



NEWSLETTER

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www.grooteschuurprimary.co.za

Newsletter 14/2025

5 Augustus 2025

Enter to Learn: Leave to Serve

Dear Parents

Staff

- Megan McCrorie left us at the end of July. Nicola Andreas will teach the Grade 3 M class until the end of 2025. Nicola is familiar with the class and she has previously worked with pupils in Grade 1 in 2023.
- William Mabija retired at the end of July, after 31 years of service to our school. He worked in the maintenance and cleaning department. The vacant position will be filled as soon as possible.
- Justin Stevens our Grade 7J teaching assistant left us on Friday to embark on another journey. The vacant position was advertised and will be filled as soon as possible.
- Alicia Titus our Grade 3M teacher aide left us on 25 July, as she was employed as a teacher at another school. The vacant position will be filled by one of the Basic Education Employment Initiative educational assistants until the end of November.

Staff Changes

There are many things out of the control of principals at schools. A number of them is when a staff member resigns, is medically booked off for an extended period of time or goes on maternity leave. Very rarely does a staff member plan to leave during a year when they start at the beginning of the year. We can't stop people from becoming ill or deciding to leave our school and we do try to employ the best possible replacement. Please keep in mind that teachers who are available during the year are far and few between.

Safety after School

As part of our safety and supervision protocols, please be advised that your children are to be collected within 30 minutes of the end of their school day or extramural activities. If they are not collected, they will be left unsupervised and are at risk.

Enrolment for 2026

Every year we are inundated with requests for new enrolments to our school. To help us plan for next year, please complete the reply slip below and return it by Friday 15 August, so that we can meet new families should places become available.

✂✂✂✂ REPLY SLIP

Name of pupil _____ Grade in 2025 _____

Name of pupil _____ Grade in 2025 _____

Name of pupil _____ Grade in 2025 _____

☐

Yes, he/she will attend GSPS in 2026

☐

No, he/she will not attend GSPS in 2026 Signature of parent: _____

Junior Writing Competition for Learners Aged 9–13

We would like to remind you about the exciting Junior Writing Competition currently being hosted by the City of Cape Town's Library and Information Services, open to all children aged 9 to 13 years. This is a fantastic opportunity for learners to let their imaginations run wild and develop their writing skills. Following last year's overwhelming success, this year's competition features a new magical theme that promises to spark creativity in every young storyteller.

This year's theme:

While exploring the school or local library, a mysterious box is discovered tucked between the shelves. Covered in strange symbols and softly humming... What happens when it is opened?

We encourage all eligible learners to take part and submit their original, handwritten stories. Selected stories will be celebrated at the Open Book Festival on 6 September 2025 — what an incredible opportunity for our budding writers!

Entry Guidelines:

- **Age Group:** 9 – 13 years
- **Word Count:** 500 – 1500 words
- **Languages:** English, Afrikaans, or isiXhosa
- **Format:** Handwritten only (no typed or AI-generated stories)
- **Story Type:** Short story, long story, picture book, or graphic novel (No poetry)
- **Extras:** Drawings and illustrations are encouraged!

Important Dates:

- Deadline for entries: Friday, 8 August 2025

How to Submit:

Parents may:

- **Email** the handwritten story to: library@gsp.co.za, or
- **Submit directly** to the City of Cape Town at: psp.libraries@capetown.gov.za
- **Drop off** entries at any local public library

Please ensure that the completed admission form (attached to this letter) is submitted with the story. Let's support our young writers and encourage them to dream big, write boldly, and let their imaginations soar. We're looking forward to seeing many magical entries from our Groote Schuur learners! Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email at library@gsp.co.za.

Kaylin Haywood, Librarian

School budget 2026

The School Governing Body will present the proposed budget and the annual school fees for 2026 on **Tuesday 9 September** at 18:00 in our school hall. Please make every effort to attend this very important meeting.

WhatsApp Groups

At Groote Schuur Primary there are no WhatsApp Groups started by the school as a means of communication. There is no reason for you to feel obliged to remain on a group if you have been added to a group without your permission. Some groups have been started to the benefit of parents and if you wish to remove yourself, please do so.

Scripture Union is Back!

We are happy to share that Scripture Union is back and will be running weekly sessions for our learners. If your child from Grade 1 to Grade 7 is interested in joining, sessions will take place every Wednesday during first break in the school library. All learners are welcome to attend and take part in this uplifting and meaningful time together.

Call for Volunteers – Help Us Wrap and Cover Library Books

We are reaching out to kindly ask for your support in helping us wrap and cover new and existing books for our school library. This small act of service makes a big difference in helping us protect and preserve our books for long-term use by all our learners. If you are able to assist, even for just an hour or two, please email us at library@gspss.co.za to schedule a time that suits you best. We'll provide all the necessary materials — we just need your hands and heart!

Mandela Day Outreach

On behalf of the school, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our Wellness Warriors, learners and their families for once again showing incredible generosity and compassion through our annual Mandela Day Outreach Initiative. Thanks to your kindness and continued support, we received a wonderful number of donated jars filled with nourishing items. These contributions are a true reflection of the spirit of Ubuntu and will go a long way in making a difference in the lives of others. We are currently in the process of arranging the delivery and collection logistics to ensure that all donations reach the **Ladles of Love Foundation** safely and timeously. Thank you to each and every family who contributed to this meaningful cause. Your support plays a vital role in teaching our learners the importance of empathy, service and giving back to their communities.

Wellness Warriors Staff

School Production & Important Information - 7 Weeks to Go –

The countdown is on – we are just 7 weeks away from our much-anticipated school production, *The Challenge*! Our learners and staff are working hard to bring this exciting show to life and we can't wait to share it with you. To make the event even more enjoyable, we're thrilled to announce that a variety of food trucks will be on-site during production evenings, offering delicious meals and treats including:



Food sales will begin at 16:00 and end at 20:30. Bring your appetite and support our local vendors as you enjoy the evening with your family!

Ticket Bookings & Seating Reminders

Please remember to secure your tickets as soon as possible. Every person entering the hall must have a valid ticket, and no child will be allowed to sit on a parent's lap.

Please take note of the following important information regarding seating and safety:

- Every person entering the hall must have a valid ticket.
- The production is not suitable for children under the age of 5 years.
- No prams or strollers will be allowed inside the hall.
- No children may sit on laps – each individual must occupy their own seat.
- We have made arrangements to accommodate wheelchair users.

Learner Participation

Please note that it is compulsory for all learners to be present for all four performances:

- **Tuesday, 30 September 2025** (Evening Show)
- **Wednesday, 1 October 2025** (Evening Show)
- **Thursday, 2 October 2025** (Morning Show & Evening Show)

Costume Reminder – Grades 5 & 6

A reminder to parents of Grade 5 and 6 learners – all production costumes were due last week Friday. If you have not yet sent your child's costume to school, please do so urgently. We still need to complete painting and preparation work on each learner's costume, and your support in sending it through will be a great help.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. Let's make this year's production a memorable success!

Born to Read

We are excited to share some final information about our upcoming Born to Read event, taking place on Tuesday, 12 August 2025. This annual event is a special opportunity for our learners to engage with passionate readers, writers, and storytellers who aim to inspire a love for reading. Below you will find the final guest list of readers who will be visiting our school this year. We are honoured to be welcoming a wonderful group of authors and literacy advocates.

Born to Read Guest List – Final Line-up

Grade RR & RS

- Michell Hunter- Public Library Librarian
- Luca Jaftha -Public Library Librarian
- Tracey Hunter- Public Library Librarian

Grade 1T

- Ky-Leigh Wright – Content Creator

Grade 1M

- Samantha Philander – Public Library Librarian

Grade 2M

- Jill Morsbach – Children’s Novelist

Grade 2S

- Odile Oliver – Author and Dispatcher, City of Cape Town Fire and Rescue
(*Attending with Nicole Isaacs*)

Grade 3E

- Shereen Stadler – Principal, PNPS

Grade 3M

- Julie Tobiasky – Merrypak
(*Attending with Med Brown and therapy dog, Litchi*)

Grade 4J (Split Session)

- Kim Thompson – WCED Subject Advisor (Half of the class)
- Gretchen V. Johnstone – WCED Subject Advisor (Other half in 7J classroom)

Grade 4S

- Chantel Heuvel – Author of *The AGU*

Grade 5C

- Nik Rabinowitz – South African Comedian

Grade 5D (Split Session)

- Lindelo Ntsentela – WCED Social Worker (Half of the class)
- Zaphne Labuschagne – Co-founder of the Otto Foundation (Other half in 7S classroom)

Grade 6G

- Willow Classen – 12-year-old published author of two children’s books
(*Attending with her mom, Kim Classen*)

Grade 6O

- Mikhail Williams – Music Artist and Filmmaker
(*Attending in media coverage capacity – not filming children's faces*)

Grade 7J & Grade 7S

- Robyn Radcliffe & Shaun Warner – Founders of Paperclips

Back-Up Guests

(To be allocated on the day if any guest is unable to attend)

- Sports Department (2 people – names to be confirmed)
- Mrs. Deonie Everts – School Receptionist
- Ground staff (2 people - names to be confirmed)

If you would like to purchase any of the books written by the authors who will be attending, please feel free to reach out to us via email at library@gsp.co.za. We’ll gladly share available titles, prices and ordering details. Thank you for your continued support in fostering a strong reading culture in our school.

Library books

Please continue encouraging your children to return their library books to the designated return section in the school library, rather than keeping them in their schoolbags or classrooms. This ensures that books are available for others to enjoy and helps maintain the smooth running of our library system. Thank you for your continued support in growing a culture of reading at Groote Schuur Primary School. Your involvement is always appreciated!

Bridgerton Brunch

We regret to inform you that Groote Schuur Primary's Women's Day *Bridgerton*-themed brunch that was due to take place on Saturday 9 August, has been cancelled due to a low number of interested participants. Learners who donated gifts for the event will still be rewarded with a civvies day on Thursday, 29 August as a token of appreciation for their contribution. Please note that all donated prizes will be kept safely and used for our Women's Day fundraiser in 2026. We understand that many were looking forward to this event, and we share in your disappointment. The Finance Office will be in touch with those who have already made payments regarding the refund process. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Bingo Evening – 29 August 2025

We are looking forward to our very popular BINGO evening on Friday 29 August, starting at 18:00. The success of the evening depends on the contributions that parents are sending, and the number of participants on the evening. Very few prizes have been sent to school, we are waiting in anticipation for you to surprise us. A civvies day will be granted on 29 August, to all learners who have brought prizes, on or before that day.

SPORT

Sport on rainy days

Please be reminded that on rainy days, a decision as to whether sport can go ahead or not will be made at 12h00. If sport is not able to continue, the Front Office will send out a notification via the d6 Communicator to all parents to inform them that sport has been cancelled. Parents will have the opportunity to fetch their child immediately after school. Children who would have participated in sport on a particular day will gather at the blue pillars, which is situated close to the Netball courts (back of the school). Players and coaches will wait for approximately 10 minutes to see if parents have arrived to fetch their child. After this time frame, learners who are unable to be fetched straight away will be supervised by the teacher or coach in a particular venue. Parents who arrive at school after the 10-minute waiting period will have to report to the Front Office, and request that their child is called from the holding venue.

Sport Results

Please see below our results from last week:

Week ending Friday, 1 August 2025

Netball vs Micklefield School (Home)

U9 Netball vs Micklefield: our team lost

U11 Netball vs Micklefield: our team lost

U12B Netball vs Micklefield: our team lost

U10 Netball vs Micklefield: match abandoned due to rain

U12A Netball vs Micklefield: our team won

U13 Netball vs Micklefield: our team lost

Rugby vs The Grove Primary School

Matches were postponed

Hockey vs Reddam House Constantia (Away)

U9 Hockey vs Reddam: our team lost

U11 Hockey vs Reddam: our team lost

U10 Hockey vs Reddam: our team lost

U13 Hockey vs Reddam: our team lost

Chess vs Kirstenhof Primary (Away)

Our Chess team drew

Sporting Achievements

As per a previous newsletter, we mentioned that Milani Adams was selected for the Western Province U12 Hockey Zonal A (Southern) Team. Milani participated at the Inter-Zonal Tournament in Somerset West this past weekend. Her team finished second overall and clinched the silver medal. Well done, Milani!

Marshall Scheepers and Jawaad Ismail have qualified to participate in the Cape Metro Champs for Cross Country. The race will be taking place at the CPUT Campus in Bellville on Saturday, 16 August. We are extremely proud of their achievements thus far, and we would like to wish Marshall and Jawaad everything of the best for their upcoming races.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nefdt', written in a cursive style.

VALENTINE NEFDT
PRINCIPAL

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE FAMOUS
OR INFLUENTIAL?**



PARENTS WE NEED YOUR HELP

**BORN TO READ
EVENT 2025**

DATE: 12TH OF AUGUST 2025

VENUE: GROOTE SCHUUR PRIMARY SCHOOL

TIME: 07:50 AM

**Please email library@gspss.co.za if you know of someone
that can read to the children.**





PARENT BOOK WRAPPING VOLUNTEERS WANTED

VENUE: GSPS LIBRARY

MONDAYS – THURSDAYS

TIME: ANYTIME BETWEEN 07:30 AM – 2PM

If available please email library@gsp.co.za



LIBRARY WRITING COMPETITION



CATEGORIES:

9 to 13 years old

English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa

Do you have a flair for writing? If so, then this is for you!!



Theme: The Mysterious Box

Library and Information Services (LIS) invites you to take part in the Junior Writing Competition 2025.

T & C's Apply:

Word Count: Between 500 - 1500 words

Format: Picture book, graphic novel, short, or long story

No Poetry or AI - generated artwork or stories allowed.

For more information



Closing Date for Submissions: **8 August 2025**

Please complete the submission form and send together with your story to

psp.libraries@capetown.gov.za



Junior Writing Competition 2025: Admission Form

NAME & SURNAME			
CONTACT NUMBER		AGE	
EMAIL		LIBRARY	
STORY TITLE		LANGUAGE	
SCHOOL		GRADE	

I (parent/guardian) of the above student, hereby consent to the written story submission.

By signing this form, you are giving your consent for the City of Cape Town and other entities to capture, publish and share pictures of yourself and your written submission. We respect the privacy rights of everyone who uses or enquires about our services. Protecting your personal information, as defined in the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act 4 of 2013, will be respected. All submissions received will remain the intellectual property of the original author. Should your work be selected as a finalist, the City of Cape Town will publish and/or use your work in programmes and events.

Personal information will only be shared for purposes of resolving customer enquiries, providing customer services or for any other legitimate purpose relating to City functions and events. For further information, refer to the CoCT Privacy Policy (www.capetown.gov.za/general/privacy).

.....
Parent Guardian: Name and Surname

.....
Signature

.....
Cell Number

INTERNAL USE ONLY

.....
Staff Member: Name & Surname

.....
LIBRARY

.....
SIGNATURE



**G.S.P.S. CHOIR WILL BE PERFORMING
AT THE
ARTSCAPE THEATRE
CONGRATULATIONS TEAM!**



DATE: 7 AUGUST 2025

**PURCHASE TICKETS VIA: ARTSCAPE
BOX OFFICE, WEBTICKETS WEBSITE
(ONLINE OR AT PICK N PAY, BOXER)
OR ARTSCAPE BOX OFFICE**



GROOTE SCHUUR PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENTS:

THE CHALLENGE

30 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER 2025 @ 7 PM

MATINEE: 2 OCTOBER 2025 @ 10:30AM

TICKETS ROWS 1 - 6 : R150 ALL OTHER TICKETS: R125

Contact: Zainab

Cell no: 0747555135

Email: zainabismail05@gmail.com

Tuition Offered

I provide individual classes via Zoom and face-to-face for Grade 1 to Grade 10. I offer classes in Afrikaans, English, Maths, Maths lit, Economics and Sciences. I prepare each pupil for their exams in all subjects.

My rate is R200 per hour.

**"The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."**

- Dr. Seuss

