

# Heather Chronicles



*Heather Secondary School*



27 Heather Crescent, Northdale

heather.org.za

18 July 2025



## Welcome to the 3rd term...

Welcome to the second issue of The Heather Chronicles! We're excited to have you back as we continue this journey of sharing updates, insights, and stories that keep our community connected and inspired. Whether you're here to catch up on what's new, reflect on recent milestones, or simply take a moment to engage with something thoughtful and meaningful, this edition has something for you.

Our Communications Committee continues to strengthen and expand our communications efforts. Our website – [heather.org.za](http://heather.org.za) – sees growing daily readership as we regularly share what's 'hip and happening' within our school community. Interest in our Facebook page and community group also remains strong and active. Thank you for staying connected and engaged!

We appreciate your visits to our website and Facebook presence - they continue to be the focus of our digital media forays. If you haven't seen them as yet, please pay them a visit.

As usual, we welcome your constructive feedback on how we can improve our efforts to better serve our schooling community, past, present and future. With your help, we continue to improve the completeness and quality of our information. If you have some information that can help us enrich our records - an awards ceremony program, media clippings, or similar - we encourage you to send these to us by way of an email to [\*\*community@heather.org.za\*\*](mailto:community@heather.org.za)

Enjoy the newsletter!

*Heather Chronicles  
Crew X*



## In this newsletter you can expect:

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An update from the school's leadership

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Scholars Excel in Math Olympiad

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A Heartfelt Goodbye

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Heather Celebrates Mothers Day and Fathers Day

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Learners rally for the Cancer cause

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Interschool Athletics and Field Day

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Learners on a Mission in Academics and beyond!

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Term Two Memories...

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## A word (or two) from our Principal

Dear Heather Secondary School Community,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the second edition of our 2025 newsletter. As we begin Term 3, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you, our learners, educators, parents, guardians and alumni, for your continued support and partnership. The first half of the year has laid a strong foundation, and together, we now look forward to building on this momentum as we strive for even greater success.

### Strengthening Our Team

As Heather Secondary continues to grow, so too does our commitment to academic excellence and innovation. We are pleased to announce several new staff appointments:

**Mrs NR Mtetwa** joins us as the new Department Head of Commerce, bringing a wealth of experience and fresh insight.

**Mr RJ Pillay** has been appointed as Acting Department Head for Services/Technology, where his proven leadership will strengthen this important department.

**Miss NP Buthelezi** joins as a Level 1 Educator, bringing enthusiasm and a learner-centred approach to the classroom.

We are also delighted to welcome:

- Eight Educator Assistants, appointed through the **Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI)**, who provide essential classroom support.
- Eight young professionals via the **YES Programme**, who are assisting with various school operations while gaining valuable experience in the education sector.

### Academic Focus and Support

The mid-year examinations, which began on 9 June, have been a significant milestone. I commend our educators for their resilience and dedication in preparing tailored examination papers, ensuring assessments remain relevant to the curriculum covered.

To further support our learners, a special Academic Intervention Programme will be held on Saturday, 26 July, aimed at addressing learning gaps and reinforcing foundations as we enter the latter half of the year.

### Celebrating Holistic Excellence

Heather Secondary continues to foster excellence beyond the classroom:

- Our Athletics Team secured an impressive 3rd place overall at the Interschool Athletics Competition, a reflection of discipline and teamwork.
- In debating, our Senior Debate Team emerged as champions in the Senior Debate League, showcasing critical thinking and confident expression.
- **Our Chess Club continues to grow, promoting strategic thinking and focus through regular competitions.**



- Congratulations to **Aryik Bhundoo**, selected to represent Heather Secondary in the Umgungundlovu Table Tennis League, a testament to the diverse talents within our school.

### Looking Ahead: Celebrating 45 Years of Heather Secondary

As we continue to shape the present, we are also preparing to celebrate a significant milestone in our school's history. **In 2026, Heather Secondary will mark its 45th anniversary**—a time to reflect on our journey since 1981 and honour the generations of learners, educators, and community members who have contributed to our legacy.

In celebration of this milestone, we will begin the work of **welcoming our alumni back home to Heather, reconnecting with past learners and staff**, and creating opportunities to share stories, experiences, and lessons that inspire the next generation. This will be a moment of celebration, reflection and renewal as we look towards the future of our school. We invite all members of the Heather community—past and present—to join us on this journey, helping us to build stronger connections and continue our tradition of "By Concord and Harmony."

### Commitment to Community

We are humbled by the overwhelming response to our Grade 8 applications for 2025, with over 400 applications received for just 220 places. This reflects the trust and confidence that families place in Heather Secondary, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to nurturing each learner's potential.

We move into Term 3 with unity, vision, and shared purpose—empowering learners to succeed academically, grow personally, and contribute meaningfully to society.

Yours by concord and harmony,

Mr S Reddy  
Principal  
Heather Secondary School



## At a glance...



### Heather Learners Shine in Math Olympiad

Heather Secondary is proud to celebrate the outstanding participation of 326 learners in the First Round of the South African Mathematics Olympiad (SAMO) this March.

Organised by the South African Mathematics Foundation, SAMO is the country's largest and most prestigious math competition, open to learners from

Grades 8 to 12.

More than just a test of mathematical skill, the Olympiad promotes critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving—skills that extend well beyond the classroom. Top-performing students may be invited to enrichment programmes or even selected to represent South Africa internationally.

Heather Secondary applauds all participants and congratulates those advancing to Round 2. As Math Olympiad Coordinator R. Singh reminds us, the true power of mathematics lies in its ability to shape minds and open doors to a world of opportunities.

### In Loving Memory of Mtobisi Teleni

On 8 May, our school community came together to honour the life of Mtobisi Teleni, a vibrant young soul taken from us far too soon. Losing a learner is a profound tragedy, and the grief touches every corner of our school — a place that is more than buildings, but a family. Mtobisi's passing reminds us of how fragile and precious life is, and how deeply each learner matters.

His absence echoes in the hearts of classmates, teachers, and friends — in the birthdays that will never be celebrated and the futures that will never unfold. In this time of sorrow, we encourage our school family to support one another with kindness, compassion, and open hearts. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Mtobisi's family. His memory will live on through the love and strength we show each other every day.



### Celebrating the Heart of Our Homes – Mother's Day at Heather Secondary

Each year on the second Sunday of May, we honour the love and sacrifices of mothers and mother figures. At Heather Secondary, we recognise the strength and devotion of the women who support our learners — from ensuring clean uniforms to walking long distances for school meetings. This Mother's Day, we celebrated all mother figures, including grandmothers, aunts, guardians, and community members who lovingly step into this vital role. A highlight of our celebration was a special Mother's Day Tea, where our educators were treated to a morning of warmth, treats, and heartfelt appreciation. We also proudly shared a moving poem by learner Ngcebo Shezi, reflecting the depth of emotion and talent within our school. It was a meaningful celebration of love, gratitude, and the quiet strength that mothers bring into our lives every day.



## At a glance...

### Cupcakes for Cancer: Heather Learners Bake with Purpose

Learners at Heather Secondary recently hosted a vibrant Cupcakes for Cancer event, combining creativity, compassion, and community spirit. With colourful cupcakes and cheerful energy, they raised awareness and funds to support cancer patients across South Africa. More than just a bake sale, this initiative highlighted the power of small acts of kindness in making a meaningful impact.

Through planning, baking, decorating, and managing a raffle, the inspiring learners (Caleb Durgaparsad, Abigail Govender, Zechariah Govender, Gyle Laljeeth, Jodie Mahes, Abigail Reddy, Tegan Tommy) demonstrated leadership, teamwork, and empathy — key values we aim to nurture in our school community.

Each cupcake sold became a symbol of hope, with proceeds going toward cancer treatment, research, and support for affected families. Events like this not only bring awareness to important causes but also empower learners to become active, caring citizens.

We are proud of their effort and heart, and the difference they've made through this inspiring project.



**Spirit, Speed and Sportsmanship** Sport at schools across the country is much more than just competition — it's a unifying force that brings together learners, educators, families, and communities. Beyond the games and trophies, sport fosters confidence, discipline, and respect among participants. It teaches important life lessons such as winning with grace, losing with dignity, and supporting teammates no matter the outcome. In our school, sport helps learners build lasting friendships and develop essential teamwork skills. Coaches and teachers serve as mentors, guiding young athletes both on and off the field. Sport breaks down barriers and promotes inclusivity, creating shared experiences that connect everyone. By encouraging active participation, we're not only developing stronger individuals but also nurturing stronger schools and communities. This holistic approach to education values the powerful role sport plays in shaping well-rounded young people.





## At a glance...



### Honouring the Fathers Who Inspire Us

Father's Day is a meaningful time to honour the impact of fathers and father figures in our lives. They offer strength, guidance, and unconditional support, shaping values and character through their daily presence. Heather Secondary celebrated this special day with a warm lunch for male teachers, recognising their dual roles as educators and mentors. Each received a gift as a token of appreciation, and the event included a fun game of Broken Telephone Drawing, sparking laughter and unity. This celebration highlighted the importance of gratitude, connection, and recognising the roles that uplift and guide young lives. Whether fathers by blood or by heart—stepfathers, grandfathers, or mentors—this day is a reminder to appreciate those who lead with love and purpose, creating lasting impact in homes, schools, and communities.

### Shared Laughs, Stronger Bonds

As the term ended, staff at Heather Secondary took time to reconnect through a day of meaningful team-building activities. Stepping away from daily routines, colleagues came together not just as professionals but as a united team, rediscovering the value of shared laughter, trust, and collaboration. Activities included soccer, volleyball, table tennis, and an energizing Zumba session—each designed to foster open communication, appreciation of one another's strengths, and stronger bonds. A shared lunch capped off the day, reinforcing the sense of unity and joy. Beyond the fun, the experience reminded everyone that team-building is a powerful tool for enhancing morale, improving relationships, and creating a more supportive work environment. As the saying goes, "Laughter is the closest distance between two people," and this day truly brought everyone closer together.



## At a glance...our Top Academic Performers

We are proud to recognise our Top Academic Performers for Term 1, who have demonstrated dedication, discipline, and a commitment to excellence. These learners exemplify the Heather Secondary spirit—striving for success while inspiring others to do the same. Here are the faces of hard work and achievement from across our grades.



### Grade 8

(1) Kyra Tamicia Reddy, (2) Phiwokuhle Ndlovu, (3) Tiara Pragdheen, (4) Kaitlyn Leah Govender, (5) Kairav Singh, (6) Kaitlyn Kavari Phillips, (7) Aria Nevaeh Ramnath, (8) Saverio Levi Pillay, (9) Alison Chloe Naidoo, (10) Isabella Lutchman.



### Grade 9

(1) Ashlen Naidoo, (2) Rejoice Beya Binsanga, (3) Shania Antoinette Naidu, (4) Camdon Reddy, (5) Joshua Emmanuel Brigmohun, (6) Shreeya Bharosa, (7) Damian Naidoo, (8) Emelia Stanley, (9) Shayden Chetty, (10) Kaivalya Sewraj



### Grade 10

(1) Fathima Zahraa Mohamed, (2) Mohammed Ibrahim Ansari, (3) Gabriella Cassidy Paul, (4) Abdullah Asim Nazir, (5) Aditi Baijnath, (6) Nicole Nomawethu Chagwedera, (7) Nikita Esther Pillay, (8) Saandhiya Kisunlal, (9) Preeti Baijnath, (10) Lunathi Ziyanda Xulu



### Grade 11

(1) Arlaihah Naidu, (2) Deran Mudaly, (3) Hlengiwe Sefefo, (4) Neepa Sevenundan, (5) Simphiwe Phakamani Nzama, (6) Tarikha Singh, (7) Mohamed Affaan Ally, (8) Cian Ryan Jacobs, (9) Nayanna Govender, (10) Chloe Tianna Dunn



### Grade 12

(1) Neevashnie Naicker, (2) Leya Pillay, (3) Shumaisa Sookhai, (4) Akinchana-Krsna Das Singh, (5) Tiara Sonia Gungapersad, (6) Surina Aiyer, (7) Pavisha Moodley, (8) Caden Hoosen, (9) Reesha Singh, (10) Amelia Marilyn Francis



## At a glance...



### Powerlifting Star Akhona Ndawondwe Makes Waves Nationally

Heather Secondary School proudly celebrates Grade 12 learner Akhona Ndawondwe for his exceptional achievements in powerlifting. At the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Championships on January 12, 2025, held at Moses Mabhida Stadium, Akhona claimed 1st place in the 66kg category and was named Best Sub-Junior Lifter. His success earned her a spot at the national championships.

At the South African Powerlifting National Championships on March 27 in Potchefstroom, Akhona impressed once again, placing 2nd in the Junior category and 3rd in the Open category. His outstanding performance secured him a place on the South African Powerlifting Team — a prestigious honour that reflects his strength, discipline, and competitive spirit. Heather Secondary applauds Akhona's hard work, determination, and remarkable talent. We are incredibly proud of his accomplishments and look forward to watching him continue to rise in the sport.

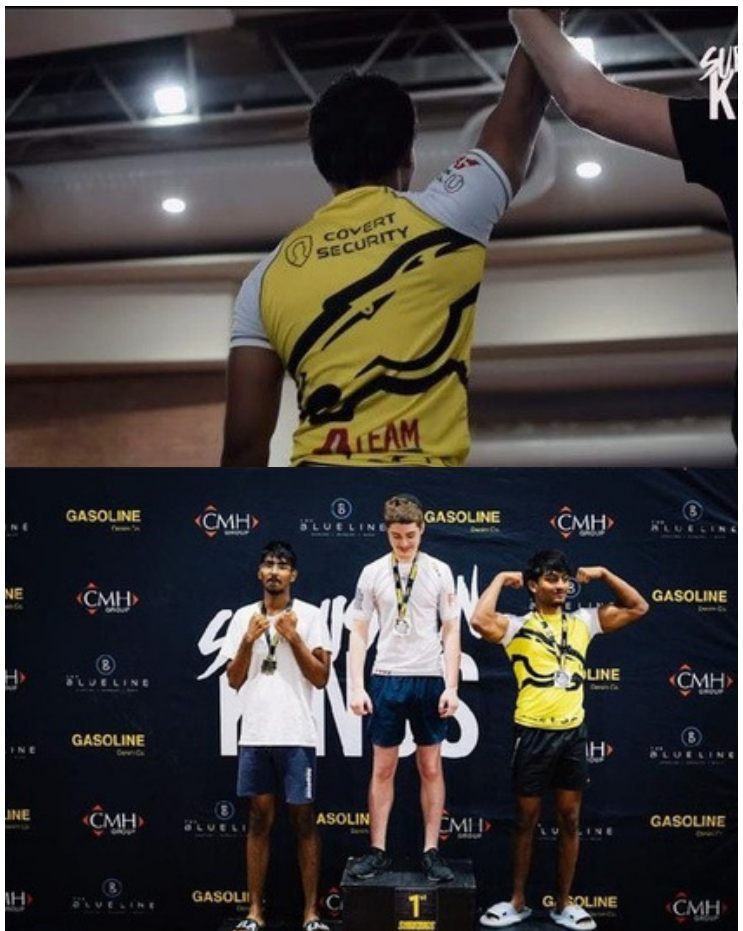
Well done, Akhona — your journey is an inspiration!

### Seth Rajah Shines at Submission Kings Jiu-Jitsu Tournament

Heather Secondary School proudly celebrates Grade 10 learner Seth Rajah for his impressive performance at the Submission Kings, Queens, and Kids 17 – No Gi Jiu-Jitsu tournament held in Johannesburg. Competing as a white belt, Seth demonstrated remarkable skill and determination, securing 2nd place in his division against two other contestants.

Seth's passion for martial arts extends beyond Jiu-Jitsu. He also holds a brown belt in Karate and showcased his athleticism earlier this year during the school's inter-house athletics event, where he delivered a standout shot put performance.

His commitment to martial arts and continuous growth as a competitor is truly commendable. Seth's success at the tournament highlights his dedication, resilience, and enthusiasm for learning and improving in his craft. The Heather Secondary School community congratulates Seth on this outstanding achievement and looks forward to supporting his continued journey in the world of martial arts.





## At a glance...



### Jayden Reddy: Young Entrepreneur Behind Piston Media

Heather Secondary School proudly celebrates Grade 9 learner Jayden Reddy, a 14-year-old entrepreneur and founder of Piston Media, a photography business focused on capturing the beauty of cars. Jayden recently shared his journey on Play ZN radio with DJ Devek Ian and Kerri Miller, speaking passionately about his love for cars and photography, which began in early childhood.

Through Piston Media, Jayden has been showcasing his talent at car dealerships in Umhlanga and building a growing presence on Instagram (@piston...media). Despite no recordings being available from the radio interview, his passion and drive continue to shine. Jayden's inspiring journey demonstrates that age is no barrier to entrepreneurship. Heather Secondary is proud to support learners like Jayden, who embody innovation, creativity, and leadership. His story encourages peers to pursue their passions with dedication. We look forward to watching Jayden and Piston Media continue to grow and inspire others.

### Aryik Bhundoo Shines on Lotus FM with Talent and Ambition

Heather Secondary School proudly celebrates Grade 12 learner Aryik Bhundoo, who recently featured on The Weekend Explosion show with Rivash Soni Davnarayan on Lotus FM. At just 17, Aryik's multifaceted talents and ambitions are already making waves. He previously represented the school at the prestigious Hindi Eisteddfod, attended by notable figures including the Consulate General of India, showcasing his cultural appreciation. Aryik is also a table tennis star, having earned provincial colours and striving toward national honours. His dedication to sport mirrors his passion for music— he plays the flute, keyboard, and tabla, and performed a live Krishna flute piece during the interview, captivating a global audience. With aspirations to study Information Technology, he demonstrates both creativity and analytical thinking. His interview highlighted a well-rounded young leader with a bright future. Heather Secondary proudly supports Aryik as he continues to grow and inspire in academics, arts, and sport.



## At a glance...



Heather Secondary School recently celebrated a meaningful occasion **in honour of our Principal, Mr. S Reddy**, as he marked another remarkable year of life. Teachers and staff gathered to host **a warm and heartfelt birthday celebration**, paying tribute to a leader whose unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and genuine compassion have left a lasting impact on our school community. Mr. Reddy's journey in education, which began in 1987, is a testament to his lifelong commitment to service, growth, and the empowerment of others. From his early teaching days to his role as Principal, he has consistently led with integrity, wisdom, and empathy. His experiences as a father, grandfather, and mentor have shaped his ability to connect meaningfully with both learners and staff, fostering a culture of respect, excellence, and inclusivity. As we gathered to celebrate his life and legacy, we were reminded of how fortunate we are to be guided by a leader who not only inspires but uplifts. Happy Birthday, Mr. Reddy—may the year ahead be filled with strength, fulfilment, and continued success.

On a crisp June morning, 220 excited Grade 12 learners and their educators set off at 5:30 a.m. for **a memorable excursion to the Royal Natal section of the Maloti-Drakensberg Park**. Despite an amusing detour into the Free State, spirits remained high, setting the tone for a day filled with adventure, laughter, and connection. Under the expert organisation of Mr. R.J. Pillay, the outing unfolded seamlessly. Upon arrival, learners were greeted by breathtaking mountain landscapes and fresh air, which they enjoyed during a short hike and lunch outdoors. The strong sense of unity and shared joy among students made the day truly special, offering a refreshing break from the academic grind. The success of the trip was made possible through the support of Principal Mr. S. Reddy, along with dedicated staff and parents. As the group returned to school at 8 p.m.—tired but happy—it was clear the memories would last a lifetime. Congratulations to the Class of 2025 on their excellent behaviour. Now, it's back to preparing for Trials and Finals!





# Heather Life in stills

