

# Heather Chronicles



*Heather Secondary School*



27 Heather Crescent, Northdale

heather.org.za

4 April 2025



## Term 2 of 2025 is a wrap !!!

Welcome to the 1st issue of Heather Chronicles of 2025! Thank you for investing your time in appreciating our story. Our first term was spectacular - kicking off with celebration of our learner's 2024 final results across academics, sports, and culture, paired with a host of activities across the school to set ourselves up for success in 2025!

Our newly established Communications Committee will be looking to build on our communications assets. Our website - [heather.org.za](http://heather.org.za) - continues to grow in daily readership as we share activities of what's 'hip and happening' in our school community. Our Facebook page and community group has experienced continued interest. Thank you!

We'd encourage you to visit our website and Facebook presence - they continue to be the focus of our initial digital media forays. 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:

An update from the school's leadership

Highlights of our SMART Transformation

2025 Peer Leaders

Debating Domination

Meet our DPs

Former Educator Spotlight: Farewell to Mrs Erradu

Term One memories ...





## A word (or two) from our Principal

Dear Heather Secondary School Community,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first edition of our 2025 school newsletter. As we embark on a new academic year, I extend a special warm welcome to all our new Grade 8 learners and their families! We understand that high school is a significant transition, and we hope that your experience thus far has been enriching, supportive, and filled with promise.

Our Term One focus drew to a close on Friday (4<sup>th</sup> April) as we wrapped up our Holiday School Enrichment programme for grades 10, 11 and 12. Thank you to the educators, learners and their loved ones for their commitment to and investment in this intervention.

2024 was a year of reflection and transformation for Heather Secondary, and 2025 promises to be one of continued excellence and renewed purpose. Guided by our vision to be **“recognised as the hallmark of educational excellence, where every learner is equipped to navigate and shape our dynamic society”**, we have made significant strides in academic achievement, digital advancement, and holistic development.

The **Matric Class of 2024** achieved a commendable **87.6% pass rate**, remaining above the national average. More importantly, we celebrate the **75 distinctions** earned, and the significant number of learners qualifying for Bachelor’s Degree programmes. These results reflect not only the efforts of our learners but the dedication of our educators and the enduring support of our parents and guardians.

Heather Secondary was honoured to be identified as a **SMART School** under the Department of Basic Education’s MST Grant. This pivotal investment included the installation of smart classrooms, teacher laptops, a robust ICT infrastructure, and the replacement of all chalkboards with interactive whiteboards.

**Educators were trained extensively in the use of digital tools** to deliver engaging, effective lessons. As **Mr U. Bagwande** reflected, the training sessions were *“enriching and insightful experience... fostering a more dynamic learning environment. The workshop was a resounding success, equipping educators with skills to integrate technology into their teaching effectively.”* For Natural Sciences teacher **Ms P.P. Ngcobo**, this innovation means deeper engagement: *“With the ability to project and show videos of biological processes, learners are gaining a deeper understanding of complex scientific concepts.”*

This SMART transition is more than a technological upgrade—it represents our commitment to closing the digital divide and ensuring that every Heather learner is prepared to thrive in the 21st-century learning landscape.



We celebrate the careers of two esteemed educators who retired recently: **Mrs R. Erradu (Department Head of Technology)** and **Mr M. Gobindlall (Department Head of Commerce)**. Their contributions to our school community are immeasurable. We are grateful that Mr Gobindlall has graciously agreed to return part-time to assist with continuity in the Commerce Department during this transitional phase.

We also extend a warm **welcome to new staff** members:

- **Mr R. Govender** (Technology)
- **Mr T.L. Ngubane** (Mathematics & English)
- **Mrs S. Hammond** (Consumer Studies)
- **Miss N.P. Buthelezi** (temporary appointment),

and **congratulations** to **Mrs N. Shaik** who has been appointed as the **Acting DH for Commerce**.

We are pleased to announce the conversion of **Mr S.T. Govender** (Business Studies) and **Miss E. Ramnarain** (English Home Language) from SGB-paid to state-paid educators, securing their continued presence and expertise at our school.

As we journey through 2025, we remain committed to our mission: *“to develop well-rounded individuals who excel academically, embrace diversity, and embody the values of our motto ‘By Concord and Harmony’, ensuring that each learner is poised for success and service to the community.”*

Together, learners, educators, parents and alumni, let us build on the shoulders of giants, and move forward with courage, unity, and purpose.

Yours by concord and harmony,

*Mr S Reddy*

Principal  
Heather Secondary School



## School Governing Body Chairperson, Mark Naidoo, shares his thoughts

Dear Parents, Learners, and Staff,  
As we close off on Term 1 of the 2025 academic year, I would like to extend warm greetings on behalf of the School Governing Body (SGB). We started the year with the re-election of office bearers, and I am deeply honoured to have been re-elected as Chairperson. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the SGB members for their continued trust and confidence in my leadership.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Faith Nzimande, our newly elected Deputy Chairperson, and to congratulate Miss Singh, who was re-elected as Treasurer.

A warm welcome is also extended to our RCL learner representatives, whose voice and insight are invaluable in shaping a school environment that supports and empowers every learner.

As we move further into the 2025 schooling calendar, the SGB remains committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and well-maintained environment for both learners and educators. We are pleased to report the revamp of the school's catwalk, which has eliminated leaks and improved accessibility, especially on rainy days. The school grounds continue to be kept neat and clean, providing a space our learners can be proud of and enjoy daily.

During our first term, our Grade 12 learners had the enriching opportunity to attend the performance of Othello at Hilton College. We are pleased that this excursion was not only

incident-free but also deeply appreciated by our learners.

On the academic front, our dedicated educators have gone above and beyond, conducting extra lessons after school and on weekends to assist learners in mastering the curriculum. We thank them for their generosity of time, energy, and unwavering commitment to the success of our learners.

As a governing body, we are fully invested in working collaboratively with the school management, staff, parents, and community to build on last year's achievements and strive for continuous improvement.

Thank you for your support, and may the year ahead be one of growth, learning, and collective success.

Thank you and God bless.

*Mark Naidoo*  
SGB Chairperson

## Heather Secondary's 43rd Annual Awards Evening: A Celebration of Excellence



On 23 January 2025, Heather Secondary School hosted its 43rd Annual Awards Ceremony in the prestigious Heather Hall, an evening dedicated to honouring the academic, leadership, and extra-curricular achievements of our learners. The event was graced by learners, parents, educators, distinguished guests, and the school's former principal, Mr DK John, marking an occasion of immense pride and celebration.



## At a glance...



**Heather Secondary's debate teams** are making waves in the 2025 Umgeni Debate League (UDL). Following their participation in a dynamic training session at Haythorne Secondary, our two senior and one junior team competed in Rounds 2 and 3 on 8 March at Raisethorpe Secondary, where all three teams secured victories in both rounds. Learners tackled challenging motions with clarity and conviction, demonstrating impressive critical thinking, confidence, strong teamwork and poise under pressure. Their success highlights the growing strength of debating at Heather and the dedication of both learners and staff.

We congratulate our teams and look forward to their continued success in the league.

**Heather Secondary's SMART Transformation**, launched in May 2024, marks a major milestone in our journey toward digital inclusion and educational innovation. As a beneficiary of the DBE's MST Grant, the school embraced a future-focused learning environment through the integration of ICT resources aligned with the CAPS curriculum. The transformation was anchored by the installation of smart classrooms, teacher laptops, whiteboard upgrades, and school-wide Wi-Fi, creating a tech-enabled ecosystem for teaching and learning. The initiative culminated in intensive educator training in November, equipping staff with the tools and confidence to deliver engaging, digitally enriched lessons.



**Mrs R. Erradu's farewell** was a heartfelt celebration of her remarkable service and dedication to Heather Secondary School. As the long-standing Department Head of Technology, Mrs Erradu played a pivotal role in shaping the academic and moral fabric of our school community. Colleagues, learners, and alumni paid tribute to her unwavering commitment, her nurturing leadership, and her deep belief in the potential of every learner. Her farewell was marked by emotional speeches, laughter, and gratitude as we reflected on the many lives she touched over the years. Though she enters a well-deserved retirement, Mrs Erradu's legacy will continue to echo through the classrooms, hearts, and corridors of Heather Secondary. We thank her for her service and wish her continued joy and fulfilment.



On 3 February 2025, Heather Secondary welcomed True Life NGO from Kloof for a powerful **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness workshop** with our Grade 8 learners. The session provided valuable insights into the realities of GBV, covering its forms, warning signs, and emotional impact. Learners engaged in discussions and activities that promoted empathy, respect, and the importance of speaking out. True Life also highlighted support structures available to victims. This initiative forms part of our broader commitment to learner safety and social awareness, helping to foster a school culture rooted in respect, dignity, and inclusion for all.



## Meet our school's Deputy Principals



**Mrs N. Devcharran**

Mrs Devcharran is a dedicated Deputy Principal at Heather Secondary School, a school she has excelled in since her initial appointment as an educator at the same institution in 1983. Over the decades, Mrs Devcharran has been an influential figure in the Languages and Maths departments, teaching English, Afrikaans, Maths, and Mathematical Literacy.

Mrs Devcharran's educational background is extensive and diverse. She attended Raisethorpe Secondary School and pursued further studies at Springfield College of Education, UNISA, Rand Afrikaans University, University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. Her academic journey is underpinned by a deep commitment to continual learning and professional development, which she imparts to both her learners and colleagues.

The foundation of Mrs Devcharran's personal and professional ethos is the morals, values, and ethics taught by her parents—lessons she regards as more significant than any institutional learning. These principles have guided her throughout her career and life, particularly reflected in her father's quote: "Success in life is not about what we have achieved, but about what we have to give." This philosophy not only shapes her approach to education but also her interactions within the community.

Mrs Devcharran's dedication and leadership extend beyond administrative duties, as she continues to influence and inspire through her commitment to education and community service. Her enduring contribution to Heather Secondary School ensures that the institution remains a beacon of learning and character development.



Mr L Govender, the Deputy Principal at Heather Secondary School, has significantly shaped both the academic and co-curricular landscapes since joining the institution in 1987. With a deep commitment to mathematics and holistic learner development, he has fostered excellence in academics, sports, and beyond.

Originally from Umzinto, KZN, Mr Govender qualified from Springfield College of Education in 1986, specialising in Mathematics and Physical Sciences. His academic journey continued with further studies in Geography and Economics through UNISA and an ACE FET Mathematics with Distinction at UKZN in 2013. He further excelled by completing a BEd Honours (Cum Laude) in Education Leadership and Management at UKZN in 2015.

Beyond the classroom, Mr Govender has contributed as a Marker and Senior Marker in mathematics and served as a Lead Teacher, enhancing maths education in low-performing schools during holidays. His written work includes authoring and editing learner guides for Grade 8 and Grade 9 Mathematics, published by Exam Fever, which are essential resources for both learners and educators.

Guided by the principle "Be the change you want to see in the world," Mr Govender believes in nurturing well-rounded individuals who excel academically and in their personal interests, such as sports—a field where he passionately supports soccer, cricket, and rugby. His dedication ensures that Heather Secondary School remains a place where educational excellence is continuously nurtured.



**Mr L. Govender**

## At a glance...

### KZN's Youngest Cricket Umpire



Heather Secondary proudly celebrates **Hayden Krishnan (Grade 12B)**, who has made history as the **youngest accredited cricket umpire in KwaZulu-Natal** at just 16 years old. Hayden's journey began at age six, nurtured through the UKZN Cricket Academy and the Northdale Hub, where his love for the game evolved into a passion for officiating. After completing the KZN Inland Umpire Level 1 Accreditation with distinction, Hayden stood on the field as an umpire for the first time in February 2025. His understanding of the game, professionalism, and composure reflect his dedication. Guided by mentor Mr Mark Young, Hayden continues to inspire by showing that with passion and purpose, age is no barrier to greatness.

Heather Secondary School proudly introduces the **2025 Peer Leaders**, a dynamic group of learners committed to promoting discipline, leadership, and learner engagement.

This year's cohort is led by Head Peer Leaders Arabella Mohammed (12A) and Rahel Roopen (12A), alongside their deputies Leya Pillay, Neevashni Naicker, Nihal Gungapersad, and Akinchana-Krsna Das Singh. The strength of our Peer Leadership lies not only in the Executive but in the entire team, who actively support daily operations, uphold school rules, and model respectful, responsible behaviour. This year, the focus is on collaborative leadership, learner wellness, and a positive school culture. Together, our Peer Leaders embody the values of "By Concord and Harmony" in every facet of school life.



*Heather Secondary School  
Peer Leaders 2025*

*My leadership will remain driven, innovative, and focused on inspiring change.  
Head Peer Leader, Arabella Mohammed*

*My goal is to leave a lasting impact that enhances the learning experience for all at Heather Secondary.  
Head Peer Leader, Rahel Roopen*



On 25 February 2025, Heather Secondary School's **Grade 12 learners** were treated to a powerful **live performance of Othello** at the prestigious Hilton College. As part of their English curriculum, this classic Shakespearean tragedy explores complex themes of race, jealousy, and betrayal—brought vividly to life on stage.

Hilton's striking black and white colour scheme and its dramatic architectural setting offered a poignant parallel to Othello's central racial tensions, enriching the learners' understanding of the play's subtext. This immersive experience not only deepened academic insight but also ignited a lasting appreciation for live theatre as a medium of storytelling and critical engagement.

Heather Secondary School is proud to partner with the **South African National Blood Service (SANBS)** through the launch of the **Peer Promoters Initiative**. This learner-led programme empowers a team of dedicated ambassadors to raise awareness about blood donation, educate their peers on its life-saving importance, and encourage eligible donors within the school community to give blood.

Through training and ongoing support from SANBS, Peer Promoters play a vital role in coordinating donation drives, dispelling myths, and promoting a culture of compassion and civic responsibility. This initiative not only strengthens learner leadership and communication skills but also fosters a spirit of service that aligns with our school's values of community and care.





# Heather Life in stills

