

Front office

Absent from school?

Please email:

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.



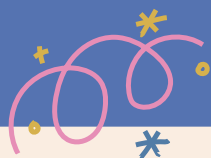
You can send achievements to be included in the Newsletter to: webteam@westerford.co.za

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



Congratulations to Blaine Coleman (11E) who came 1st in his category and best overall lifter in his division at the SA Powerlifting Championships.



Congratulations to Malachi Abrahams (8B) who competed in the Vibrant Sport Summer Cup 2024 kickboxing tournament, 17th February 2024, winning three gold medals.

Meet the ProWriters

Delilah Stoloff



Chairperson | Editor | Layout

favourite topic to write about:
politics

favourite form of writing:
poetry, argumentative essays,
reflective essays (and debating
speeches)

**most controversial writing-related
opinion:**

last-minute articles are the most
cohesive (but they better be on
time, Thomas)

Kai Manie



Deputy Chairperson | Assistant
Editor

favourite topic to write about:
events that bring the Westerford
family closer together

favourite form of writing:
descriptive

**most controversial writing-related
opinion:**

the best writing pieces come to you
at 3am when you're sleep deprived

Catherine-Njoki Ngongoi



Senior Writer

favourite topic to write about:
I enjoy writing drama pieces, realistic
but unnecessary conflict between
humans, and human interaction.

favourite form of writing:
rap lyrics and poetry

**most controversial writing-related
opinion:**

I enjoy pineapple on pizza. And a hot
dog is not a sandwich.

Ella Burrow



Senior Writer

favourite topic to write about:
anything to do with books or fashion

favourite form of writing:
either discursive or descriptive
essays

**most controversial writing-related
opinion:**

ChatGPT can be a really useful
grammar checker

Thomas Wege



Senior Writer

favourite topic to write about:
movies

favourite form of writing:
comedy

**most controversial writing-related
opinion:**

misspelling words adds personality
to your writing

Editor's note: smiling through the pain

Samkelo Mafuya



Junior Writer

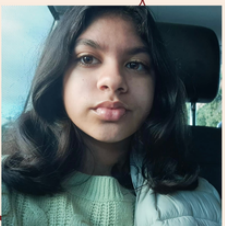
favourite topic to write about:
love

favourite form of writing:
poetry and essays

**most controversial writing-related
opinion:**

cultural appropriation is unnecessary

Ameera Cariem



Junior Writer

favourite topic to write about:
history and film

favourite form of writing:
descriptive

**most controversial writing-related
opinion:**

social media has an impact on
mental health

Luja Marx



Junior Writer

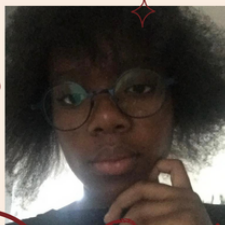
favourite topic to write about:
uhmm... anything I find interesting
really...

favourite form of writing:
poetry & short stories

**most controversial writing-related
opinion:**

Exclamation! Marks! Are! Overused!

Thato Gillespie-Naidoo



Junior Writer

favourite topic to write about:
film and politics

favourite form of writing:
song writing & poetry

**most controversial writing-related
opinion:**

always have a notebook on hand just
in case

Joseph Timberlake



Junior Writer

favourite topic to write about:
music

favourite form of writing:
prose

**most controversial writing-related
opinion:**

commas are misused, not overused

Westerford Matrics of 2023: true academic weapons!

By Thomas Wege 12C

On the 20th of February 2024, Mr Smith, Mrs Moos (Physical Sciences) and Ms Hanekom (Mathematics) attended the Metro Central Education District prizegiving to celebrate the 2023 matric results. As a completely unbiased writer with nothing to gain from regaling the great exploits of the quaint little high school known as Westerford, I can say that the school did outstandingly. The following awards were given to Westerford:

- Schools with more than 30 learners that attained a 100% pass rate in 2023.
- Top schools with the highest percentage of Bachelor Passes (2nd place)
- Excellence Mathematics and Physical Sciences
- Consistency in Mathematics and Physical Sciences

As well as these awards the following Grade 12s of 2023 received awards for being the top pupil in the district in their respective subjects: **Ben Rudolph** - Life Sciences, **Casper Laks** - Mathematical Literacy and **Darcy Ouwehand** - Visual Art.

With these outstanding achievements, Westerford has started its academic year fantastically and the matrics of 2024 have now got a brilliant standard to maintain.



Quarterly Concert

Kai Manie

On Thursday 29 February, the Music Department hosted the first Quarterly Concert of 2024. With it being only a few weeks into the year, the quality of the performances exceeded all expectations, and it displayed Westerford's continued commitment to the cultural and musical spheres of the school.

There was an excellent turnout of family members, Westerfordians and staff. The love and support from the audience was greatly appreciated by all performers, accompanists and music teachers, who were eager to showcase the results of this year's progress.

A special thank you to the members of the Music Department for always encouraging and uplifting their pupils. Westerford would not be the same without their hard work and dedication.

Matric Barn Dance

Kai Manie and Delilah Stoloff

Matric is an extremely stressful year, and it's important that the pupils have time to relax and unwind. Luckily for Westerfordians, our school knows exactly what its pupils need: food, music, dancing, and some quality time with friends.

The Matric Barn Dance of 2024 took place on Tuesday, 20 February. Each pupil was instructed to dress in their best Wild West-themed outfit and everybody, in the words of teenagers today, "ate and left no crumbs".

The dance was hosted by Caroline Blundell in our very own Noel Taylor Hall, decorated by our head leaders and catered by the matrics.

We discovered the joys of line dancing to nostalgic hits like *Timber* and *Waka Waka*, learning to work together well enough to navigate a speedy, rotating partner dance without sacrificing any toes to cowboy heels.

Between a steady stream of assessments and sports matches, the Barn Dance was what we needed to wind down and release some stress-fueled energy. We are incredibly grateful to Caroline Blundell, Mr Thompson, our student leaders and everyone else who worked together to bring us an amazing evening.



Chess Triumph

Tane Ressel

Westerford's triumphs over the chessboard continue! On Saturday 24 February, we made history by coming third in the country in the first-ever Alex Forbes Battle Boards tournament, a huge online tournament featuring more than 1350 players from 113 schools nationwide. This monumental result on the national stage, which included a 10-0 bloodbath against Grenville High School in the quarterfinals, shows that our domination of the local league is no fluke.

The team consisted of:

Leo Peerutin (Gr 12, captain)
Kian Goliath (Gr 11)
Lindokuhle Ndlovu (Gr 11)
Jan Karsten (Gr 10)
James Devine (Gr 10)
Nathan Tyler-Scott (Gr 10)
Kyle Pelander (Gr 10)
Jacques Dugas (Gr 10)
Ben Dubbeld (Gr 9)
Ridha Booley (Gr 8)
Tara Singh (Gr 8)



Open Day

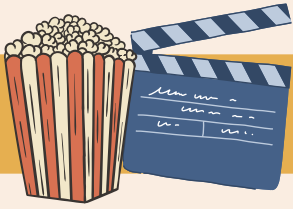
Samkelo Mafuya

There you have it, folks! Open day has come and gone, and young pupils from all over the Southern Suburbs (and beyond) had a chance to explore the grounds of what could be the place where they spend the next five years of their lives.

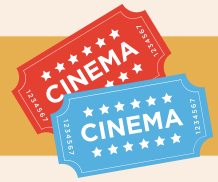
The Westerford pupils put a large amount of effort into making this happen, and the teachers even more so. The tour guides showed the groups of parents and pupils around the school and explained the various aspects thereof, including our involvement in all spheres of education: academics, sport and culture. Music pupils performed throughout the afternoon to keep up the *gees* and show how the school assists in cultivating talent.

Of course, none of this could have happened without the tremendous amount of planning and organisation done by the teachers in charge.

Mr Smith did a wonderful job of showcasing the achievements of Westerford and its pupils, as well as clarifying the modus operandi of the school. Despite a few mix-ups regarding times, the Open Day was a great success. A lot of future Westerfordians may have had a glimpse of all that they could be and achieve, and we will hopefully be seeing a few familiar faces soon.



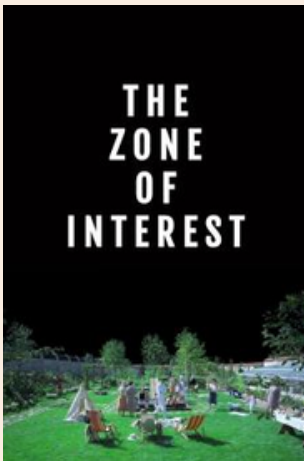
New Year, New Movies!



With March (and all its complementary tests and assessments) in full swing, it is safe to say that 2024 has properly begun, bringing with it some fantastic new flicks.



The first film on today's list was released in 2023 but has only hit South African cinemas this year: Alexander Payne's *The Holdovers*. So far, it has been nominated for a whopping five Oscars and has won two Golden Globes. The film follows a teenage boy stranded with his curmudgeonous history teacher and no-nonsense school chef for his two-week Christmas break. With some unbelievable performances and surprisingly philosophical and witty dialogue, the film's unique humanity and atmosphere are sure to stay with you long after you leave the cinema.



It wouldn't be a year of movies without a show-stopping A24 production to sweep away all the awards. This year's trophy snatcher is Johnathan Glazer's *The Zone of Interest*. It has been nominated for five Oscars and nine BAFTAs, and has claimed four awards at the Cannes Film Festival 2023. The film follows the commandant of Auschwitz Concentration Camp Rudolf Höss and his family living in their idyllic home next to Auschwitz camp. While the horrors of the camp are never directly displayed, the entire film acts as an analysis of the human ability to commit genocide. With the various conflicts transpiring across the world today, this film feels more relevant than ever.



The next film has not been released yet, but is due to hit South African cinemas this year... the next instalment in Denis Villeneuve's cinematic adaptation of the legendary sci-fi novel, *Dune Part Two*! The first film was met with roaring approval from the community, with filmmakers such as Christopher Nolan praising it for its unbelievable scope and immersive nature. Most viewers (myself included) walked out of the cinema wondering how soon the sequel would be released. Well, *Dune* lovers, your prayers have finally been answered! The sequel will follow the protagonist of the first film, Paul Atreides, as he sets out to avenge the slaughter of his friends and family at the hands of the Harkonnens. Will he, however, be able to take revenge against the Harkonnens without causing an interplanetary war? We will find out on the 15th of March!

With these fantastic films now showing or soon to be seen, 2024's cinematic year is off to a great start, and I'm excited to see what other fantastic films this year brings!

Murder, mystery and mayhem - *Clue on Stage: High School Edition* **Catherine-Njoki Ngongoi and Mr Kingon-Daniels**

Do you enjoy murder, mystery and mayhem? Are you a huge fan of *Cluedo*, the board game? Or are you just a play enthusiast? Well, you are in luck, because Westerford High School is performing the timeless classic, *Clue on Stage: High School Edition*.

Clue on Stage, is a lively, camp, unapologetically wacky adaptation of the classic board game and subsequent movie, *Clue*. It has been transformed into a thrilling stage production and made suitable for high school audiences.

Set in a sprawling mansion during a dark and stormy night, the play follows a group of quirky characters (each one represented by a particular colour) who find themselves trapped together, each harbouring their own secrets and suspicions. As the power goes out and tensions rise, a murder is discovered, sparking a frantic search for the culprit, and a multitude of ensuing murders. Filled with humour, suspense, and plenty of twists and turns, *Clue on Stage* keeps audiences on the edge of their seats as they try to solve the mystery before the final curtain falls.

This play features our very own Westerford cast (some of whom performed in last year's play, *District Six: The Musical*) who will bring the iconic characters from the board game to life.

Our tech crew promises to deliver outstanding technical work for the play, under our remarkable director, Mr. Kingon-Daniels.

Don't be the person who missed out! Grab your tickets now and join us for an evening of mystery, laughter, and chaos. See you there!

Junior Schools Tour **Joseph Timberlake**

The 20th of February was a much-anticipated date for the sixty-odd members of the Westerford Orchestra - Junior Schools Tour 2024!

Last Tuesday, the ensemble left at the crack of dawn and embarked on a journey to the three primary schools at which we would perform: Kirstenhof, Sweet Valley, and Bergvliet.

Mr Mphaphuli, our brilliant conductor, creatively introduced each orchestral instrument and prepared piece before leading us in performances of themes from *Star Wars*, *James Bond*, *Harry Potter*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *The Flintstones*.

The orchestra, unfortunately, returned in time for that afternoon's test Multi but, all in all, the event was a great success and we wish the Concert Band good luck for the upcoming year.

Classifieds...

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



An opportunity has arisen for Grade 10, 11, and 12 pupils to join an Art Tour in 2024.

You do not have to be an art pupil to join the tour!

Tour Dates: June 17th – June 29th



Destinations:
Amsterdam
Paris
Brussels
Lake Annecy
Milan



For more information or to express interest, contact Mrs. McLaren at akm@westerford.co.za



ENGLISH AND AFRIKAANS TUTORING

I teach from home in Observatory. I am qualified (BA HDE TEFL) and have many years of experience both privately and in schools.

The focus is on grammar and literature.

All grades are welcome. My specialty is preparation for Matric. Aim for excellence!

Please contact me
Hildegarde le Roux:
hleroux247@gmail.com
phone 0787556834



The WHS Parents Prayer group meet on Tuesday mornings from 07:30-08:00 with an extended period until 08:15 (for those who can stay) to facilitate parents/caregivers who are bringing children to school. It would be wonderful to increase the group of those who can be present physically to pray.

Contact Lauren Rees for more information - laurenkay.rees@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>