

Heather Chronicles



Heather Secondary School



27 Heather Crescent, Northdale

heather.org.za

3 October 2025



HEATHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

Farewell to the 3rd term...

Welcome to the third issue of the Heather Chronicles! We're delighted to share this edition with you as we close out Term 3. It's been a busy and rewarding term filled with achievements, milestones, and memorable moments that continue to strengthen our Heather community. Whether you're catching up on highlights, reflecting on recent successes, or simply taking a moment to enjoy the stories that make our school special, this issue has something for you.

Our Communications Committee has been hard at work expanding our outreach and keeping everyone connected. Our website – heather.org.za – continues to see growing daily readership as we share what's happening in and around our school. Engagement on our Facebook page and community group also remains active and encouraging. Thank you for staying connected and supporting our journey – together, we make Heather shine!

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

Enjoy the newsletter!

*Heather Chronicles
Crew X*



In this newsletter you can expect:

An update from the school's leadership

Heather Secondary School continues to shine

Celebrating Every Milestone

Heather Learners Embrace Culture and Confidence

Heather Secondary Celebrates Women's Day

Learners Take on the Quiz Challenge

Grade 12 Learners Lead with Compassion

Heather Secondary Shines at Umgeni Debating League 2025

Immersive Learning Takes Off at Heather

A Celebration of Spirit and Heritage

Term Three Memories...

A word (or two) from our Principal

Dear Heather Family,

As we look back on the term, it fills me with pride to see how our school continues to grow—not only in academics but also in spirit, culture, and community. Term 3 has been filled with milestones, celebrations, and moments of reflection. Each event reminds us that Heather Secondary is more than just a school—it is a vibrant community, bound by shared values of excellence, unity, and compassion. Here are some highlights:

We began by celebrating two incredible academic achievements. Congratulations to Dr. D. Maniraj, who obtained her PhD in Education with a remarkable thesis on the use of music in teaching poetry, and Ms C. Adam, who completed her Master's in Education with her impactful work on reading and mathematical literacy. Their dedication and success inspire both learners and colleagues alike.



Yours by concord and harmony,

Mr S Reddy

Principal

Heather Secondary School

August also saw deep professional engagement, as our SMT connected with Mr Nithia Naidoo and the Emerging Leaders Programme. Mr Naidoo further inspired our learners and parents at the Highflyers Workshop, where the top 20 learners from each grade were given tools and motivation to reach even greater heights.

To support excellence, teachers and Department Heads ran targeted programmes for our Grade 12 learners, ensuring they receive every opportunity to shine in their final exams. In addition, the QLTC Campaign was launched on 21 August, drawing strength from community leaders such as Adv. Rajiv Nirghin, Pastor Anthony Naidoo, and Mr Jimmy Naidoo, who emphasised the role of partnership in education.

Our learners also enjoyed the much-anticipated Games & Cultural Day, filled with exciting sporting fixtures, novelty items, and colourful cultural performances—a true showcase of talent, unity, and heritage. Parents played their part too, with an excellent turnout at the Grade 9 subject choice meeting, helping guide their children's futures.

The academic calendar kept momentum with the Grade 12 Trial Exams, as well as controlled tests for Grades 8, 10, 11, and the GEC for Grade 9 learners. Alongside these, the spirit of togetherness extended beyond the school, with the 1995 alumni reunion marking 30 years of memories and lifelong bonds.

We also pause to acknowledge loss within our Heather family. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Mrs Y. D. Govender on the passing of her mother. We also honoured the late Mr P. Padayachee in a special assembly on 11 August, remembering his service and dedication with gratitude.

Each moment of achievement, celebration, and remembrance reflects who we are as a united school community. Heather Secondary stands strong through the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our learners, and the support of our parents—building a lasting legacy of excellence and unity.

As the third quarter draws to a close, it is fitting to reflect on our collective achievements and extend appreciation to all stakeholders for their continued support. The recent Sports and Cultural Day was a resounding success, showcasing the remarkable talents, energy, and enthusiasm of our learners. The day was a true celebration of teamwork, creativity, and school pride.



Mr M. Naidoo

Yours by concord
and harmony

Mr M Naidoo

This success would not have been possible without the leadership of Mr. Reddy, the support of the management team, and the dedication of our staff, who worked tirelessly to ensure that every activity ran smoothly. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the School Governing Body for their ongoing guidance, encouragement, and invaluable contribution to the school's success. Events such as these highlight the strong sense of unity and community spirit that define Heather Secondary.

On the academic front, the completion of the syllabus remained a key priority. Our educators demonstrated outstanding commitment by offering extra lessons beyond regular school hours, ensuring learners are fully prepared for the final stretch of the academic year

At a glance...



Heather Secondary School continues to shine as our learners showcase both talent and determination.

We proudly celebrate Kaivalya Sewraj, who represented our school at the Provincial Debating Championships at Northwood School. Competing against over 300 learners, Kaivalya impressed with intellect and eloquence, earning an 8th place finish – a remarkable achievement that highlights the calibre of our learners.

Meanwhile, eight young writers from Grades 9 to 12 have stepped boldly into the literary spotlight, entering the South African Schools Creative Writing Competition. With stories full of imagination, originality, and voice, they now await the exciting possibility of national publication.

From debate halls to storytelling pages, our learners continue to prove they are thinkers, creators, and leaders in the making – and Heather celebrates every step of their journey.

At Heather Secondary, **professional growth is celebrated as much as academic success.** This quarter our educators were recognised with certificates after completing a series of impactful on-campus training programmes. These included First Aid certification and Fire Marshall training provided by VASTS, as well as a hands-on ICT workshop conducted by Shuter & Shooter, designed to strengthen digital teaching skills. Adding to this spirit of development, Mr. Dhanlal led an inspiring session on professionalism, classroom engagement, and the evolving role of educators in today's digital age. His talk offered fresh perspectives and renewed motivation, reminding staff of the powerful influence they hold in shaping young minds. The event was a moment of recognition and also a celebration of commitment, reflection, and purpose—underscoring Heather's dedication to empowering those who guide the future.



On 27 July 2025, Aryan Hall was transformed into a vibrant hub of colour, music, and culture as the annual **Hindi Cultural Showcase took centre stage.**

This cherished event not only celebrates the richness of the Hindi language and North Indian heritage but also provides a platform for learners across the province to shine. The evening was graced by esteemed guests, including representatives from the Consulate General of India, board members of the Hindi Shiksha Sangh SA, and guest speaker Mr. P.T. Gounden, alongside families and community members eager to celebrate young talent.

Heather Secondary was proudly represented by a talented group of learners from Grades 8 to 11, who performed with confidence, flair, and cultural pride—earning admiration from the audience and adding to the success of a truly unforgettable celebration.

At a glance...



Heather Secondary celebrated **Women's Day** with pride and purpose, marking more than just a calendar date. The day served as a heartfelt reminder of the sacrifices made by women who paved the way toward equality and the ongoing journey toward fairness and dignity for all. The school embraced the occasion by fostering a culture of respect and appreciation, encouraging learners to reflect on the vital roles women play as mothers, teachers, leaders, and peers. The celebration was both a tribute to history and an empowering reminder that our learners, too, can be agents of positive change. Filled with joy, unity, and gratitude, the event beautifully captured the spirit of the day—honouring women while inspiring a future rooted in equality and empowerment.

Four of our Grade 11 learners proudly represented Heather Secondary at the **IIE Varsity College High School Quiz 2025**, and what an exciting experience it was! Our team — Deran Mudaly (11A), Arlaihah Naidu (11A), Nerishka Manohar (11D), and Simryn Sawrimoothu (11F) — went head-to-head with 46 learners from other schools in a fast-paced Kahoot quiz. With questions spanning Geography, History, Science, Sport, and Entertainment, the competition demanded sharp thinking and lightning-fast reflexes. A special shout-out goes to Nerishka Manohar, who secured a commendable 24th place overall. While our learners didn't progress further, the excitement, energy, and laughter they shared made the day unforgettable. Even better, they returned inspired — suggesting we host a quiz of our own at Heather. Perhaps this marks the beginning of a fun new tradition!



In a remarkable display of empathy and leadership, **Heather Secondary's Grade 12 learners recently brought joy and hope** to two local organisations in need. At the Aryan Benevolent Home, they sponsored a warm meal, donated essential toiletries, and spent quality time with residents, sharing stories, laughter, and heartfelt connection that left many elderly residents visibly moved.

The spirit of giving continued at Sunlit Gardens Children's Home, where children received individually packed goodie bags. Excitement, laughter, and wide smiles filled the room, creating moments of pure joy for both the children and learners.

For the students, this outreach was more than a school activity — it was a humbling life lesson in kindness, generosity, and community impact. Heather is proud of these learners, who prove that true leadership is rooted in serving others.

At a glance...



From left to right: Kaivalya Sewraj, Arlaiyah Naidu, Arabella Mohammed, Joshua Brigmohun, Dr. D. Maniraj

Heather Secondary learners made a remarkable mark in the **Umgeni Debating League (UDL) 2025**, competing fiercely against local schools throughout the academic year. The finals, held on 6 September 2025 at Eddels Sports Club, saw our teams deliver exceptional performances.

The junior team impressed with their skill and poise, earning the title of runners-up, while the senior team went one step further, emerging as the 2025 league champions. Their success was a testament to dedication, preparation, and teamwork.

Special recognition went to Cian Jacobs, Joshua Brigmohun, Kaivalya Sewraj, Arlaiyah Naidu, and Arabella Mohammed, whose eloquence and confidence greatly contributed to the school's triumph.

Heather Secondary proudly celebrates all learners for their hard work, perseverance, and the way they represented the school with pride and distinction.

Immersive Learning Takes Off at Heather Secondary

with New VR Headsets. Mr. Reddy recently explored the new VR headset, a cutting-edge tool set to transform learning at Heather Secondary School. With four of these high-tech headsets now available, learners can engage in immersive practicals and experiments that go beyond traditional textbooks. This technology allows students to visualise complex scientific concepts, conduct virtual experiments safely, and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills in an interactive environment. Integrating VR into the classroom makes learning more dynamic, memorable, and accessible, catering to diverse learning styles. This innovative step is made possible through the MST grant, reinforcing the school's commitment to providing modern, hands-on educational experiences that prepare learners for the future.



At Heather Secondary School, we believe **true change happens when communities come together**—and the YES (Youth Employment Service) programme has proven just that. With the support of BMW SA, Toyota SA, and Afrika Tikkun, schools across Pietermaritzburg's Northern suburbs have been able to do so much more than we ever imagined. By easing the salary burden of vital support staff, this partnership has freed schools to invest in better classrooms, digital learning, safety, and learner support. But beyond the numbers, it's the people who inspire us most. Many of the youth employed through YES have stepped into permanent roles, carrying with them newfound skills and confidence. This programme has planted seeds of dignity, hope, and opportunity—showing what's possible when education, business, and community rise together.

At a glance...



Heather Secondary School's **Annual Games & Cultural Day 2025** was a lively celebration of talent, culture, and community. Learners competed in volleyball, netball, soccer, chess, table tennis, and a spelling bee, while Grade 12s brought the novelty obstacle course to life. Tug-of-war had the whole school cheering, and educators faced off against the 12G boys in volleyball, claiming victory!

Music from Daniel Chetty, DJ Laitin, and DJ Kass kept spirits high, while learners enjoyed wors rolls and cool drinks. Vibrant cultural attire added colour and pride, reflecting Heather Secondary's values of unity, diversity, and shared joy.

The day was a memorable celebration of sport, culture, and community.

Heather Secondary School's Grade 8 learners recently took part in a fun and educational **Water Safety Programme**. The day was filled with energy, laughter, and hands-on learning about staying safe in and around water.

Students discovered how to swim safely, spot hazards, and remain calm in emergencies through engaging demonstrations and activities. The real highlights were the fun games, exciting prizes, and the chance to jump into the pool to practise safety skills firsthand.

The atmosphere was full of enthusiasm as learners cheered each other on, asked questions, and joined every activity with eagerness. Facilitators praised their positive spirit and active participation.

By the end of the programme, students left with greater knowledge, confidence, and respect for water safety—skills that will benefit them both inside and outside the classroom. Heather Secondary continues to empower learners with life skills beyond academics.



Our Grade 10 and 11 learners recently enjoyed an **educational excursion** filled with learning, adventure, and fun.

The day began with a visit to the KZN Sharks Board, where students witnessed a shark dissection, gaining fascinating insights into marine biology, shark anatomy, and conservation.

Next, learners recharged with lunch at uShaka Marine World before heading to the WESSA Treasure Beach & Environmental Centre. There, they participated in interactive games on pollution and took a guided walk along the beach, observing how marine life adapts and how ecosystems are affected by human activity.

The excursion offered hands-on learning, teamwork, and adventure, leaving students with a deeper appreciation for the environment, unforgettable experiences, and stronger friendships.





Smart Study Tips for Success



- Create a routine
- Set aside a fixed study time each day—consistency builds focus and discipline.
- Find your study space
- Choose a quiet, tidy spot with minimal distractions for better concentration.
- Break it down
- Use short, focused sessions (25–30 minutes) with quick breaks to stay fresh.
- Be active
- Write notes, draw mind maps, or explain concepts to a friend. Teaching helps you learn.
- Practice past papers
- Familiarize yourself with the exam format, improve time management, and spot weak areas.
- Stay healthy
- Sleep well, eat balanced meals, and exercise—your body fuels your brain.
- Ask for help
- Don't struggle alone; seek guidance from teachers, classmates, or online resources.
- Stay positive
- Believe in yourself, track progress, and celebrate small wins along the way.

Remember: studying is about working smarter, not harder. At Heather Secondary, we believe in you—stay focused, stay motivated, and success will follow!

Tribute to Mr P. Padayachee



At Heather Secondary, few names are as deeply woven into the school's history as that of Mr. P. Padayachee, fondly known as "Cops." More than an Accounting and Business Economics teacher, he was a mentor, role model, and guide whose influence stretched far beyond the classroom.

For three decades, Mr. Padayachee dedicated his life to Heather Secondary, teaching across generations—sometimes educating both former pupils and their children. His legacy was not measured in years alone, but in the countless lives he touched and the values he instilled.

In the classroom, he was a true master of his craft. His clarity in teaching complex concepts made learning accessible and even enjoyable for those who once feared numbers. Learners admired his fairness; he often prepared multiple test versions to uphold integrity, demonstrating that honesty was as important as knowledge.

Though disciplined and firm when necessary, he balanced this with warmth, humour, and wit, creating an atmosphere where learners respected him as much as they enjoyed his lessons. His efficiency and work ethic—whether in marking, designing assessments, or innovating with tools like Excel—set a standard of professionalism admired by colleagues.

Beyond academics, Mr. Padayachee's presence enriched the school community. At staff functions and gatherings, he was thoughtful, engaging, and supportive, valuing relationships as much as results. His perseverance, especially in his later years, reflected a steadfast dedication to his school and his profession.

In 2017, after 30 years of loyal service, he retired, leaving behind a living legacy. His influence continues in the learners whose characters he helped shape, the colleagues he inspired, and the culture he strengthened at Heather Secondary.

We bid farewell to "Cops," a true giant of our school's history, whose spirit endures in every heart he touched.



Educators in Focus

At Heather Secondary, our educators are the heart of our school community — inspiring learners while continuing to grow in their own professional journeys. This quarter, we proudly celebrate two remarkable women whose achievements reflect dedication, perseverance, and a passion for education.

Dr. D. Maniraj, who recently obtained her PhD in Education, and Ms C. Adam, who successfully completed her Master's in Education, stand as shining examples of lifelong learning. Their accomplishments not only enrich their own professional paths but also uplift our school, reminding us all that growth never stops and excellence has no finish line.



Dr D. Maniraj

English teacher
Department : English
Years at Heather 2023-present

Dr Denosha Maniraj, known until recently as Mrs. Maniraj at Heather Secondary School, is a dedicated Level 1 Educator in the Languages department, specialising in English Home Language. Joining the school in 2023, Dr Maniraj has quickly become known for her exceptional academic credentials and her deep commitment to her learners' success.

Dr Maniraj graduated Summa Cum Laude with both a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Education Honours degree. She has also completed her Masters in Education, focusing on English Literature, and has recently completed a PhD in Education. Her scholarly pursuits underscore her dedication to the field of education and her desire to continually enhance her teaching skills.

With seven years of teaching experience, Denosha is passionate about working with young individuals, guiding them to achieve significant accomplishments in their academic and personal lives.

Her teaching philosophy is influenced by her grandparents, who instilled in her the importance of strong morals and values. These principles have shaped her into a compassionate educator who values the potential in every learner. Dr Maniraj lives by the words of Theodore Roosevelt: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." This quote reflects her practical and resourceful approach to teaching, giving emphasis to making the most of available resources to provide the best educational experience possible.

As she continues her career at Heather Secondary School, Denosha remains committed to fostering a supportive and stimulating environment that encourages learners to excel in English and develop a lifelong passion for learning.

Christine Adam has been a valued member of Heather Secondary School since 2012, teaching Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Mathematical Literacy. Known for her calm dedication and learner-centred approach, Christine brings over a decade of experience to the Mathematics Department, helping learners build confidence in numeracy and problem-solving.

Her teaching philosophy is shaped by the influence of former colleague Mrs YD Govender, whom she credits as a positive and energetic presence in both her professional and personal development. Christine's approach in the classroom reflects a similar spirit—uplifting, committed, and focused on empowering learners regardless of their starting point.

She draws inspiration from the words: "Don't let where you come from determine where you go." — a mantra that resonates strongly with the school's vision of nurturing potential and promoting educational success for all.

Christine continues to play an important role in fostering mathematical literacy and lifelong learning at Heather Secondary, encouraging every learner to strive towards their goals with purpose and confidence.



Ms C Adam

Mathematical Literacy Teacher
Department : Mathematics
Years at Heather 2012-present

At a glance...our Top Academic Performers

We are proud to recognise our Top Academic Performers for Term 2, who have displayed dedication, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. These learners continue to embody the Heather Secondary spirit—striving for success, setting high standards, and inspiring their peers to reach greater heights.



Grade 8

(1) Kyra Tamicia Reddy, (2) Isabella Lutchman, (3) Kaitlyn Leah Govender, (4) Alison Chloe Naidoo, (5) Phiwokuhle Ndlovu, (6) Mohamed Afraz Ally and Kaitlyn Kavari Phillips, (8) Kairav Singh, (9) Tiara Pragdheen, (10) Jordan Puran.



Grade 9

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



Grade 10

(1) Fathima Zahraa Mohamed, (2) Mohammed Ibrahim Ansari, (3) Nicole Nomawethu Chagwedera and Saandhiya Kisunlal, (5) Aditi Bajinath, (6) Saeran Sancho Gouden, (7) Sohan Kalika, (8) Snothando Thandeka Kunene, (9) Nikita Esther Pillay, (10) Gabriella Cassidy Paul.



Grade 11

(1) Arlaiyah Naidu, (2) Deran Mudaly, (3) Neepa Sevenundan, (4) Mohamed Affaan Ally, (5) Hlengiwe Sefefo, (6) Simphiwe Phakamani Nzama, (7) Cian Ryan Jacobs (8) Tarikha Singh, (9) Miyanka De-Andra Aiyer, (10) Ashleigh Teyana Corondimus and Nayanna Govender.



Grade 12

(1) Leya Pillay, (2) Shumaisa Sookhai, (3) Neevashnie Naicker, (4) Reesha Singh, (5) Akinchana-Krsna Das Singh, (6) Abigail Reante Padayachee, (7) Sayal Dhari, (8) Ryan Cole Sheik, (9) Lamees Bux, (10) Esther Hope Sadhai.

Finals Loading...



Heather Life in stills





Heather Life in stills

