled with excitement, school pride, and outstanding athletic performances, making it one of the most memorable events on the school calendar.

Athletes showed great determination and teamwork throughout the day, with several new records being set in both track and field events. Stand-out performances were delivered by Amelie Duvenhage (800 m), Mari Ackermann (400 m hurdles), James Bishop (shot put and discus), Anke Kok (200 m), Kaylee Collins (discus), Cayden Booysen (100 m and 300 m hurdles), and Jayden Africa (100 m).

Competition between the houses was strong, both on and off the track. The Green team impressed the judges and spectators to win the Cheer-leading Trophy, while the Blue team dominated the day by winning both the Spirit "Gees" Trophy and the Overall Athletics Trophy.

Individual excellence was also recognised. Tony Martins was awarded Senior Victor Ludorum, Mari Ackermann received Senior Victrix Ludorum, Nicola Heyns was named Junior Victrix Ludorum, and James Bishop earned the title of Junior Victor Ludorum. Well done to everyone who took part and helped make this day a success.

The 2026 Interhouse Athletics Day once again highlighted the strong sportsmanship and unity that shape Hermanus High School, leaving learners looking forward to next year's competition.

See more photos on p23

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