

FROM THE FRONT OFFICE...

Absent from school?

Please email: secretary@westerford.co.za

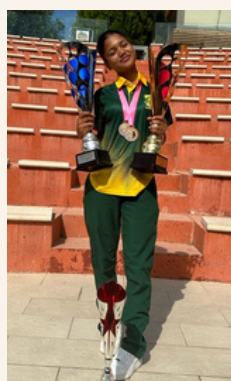


Please see [this link](#) for all other Westerford email addresses

Please send achievements to be included in the Newsletter to: webteam@westerford.co.za

CONGRATULATIONS

Mika Sky Marais (9D) placed fourth in the world at the Majorette World Championships that took place in Croatia. She is the first South African ever placed in the solo performance category. Mika won two gold medals: first place for the mace group performance and first place for the small drill display.



Jan Karsten (9C) will be participating in the Chess World Youth Championships in Italy in November. Jan's ELO rating is above 2300 and he is ranked number four in South Africa across all age groups. For some context: an ELO rating of 2300 - 2400 is the level of a FIDE Master and some International Masters. At 2500 you're moving into Chess Grandmaster territory. What an incredible accomplishment!

On 30 September the Westerford Marimbas achieved the runner-up prize at the prestigious Stellenbosch University National Ensemble Competition. They competed against String, Brass, Wind, and Vocal Ensembles and were the runners up in the Classical Category. A nice R 5000 prize!

On 5 October the Westerford Marimbas opened an international conference at the CTICC and were a highlight on the agenda. A special thank you to our matrices who have performed their last performance on this day. Their place in the success of the marimbas will always be valued.

On 7 October **Blaine Coleman** (10E) competed in a powerlifting competition that was held in Gordon's Bay. Blaine won first place and was awarded a gold medal in his division. He achieved a brown badge which means he can now compete in weightlifting competitions at a national level. He has also been fortunate enough to be accepted into the Western Province lifting team.

Oliver Hartgers (11E) made it through to the Top 100 selected as potential candidates to go to Antarctica next year.

CRICKET TOUR

BY NATHAN BESWICK (HE/HIM)

Cricket Tour started off slowly with all of our Matrics being absolutely exhausted from their Matric Dance which had taken place the night before. As soon as the bus got onto the road the vibes immediately went up. The twelve and a half hour bus drive was filled with non-stop chatter and jokes. As soon as the team got to Port Elizabeth we attended a function where we got to know the other teams we were competing against.

The very next day we had our first, and probably most difficult, game against Grey High School. The team worked hard to bowl Grey out for only 200 runs putting the game in a very winnable position. Unfortunately, the team's batting was cut short due to unexpected rain which meant that we couldn't continue. The next day we had two games. The first one was a very close game against Westering High School which the team won. Our second game of the day was an unfortunate loss against Muir College but the team did not stop fighting till the end. Our last game of the tour was against Alexander Road High school, the hosts of the tournament. We came out victorious after a hard encounter.

Other than the cricket it's safe to say that everyone in the team really bonded well together. The tour was also filled with a trip to the mall where we watched the Springboks play rugby against Tonga and we also had our team braai with the coaches and the bus driver. This tour would not have been possible without the hard work of Mr Dicks in organising everything for us as well as Mr Mtubu who was basically our father on tour and put up with our nonsense, and for that the team is grateful.



THE KEARSNEY BASKETBALL TOUR

BY CHIDI IFEMEDEBE (HE/HIM)

The Kearsney tour was a trip of experiences. Before the tour the boys looked forward to the trip with excitement and nervousness in anticipation of playing the best schools in the country. These feelings were justified with our first game against the hosts, Kearney College, ending in defeat despite our best efforts. Nevertheless, the morale of our team remained high going into our game against Pretoria Boys' as we felt they would be the team we had the best chance of beating. The 92 point thriller ended in favour of Pretoria, thus leaving our team disappointed as we felt the game had been ours for the taking.

Our following day's fixtures ended in losses against the eventual finalist and the fifth ranked team. That night some of the boys bonded with those from the other schools by watching the football whilst others took part in a multi-school pillow fight with Pinelands and Pretoria Boys in the mix.

Going into our final game against Pinelands, our injury-stricken team's fitness was taken advantage of as we ended up losing a game which we would normally win. However, the camaraderie between us and Pinelands continued. Watching the final was an experience in itself with exceptional basketball being played.

Although we did not reach our aspirations on tour, our growth in team spirit and skill has been evident and we will continue to use the lessons we learnt in Durban to achieve another successful season.



If there is one thing Matrics think about all the time (other than finals), it's the Matric Dance. Months of planning and preparation came to fruition on Thursday evening, 28 September 2023.

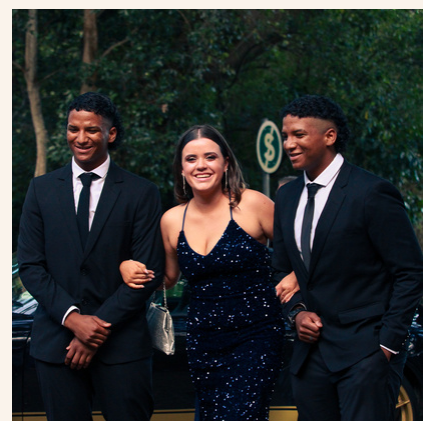
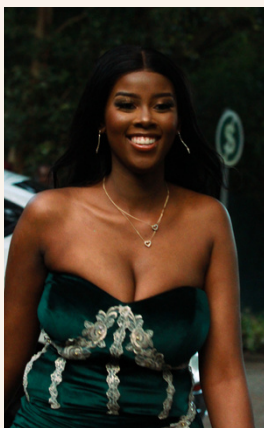
Arriving fresh from "prees", the Westerford Matric Class of 2023 stole the show from the first arrival at 6pm right up until the last few individuals (such as myself) arrived at 6:30. After some mingling, the Matrics sat down for the start of a fantastic evening.

After starters were served, the photo booths were occupied with friend groups, class groups and school staff. After a short speech made by Mihlali Mateta and me, the dance floor opened up. This was when the party started.

The worn-out patrons of Moyo Kirstenbosch then returned to the dinner table for a scrumptious main course. Once dessert had been served and more photos taken, the dance floor was once again filled with the moving feet of matriculants and staff alike.

At 10pm, the night came to a close, both for staff who had to get ready for school the next day and for the matriculants who would "go home".

A special thanks to all involved in making the Matric Dance of 2023 an amazing and memorable night, from Click Club and Film Crew, to the staff of Westerford High School.



MATRIC DANCE 2023

BY TIM EVERTSE (HE/HIM)



As we remember the Valedictory of 2023, the words of Mr Smith come to mind: "Once a Westie always a Westie." With tears in our eyes and heavy hearts, we watched our beloved Matric class of 2023 say their final goodbyes, as they sat in the hall for the last time.

During the Valedictory, the pupil body was graced with a wonderful variety of readings, many stories of the matrics' "good old days" and musical arrangements.

Dr. Rosa's reading of the words from the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu gave us all a well-appreciated lesson in humanity and kindness which the Matriculants will surely carry with them even after the day they stop walking these corridors.

The poem entitled *Saloot*, read by Mr. Geduld was - as always - a cultural reset. Poetry, in a sense, is an intimate expression of one's self, and this particular poem manages to make sure that a language such as Kaaps is represented in a society that has not always looked to it as a beautiful means of expression.

Westerford's Music Department was also well-represented at the Valedictory, with amazing performances from the Siyakhanya Choir, musical farewells from 2024 Head Leader Libhongo Lumbambo, and arrangements from the Westerford Concert Band. However, the highlight had to be outgoing Matric Caleb Thomas's piano piece, written and arranged by him and dedicated to the Matrics of 2023. There wasn't a foot in the hall that wasn't tapping to the beat.

Finally, we heard tale after tale from the outgoing Head Leaders and SGB Representatives about their experiences at Westerford, persevering through Covid and coming out stronger on the other side. Their class has definitely been one that has brought pride to our school.

After much heartfelt laughter and more than a few tears shed, the Matric pupils of 2023 embarked on their own final countdown as they exited the hall for the last time. We wish them all the best in their finals and hope that they remember that they will always be Westies.





There are many words that come to mind when the phrase: “Grade Eleven Westerfordian” is uttered. A few examples included: Cabaret, sleep-deprived, subject change form, Cabaret, ancient, and Cabaret. There is, however, another phrase, synonymous with Grade Eleven: “The Orange River Trip”. Every year, a large group of Grade Elevens, along with a few teachers, embark on an amazing adventure to the Orange River, which is the border between Namibia and South Africa. This year, 56 pupils, along with Mr Hutton-squire, Ms Tucker, Mr Cupido, Ms Willy, and Ms Rycroft (a former English teacher at Westerford) decided to take part in the amazing trip.

The first day (September 28) was possibly the hardest for the pupils. This was because it involved arriving at school at 4:30 am. Ms Tucker and Mr Hutton-Squire collected passports from the zombie-like teenagers just before the bus departed, and the day started without a hitch. Pupils knew that the drive to the border would take about 11 hours, and they packed accordingly. After what felt like 50 bathroom stops, a million “are we there yets” and a very long border crossing process, we finally made it to the Felix Unite base camp. There we enjoyed a delicious supper and slept under the stars in anticipation of the first day.

Westerfordians are not morning people. This much was evident when we started our first day on the river. Eventually the boats were ready and the necessary items packed, and the Grade Elevens could finally begin their amazing journey. The highlight of the first day was certainly the 4-6 metre rock jump we got to do into the river. There was a lot of screaming, and even more laughter. After a delicious lunch and a little more paddling, camp was set up for the first night and a massive bonfire was made. Here everyone exchanged stories and ate an amazing supper.

The second day on the river was certainly the longest. In total, the group paddled about 16 km (which is a long distance to paddle). The day started fairly well, with a certain Head Leader displaying his paddling prowess by falling into the river just as we hit the first rapid. This sparked a series of rumours and questions about the hardest rapid on the Orange River: Sjambok. While we would only be doing it the next day, the facilitators wanted us to be prepared, and put us through a series of smaller rapids to get us accustomed to paddling through white water. After hours of paddling, applying sunblock and games of “would you rather?” with Ms Tucker, we reached our camp for the night. It was boiling and most pupils cooled down by having a refreshing swim in the (guess where?) river. After that another bonfire was made and lots of food was eaten before everyone applied their mosquito repellent and went to bed.

The last full day on the river started with a bang or, perhaps more accurately, a gush: Sjambok. The tension in the air was tangible as the boats lined up in single file to paddle down Sjambok one at a time. Apparently almost all of last year's group capsized and everyone was extremely nervous. Needless to say, we handled it like true pros, with only six capsizes; take that Matrics! Sjambok was followed by a lunch break at an abandoned diamond mine, where everyone scanned the ground, secretly hoping against all odds that they would be the one to find a diamond. None were found ... that we know of. The campsite for that night was a short distance from the lunch stop and, with lots of time to spare, everyone paddled down at a leisurely pace to the site, jumping out of their boats to cool down along the way.

On the final day, after a three hour paddle in the morning, everyone landed their boats on the shore for the last time. After the boats had been emptied, pupils and teachers got onto small buses that took us back to base camp. The journey that took almost four days by boat, took 40 minutes by bus. This made most Grade Elevens truly appreciate the saying: "It's about the journey, not the destination." The drive back was (relatively) enjoyable, with pleasant conversation hanging in the air until everyone fell asleep. Finally, at 2 am on Monday the 3rd of October, the Grade Elevens arrived back at school, and returned home to welcoming duvets and peaceful sleep.

A massive shoutout to Mr Hutton-Squire, Ms Tucker and Ms Willy for their organisation of the trip. We really enjoyed our time and will forever have fond memories.



WILDERNESS SEARCH AND RESCUE

BY DELILAH STOLOFF (SHE/HER)

A few Tuesdays ago, Westerford was privileged to be visited by a representative from Wilderness Search and Rescue (WSAR), Dwayne Evans, who works with our very own wilderness rescuer, Mr Engelbrecht, to save people trapped on the cliffs and mountains of the Western Cape.

WSAR is a non-profit, volunteer-based organisation funded almost exclusively by donors, with help from the Western Cape Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and helps paramedics reach patients trapped on the likes of Table Mountain. They are trained to get EMS to these trapped patients, as well as to extricate them and bring them to a safer location with better access to health care than a cliffside.

At the end of an informative talk, complete with a video showcasing Mr Engelbrecht's hidden talents (heli-rescue - who would have thought?), a few lucky Westerfordians had the privilege of hoisting a grown man from the stage's hidden rigging system. Needless to say, fun was had by all.

We would like to thank WSAR for an entertaining and interesting Multi period, and encourage all of our Westerford hikers, climbers and mountain bikers to save their hotline in your phone - 021 937 0300. Their help is free, after all. Many thanks to them, and stay safe everyone, it's a rocky world out there!

APPGEO FIELDTRIP

BY MR MTUBU

Our APPGEO Pupils went on another exciting field trip and this time they studied limpets. This study took place at Dalebrook Beach in Kalk Bay. It was a scientific study of the biodiversity in the zones between the high and low water marks. They started by discussing the importance of marine reserves and appropriate human behaviour. Then they were made aware of the human impact on marine resources and safety at the seashore. Recognition was also given to indigenous knowledge systems. The pupils studied the rock pools revealed at low tide and made various observations and deductions. Thanks to Mr Mtubu and Mr Dicks for their work in organising this field trip.



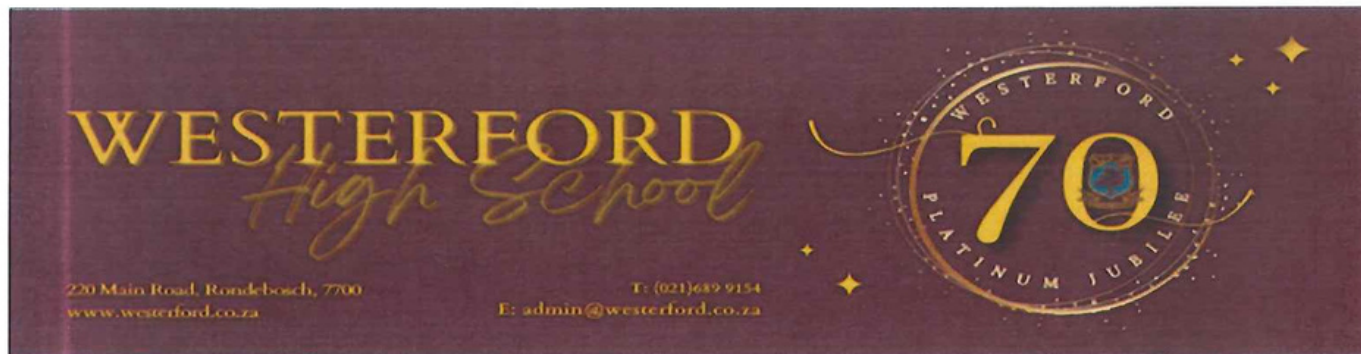
BONNE CUISINE

BY MR MTUBU

On the 28th September Bonne Cuisine hosted a cupcake decorating event to show support for the children's Cancer Organisation. The event was a huge success where we were able to donate the required 48 cupcakes and on top of that donate an additional R7024,56.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a huge hit and everyone who generously donated. From the Bonne Cuisine committee we thank you and value your ongoing support.





10 October 2023

**NOTIFICATION OF THE 2024 BUDGET AGM
THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 19h00**

You are invited to attend a meeting of parents to be held at 19.00 on Thursday 9 November 2023 in the Noel Taylor Hall at which the Board of Governors will present the proposed budget and fees for 2024.

The Finance Sub-committee is preparing the final draft of the proposed budget for 2024, and this will be submitted to the Board for final approval at the Board Meeting on 19 October 2023. A detailed summary of the proposed budget and fees will be distributed to parents once this has been approved by the Board. We are doing this so that parents have an opportunity to absorb the budget proposals prior to the parent meeting on Thursday 9 November 2023.

We encourage all parents to attend this important meeting.

If a second meeting is required, notice is hereby given that it be held on Thursday 16 November 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ Smith'.

MJ Smith
Principal

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This classified section is for current Westerford parents and Old Westerfordians. Advertisements are R200 per insert. **Please contact Keren (ks@westerford.co.za)**

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We are inviting all the KPS Gr7's of 2018
to join us for your

Matric Tea

27 Oct 2023

10.00am to 10.30am

CLASSIFIEDS...

This classified section is for current Westerford parents and Old Westerfordians. Advertisements are R200 per insert. **Please contact Keren (ks@westerford.co.za)**

LGBTQ+ CONNECT

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Please click on this link to make WHS your beneficiary <https://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/update/>
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School Days

We encourage you to join the School Days programme, which runs in a similar way by shopping at Dischem and other stores. Click to join - <https://www.schooldays.co.za/home>

