



## Front office

### Absent from school?

Please email:

[secretary@westerford.co.za](mailto:secretary@westerford.co.za)

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

To avoid congestion the traffic flow around the school is a “One Way” system, treating Alfred and Mount Roads as one way roads down, away from the mountain, towards Main Road.

Please do NOT drive onto the school grounds to drop off or pick up your child at the start and close of the school day.



You can send achievements to be included in the Newsletter to: [webteam@westerford.co.za](mailto:webteam@westerford.co.za)

Dear Parents / Guardians

We are moving towards a cashless environment on the school premises. In order for you to assist us with this, we would like to encourage pupils and parents to make use of their Bank Cards and Snapscan when paying at the following areas around the school:

- Pupil Tuckshop during the break times.
- Second Hand Clothing Shop.
- Rugby Tuckshop at Imhoff on match days.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for the school to arrange cash floats/change and so your assistance in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

## Congratulations

On the 5th and 6th of February, two clarinet pupils, Alex Mclvor (11) and Kirsten Mills (10), along with Mrs Grobbelaar, attended the International Clarinet extravaganza at the Hugo Lambrechts music school in Parow. Clarinetists from all over the Western Cape came together to have lectures and masterclasses from world-renowned international clarinetists. The two days ended with a concert where all participants played in a mass clarinet choir. It was an informative and inspiring event that they will never forget!



# Interview with New Staff



**Chan Dowra (he/him)**  
Mathematics



**Louise Harris**  
Accounting and EMS



## Background

**CD:** I have been in the teaching profession for 33 years. The majority being at Greenbury Secondary in Durban (13 years) and Pretoria Boys' High School in Pretoria (15 years).

**LH:** I started my career in education as a lecturer in Accounting in 2001 and moved to Secondary education as an Accounting teacher in 2006 and have loved developing skills and helping pupils to be more confident and financially literate ever since. I have taught Accounting in Private and Government schools.

## Education and work experience

**CD:** I hold a BPaed Degree from the University of K-ZN. It is currently referred to as a B. Ed Degree.

**LH:** BComm Acc, Honors BCom, PGCE

## What are a few interesting facts about yourself?

**CD:** I have two hobbies that I am passionate about. Firstly, I am a picture framer and an antique furniture restorer. I love working with my hands and love working in my garage. This is very calming and therapeutic for me. Secondly, I have a passion for cooking. My favourites are curries and roasts. I'm terrible at baking though.

**LH:** I love the outdoors and nature, especially listening to the birds sing and the smell of fynbos. I relocated from Johannesburg to the Western Cape in August 2019 to join my husband Paul. Mountain walks and swimming in the sea over weekends have become a bit of a ritual. I thoroughly enjoy a cup of Earl Grey tea in a porcelain cup with homemade biscuits and discovering new coffee shops.

## What is your favourite thing about Westerford?

**CD:** I have many favourite things about this school. From the beautiful location and view from my classroom, to the well-mannered pupils, to seeing pupils feeling that they belong to a caring school community. However, my favourite is the smart casual dress code for staff. Considering I came from a school where a collar and tie and a lawyer's robe was the dress code even on the hottest highveld day, this is something I really appreciate.

**LH:** Kind and friendly staff and pupils and also, when I park my car in the morning on Founders' Ave, the view of the mountains.

## Which Westerford tradition are you most looking forward to?

**CD:** As I am fairly new here, I have not experienced the many traditions of the school. However, for now, I am really looking forward to SLOG.

**LH:** I am not familiar with all the Westerford traditions. I will maybe be able to answer at the end of the year.

# World Cultures Event

Niyaz Cassiem

Origami is the Japanese art of folding paper. On Tuesday, the 13th of February, World Cultures gave Westerfordians the opportunity to express their creative abilities with an origami event that got everyone in the Valentine's Day spirit. The juniors struggled, but succeeded, in making paper roses which could be gifted to special people for the day of love. The World Cultures origami event was great fun and an excellent way of demonstrating Westerford culture during junior week.



## iThemba Labs

Christine Mitchell and Lisakhanya Simani

On the 9 February, Lisakhanya and I attended a masterclass in particle physics hosted by iThemba Labs: an investigation into the formation of strange particles. The day began with a lecture on particle physics, providing us with more insight and understanding on what we would be working with during the day.

After lunch, we were able to input information and read our results with the deeper understanding we obtained. This was a masterclass to celebrate women in particle physics so we got to interact with girls coming from different schools in Cape Town.

The day ended with a video conference during which we compared our findings with the other female students from Greece, Germany and the Czech Republic.

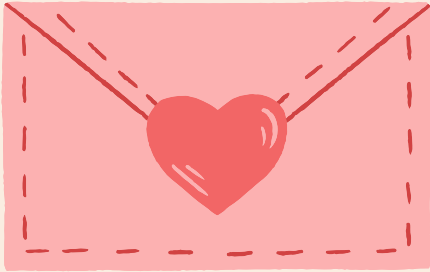
Our time at iThemba labs was both informative and enriching – and showed us that the future for women in science is very bright.



# Valentine's Day

Kai Manie and Samkelo Mafuya

HAPPY  
Valentines  
DAY



Valentine's Day is a day that is anticipated by some, and dreaded by others. For the grade 9s at Westerford, it was definitely the former. They were tasked with organising the Valentine's Day takeover.

After electing pupil leaders to work out the finer details and assign tasks to various classes and/or groups, the grade got to work on making Valentine's Day 2024 one to remember.

Overall, the grade 9s did a wonderful job. There were photo booths, a bake sale, a movie night hosted in the library, and opportunities to pre-order a picnic hamper to have at school, or a box of chocolates for that special person in your life. All funds raised from these initiatives went to charity and the pupils made sure that the experience was top-notch.

On top of the grade 9s' hard work, the pupil leadership body made this day even more special with the annual Valentine's Day Assembly, where pupils were elected by their peers for "awards" like Best Dressed and Best Situationship. Always one of the year's highlights, the whole school cheered and celebrated the day together.

## From the Silver Screen: RomCom Edition

Thomas Wege

With Valentine's Day just passed, most readers might be looking to treat that special someone in their life to a romantic movie night. But what to watch? There are about 50 hysterical Hugh Grant rom-coms, and 20 Nora Ephron magnum opuses to choose from. Lucky for you and your movie night, WHS Pro-writers has got you covered with the top 3 romance movies to treat your special person to.

The first decision is the most difficult. Which Hugh Grant film? There are too many to choose from. *Mickey Blue Eyes*, *Love Actually*, *Two Weeks Notice* are just a few examples. After much consideration though, (and late nights lying awake, staring at the ceiling realising how much everyone loves Julia Roberts) it has been decided that *Four Weddings and a Funeral* is the best of Hugh Grant's legendary rom-com career. While *Notting Hill* is certainly more well known, *Four Weddings and a Funeral's* fantastic script and iconic characters makes it the best Hugh Grant rom-com to watch with your significant other. For the uninitiated, it follows Charles, a bachelor (played, shockingly, by Hugh Grant) and Carrie (played by Andie Macdowell) as they, over the course of four weddings and a funeral, grow to admit that they love each other and are not merely attracted to each other. Richard Curtis's fantastic script will have you clutching your sides one second and crying the next. It is certainly worth the watch.

During this legendary rom-com run in England in the 90s, a very talented American screenwriter was writing some iconic love-stories across the Atlantic. This was none other than the late, great Nora Ephron! Her most iconic film is undoubtedly the much-loved *When Harry Met Sally*. Similar in premise, but differing in plot and style to *Four Weddings*, the film follows Harry and Sally. Despite their initial dislike of each other, the two soon become close friends and, eventually, a couple. However, will they be able to

admit to each other how strongly they truly feel, or will they only realise once it's too late? This iconic film will have you and your partner shouting at the TV and laughing till you cry.

This last one is for the cinefiles, singers and romance lovers alike. It is of course Damir Chazelle's iconic *La la land*. Very rarely does a romantic musical win the hearts and praise of audiences and critics alike. *La La land* is the exception that proves the rule. Mia is an aspiring actress, struggling to get her first big break in Hollywood and

Sebastian is a jazz pianist who can't really find anyone who wants to listen to jazz. As they both become more successful in their respective careers, will they be able to find time to let the other realise how much they love them? You'll have to watch it to find out. The film's brilliantly choreographed dance pieces and soundtrack will have you singing your heart out and its gut-wrenching story will leave you bawling.



## Waterpolo Tour

Catherine-Njoki Ngongoi

The 1st Water Polo teams embarked on a transformative journey to Knysna, and dove right into a competitive tour which spanned four action-packed days. The journey started with their arriving at school at 4:30 am and arriving at their destination at 12:30 pm. The teams did not waste any time and played their first match immediately after their arrival.

Matches took place in the salty, ice-cold waters of the Knysna harbour. The difficult landscape and conditions of the "pool" showcased the strength and determination of both teams. Each match was more competitive than the previous one, pushing the teams to their limits and cultivating a deeper bond. The first team girls were ranked third in the tournament winning 5 out of their 7 games. Daisy Pollard was the second highest goalscorer and Hannah Cleghorn the third highest golascorer.

The teams also had an opportunity to explore Knysna and its culture. Even though the wait for the food was long, the teams enjoyed traditional Afrikaans restaurant fare. And what's an Afrikaans restaurant without a good old *sokkie*? Both teams learned how to *sokkie*, by politely asking eager local patrons to teach them. This allowed the team to embrace diverse traditions, and foster friendships with players from different schools. The girls' and boys' teams went from barely saying "hi" to one another to cheering each other on in the pool.

As the tour reached its end, they departed Knysna, carrying with them cherished memories and valuable experiences. The wins and losses they had over the tour marked significant milestones in their high school Water Polo careers, imparting strong life lessons and building friendships that last outside the water.

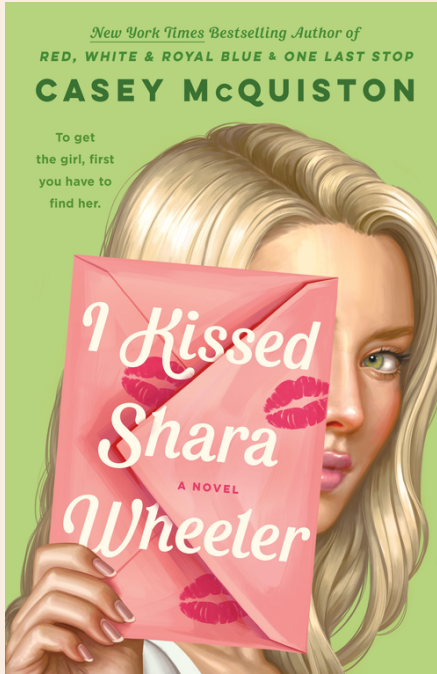
This Water Polo tour serves as a reminder of how sport can have the power to bridge gaps and unify individuals from diverse backgrounds. It was more than a series of matches; it was a celebration of friendship, resilience, culture exploration and the pure joy of pursuing a common passion.

# From the Library: RomCom Edition

Ella Burrow

If you've spent this past Valentine's Day alone, fret not. The library has plenty of RomCom-esque books to boost your spirits and fill the void.

## *I Kissed Shara Wheeler* - Casey McQuiston



Chloe Green is so close to winning. After her moms moved her from SoCal to Alabama for high school, she's spent the past four years dodging gossipy classmates and the puritanical administration of Willowgrove Christian Academy. The thing that's kept her going: winning valedictorian. Her only rival: prom queen Shara Wheeler, the principal's perfect progeny.

But a month before graduation, Shara kisses Chloe and vanishes.

On a furious hunt for answers, Chloe discovers she's not the only one Shara kissed. There's also Smith, Shara's longtime quarterback sweetheart, and Rory, Shara's bad boy neighbour with a crush. The three have nothing in common except Shara and the annoyingly cryptic notes she left behind but, together, they must untangle Shara's trail of clues and find her. It'll be worth it, if Chloe can drag Shara back before graduation to beat her fair and square.

Thrown into an unlikely alliance, chasing a ghost through parties, break-ins, puzzles, and secrets revealed on monogrammed stationery, Chloe starts to suspect there might be more to this small town than she thought. And maybe—probably not, but maybe—more to Shara, too

## *Heartstopper* - Alice Oseman

Charlie, a highly-strung, openly gay over-thinker, and Nick, a cheerful, soft-hearted rugby player, meet at a British all-boys grammar school. Friendship blooms quickly, but could there be something more...?

Charlie Spring is in Year 10 at Truham Grammar School for Boys. The past year hasn't been too great, but at least he's not being bullied anymore. Nick Nelson is in Year 11 and on the school rugby team. He's heard a little about Charlie - the kid who was outed last year and bullied for a few months - but he's never had the opportunity to talk to him.

They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and sometimes good things are waiting just around the corner...



## Red, White and Royal Blue - Casey McQuiston



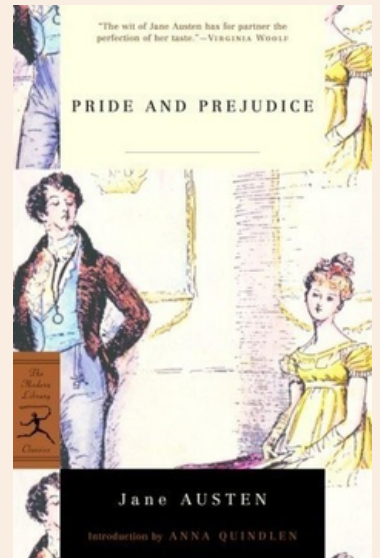
First Son Alex Claremont-Diaz is the closest thing to a prince this side of the Atlantic. With his intrepid sister and the Veep's genius granddaughter, they're the White House Trio, a beautiful millennial marketing strategy for his mother, President Ellen Claremont. International socialite duties do have downsides—namely, when photos of a confrontation with his longtime nemesis Prince Henry at a royal wedding leak to the tabloids and threaten American/British relations. The plan for damage control: staging a fake friendship between the First Son and the Prince.

As President Claremont kicks off her re-election bid, Alex finds himself hurtling into a secret relationship with Henry that could derail the campaign and upend two nations. What is worth the sacrifice? How do you do all the good you can do? And, most importantly, how will history remember you?

## Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen

*Pride and Prejudice* is an 1813 romantic novel of manners written by Jane Austen. The novel follows the character development of Elizabeth Bennet, the dynamic protagonist of the book, who learns about the repercussions of hasty judgments and eventually comes to appreciate the difference between superficial goodness and actual goodness. A classic piece filled with comedy, its humour lies in its honest depiction of manners, education, marriage and money during the Regency era in Great Britain.

At its core, *Pride and Prejudice* tells the love story of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, both of whom have to overcome their biases in order to end up together. Throughout the novel, both characters learn to unlearn their pride and prejudices so that they can come to accept the other's goodness of character.



## Junior Week

Ella Burrow

What are two words you shouldn't say to a Westerford committee member or a Grade 9? Junior Week... This year it ran from 5-14 February. The last two weeks have been filled with great hustle, bustle and excitement as the juniors rushed to complete part of their Spirit Passports.

Always a highlight, this year's Junior Week proved no different. From dance-offs with Ms Willie in the Library Quad to dominoes and cupcake decorating, the 2024 cultural committees did not come to play when planning these events, and it showed. Everyone had a fantastic time and memories were most certainly made.

A special thanks and well done to Ms Grobbelaar, CASA and all the committee members who oversaw and organised such fun and exciting activities! It was definitely a wonderful way of welcoming the new Grade 8s into the Westerford cultural sphere. And for those who didn't quite complete their Passports, this is only the tip of the iceberg of everything our committees have to offer...

# Romeo and Juliet

Catherine-Njoki Ngongoi

Our senior drama classes, Grades 10 and 11, visited the annual Maynardville Shakespeare festival where the timeless tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* was performed. The festival had an enchanting aura to it, from the bustling food stalls to the glowing outdoor theatre space, which transported both classes into the Elizabethan era of theatre.

During Shakespeare's time, plays would be performed in an outdoor theatre, so this space was perfect for sharing what the audience at that time would have experienced.

Both classes are studying Shakespeare, and have to write an essay on Shakespeare's relevance in modern theatre while also performing several scenes from *Romeo and Juliet*.

The play had phenomenal lighting and sound, and one highlight was a dance scene/battle between the Montagues and the Capulets. The actors brought the characters to life with remarkable vocal, physical, and emotional skill that brought authenticity and depth to the story.

The outing proved to be a bonding experience for our classes, many of whom were experiencing live Shakespeare for the first time. As the story unfolded, we found ourselves deeply invested in the fate of the characters, experiencing a rollercoaster of emotions as we laughed, cried, and mourned with one another. Despite the linguistic barrier, we were able to grasp the love between Romeo and Juliet and appreciate the humour within the tragic play.

Overall, our experience at the Maynardville Shakespeare Festival was not only educational but also entertaining. It provided us with valuable insights into the relevance of Shakespeare's works in modern theatre and left a lasting impression on all who attended.



## A Visit from Karen Dudley

Joseph Timberlake

Last Tuesday, most of us didn't know what to expect after Mr Anderson's last-minute email about a Bonne Cuisine-hosted Multi-purpose period.

Westerford hosted Karen Dudley, a professional chef and *Masterchef SA* judge, who began by introducing herself and her book — written about how her beloved restaurant, *The Kitchen*, fared during lockdown — before engaging in a short, pupil-led interview.

Soon thereafter, we found out what the period was really about: teachers entered the stage to cheers and applause and attempted to whip egg whites and make meringues under Ms Dudley's experienced eye.



Their dexterity was soon tested as pupils from each house (unknowingly) volunteered to have their house head's bowl upended above their heads. The beaten egg whites all held in the end, despite Ms Schiava's sneaky taps to her bowl!

Three Bonne Cuisine members then proceeded to challenge Karen to guess the subtle secret ingredients in their different homemade cupcakes, one of which she (unluckily) guessed correctly.

This rather light-hearted Multi-purpose period provided us with a new experience. A big thank you to Bonne Cuisine and Mr Anderson for organising it!



## SLOG

### Kai Manie

Ah yes, SLOG: one of the most anticipated events in a Westerfordian's schooling career (except for *Classical Pops*, of course). This event happens every two years and is always a source of great excitement for everybody involved.

Throughout the week of 15 February 2024, there was a certain electricity in the air that could only be attributed to the advent of SLOG. Pupils were practically buzzing in their seats throughout the week, and the excitement regarding Valentine's Day only intensified this.

The event started with absentee checks in our Mentor groups before the pupil body separated into their houses and did the Vukani. Mr Smith addressed everybody as the lap recorders and first runners prepared themselves to start the night with a bang.

SLOG worked a bit differently this year with our newly-established house system in place: instead of competing in grades and classes, the house with the most laps run through the night would win. This truly helped to establish a sense of family between pupils in different grades, as this was Westerford's first major house event.

Pupils started running at 4pm, and were fuelled by the endless support from their housemates until SLOG officially ended at midnight. To their dismay, the juniors ended at 10pm and had to clean up their areas before leaving while the seniors continued running.

We would like to thank everybody who made this wonderful night possible: from the vendors at the food trucks and stalls, to the lap recorders and the dedicated First Aid team, and, most importantly, all the teachers involved. Everybody made some amazing memories, and SLOG will forever remain one of the best events Westerford runs...





GOLEARNING CAPE TOWN

## TUTORING SERVICES FOR GRADES 4-12

*In-Person sessions: R300/hr*  
*Online sessions: R200/hr*

- Tuition services available for all IEB and NSC subjects.
- Services available in Cape Town and surrounding areas.

Contact us:

GoLearningTutoring@gmail.com  
(+27) 72 751 3282



I am Thomas Vos, I have over 400 hours experience tutoring from the last two years and received seven distinctions with an average of 89% when graduating matric from WHS.

I tutor grade 8-12: Accounting, Math, Physics and Geography  
@R250/hr  
Whatsapp: 0849473002

### Lift club



Parent of Grade 8 pupil seeking lift share to/from school. We live in Muizenberg. Can also work with nearby suburbs. Please kindly contact Colleen: 083 695 1664  
colleen@enviroprac.co.za

We are looking for a lift from Lakeside to Westerford in the mornings for my twins. Will contribute to fuel. Please contact voffersen@gmail.com

### MySchool Card

Thank you to all parents and supporters for making use of the My School Card in support of Westerford High School. Your support has raised R106 604 in 2022, R113 726 in 2021 and R112 773 in 2020. This regular, passive income is welcomed towards the daily operations of the school.



Please click on this link to make WHS your beneficiary <https://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/update/>  
Should you not yet have a card, the My School App can be downloaded from Apple and Google App Stores and a virtual card applied for.

### 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>