

Heather Chronicles



Heather Secondary School



27 Heather Crescent, Northdale

heather.org.za

24 May 2024



Here's what has happened in the last while and what's to come!

Welcome to our new newsletter - Heather Chronicles! We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments in our mission for our school to make a positive impact in our community.

Heather Chronicles will be our way of summarising and sharing some of the newsworthy events from our school on a quarterly basis going forward. We intend using our website (heather.org.za) to share activities as and when they come to the fore. In the newsletter, we will focus on sharing the accolades and memorable events in the lives of learners and educators, past and present.

In this first issue, we recap the first half of our year as our school prepares itself for the mid year exams. There has been a lot going on so brace yourselves...

This initiative is new for us, and we welcome your constructive feedback on how we can improve to better serve our schooling community.

Send us your thoughts by email to community@heather.org.za

Enjoy this newsletter!

*Heather Chronicles
Crew X*

In this newsletter you can expect:

Update from the school's leaders

Sports Activities in full force

Matric Excursion debrief

CareerFest '24 highlights

2024 Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign

Former Educator Spotlight





A word (or two) from our Principal

Dear Heather Secondary School Community,

Welcome to the first of our more regular e-newsletters! We are eager to be more connected with our Heather community and we see a greater digital adoption as an important step in this process. We are on an exciting journey, as individuals, as a school, and as a community; and I am looking forward to an enriched schooling environment for us all.

The 30 year anniversary of our democracy is upon us. Attaining democracy was a milestone achievement in our nation's history – and a hard-earned one at that. It is pivotal for us all to ensure that our voices are heard through the choices we make for our provincial and national leadership. I encourage each of you, that is eligible to vote, to be active in the communities in which you live, to be part of the voting public and cast your vote.

Our School Governing Body (SGB) elections were held recently. This has ushered in some new members across the represented stakeholder communities; whilst some parent members (Lolita Mungaroo, Swastika Rajah, Shamalan Govender and William Joubert) have left. Each member plays a vital role in shaping the future of Heather Secondary, and I am thankful to the former members for their contributions. The efforts of Mr William Joubert, the outgoing chair and 2022 Deputy Chair, is worthy of a special commendation. He was instrumental in instilling discipline amongst the SGB members. As an acting Deputy Principal, he had a vast knowledge of the South African Schools Act which empowered him in quickly developing a functional SGB that contributed positively to Heather Secondary. Thank you Mr Joubert! A hearty and special welcome to the new members of the Heather Secondary School Governing Body. I am confident that together, we will progress our school community toward our vision of educational excellence.

Whilst late in the year, it would be remiss of me to not congratulate the grade 12 learners of 2023 for their outstanding individual National Senior Certificate (NSC) results. I would like to especially commend Luayl Pillay, Aumshi Sevenundan, and Sarah Pillay for their remarkable achievements. Your hard work and perseverance serve as an inspiration to us all. Our 2024 matric learners are deep in their preparation and will be attending our extra class program over the upcoming midyear holidays so that they can be as prepared as possible for their matric finals.

Aligned to our commitment to continuous improvement, our school is undergoing infrastructure changes, with all classrooms being renovated and GammaTVs and Lab installed to enhance teaching methods and learning and revision time. Our educator component has been strengthened to ensure that our teachers have the support they need to be effective in the classroom.

Part of the improvement agenda, at the end of last year we began a partnership with Nithia Naidoo, a matriculant of 1993, and ProEdX, a non-profit organisation he's created. Nithia believes strongly that changing educational outcomes can change a person's future, as it did for him and his family, as the Dux scholar of his year. He has been investing his resources in working with us to enable those improvements in practices at Heather so that we can be the best version of ourselves. Thus far, we have spent time revisiting our strategic intent, the role we need to play in society and the initiatives we need to resource in order to get the step change that our learners and community deserve. Our fledgling website (heather.org.za) and emails, our efforts to build up our alumni communities of both learners and educators, the review of our management practices, the CareerFest '24 event and this newsletter are a few of the noteworthy outcomes from our partnership. It is a new process for us, but one that is bringing positive and constructive energy into our hallways; and this is good for us all!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate all members of our staff, parents, and learners (past and present) for their cooperation, dedication, and commitment. Your contributions are invaluable, and together, we will continue to strive for excellence in all that we do.

Here's to a phenomenally successful year ahead!

Yours by concord and harmony,

Mr S Reddy

Principal
Heather Secondary School





School Governing Body Chairperson, Mark Naidoo, shares his thoughts



It is with great pleasure that I welcome the newly appointed members of the School Governing Body.

As a team we have to be responsible and act with integrity. We as elected members have to be dedicated and committed to our new roles. We can only make the school better and more successful academically and on the sports field.

As a team we need to move forward with the schools vision in mind. This opportunity of working on the School Governing Body does not come around often. Let's use this opportunity to make Heather Secondary school a better place. We need to keep the best interests of our students at the forefront of our decisions. Together let us uphold the principles of Integrity, inclusivity and excellence that defines our school.

In conclusion I wish to thank the outgoing governing body members, who served the school with Integrity, your support and commitment did not go unnoticed. Your efforts have laid a foundation on which

we can only build upon and make Heather Secondary School a better place for our students.

To the incoming members, you have my support as we move forward, committed to our calling to serve on the School Governing Body. To the broader Heather Secondary stakeholder community, we implore you to get involved, to contribute and make a difference in the Heather community. Let's create an educational environment where learners can thrive and succeed.

Thank you and God bless.

Mark Naidoo
SGB Chairperson



Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign

Heather Secondary School kicked off its 2024 Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC) with a grand launch on February 15, 2024, at the infamous Heather Hall. The atmosphere was vibrant as the school choir, under the direction of Ms. K Z Biyela, filled the hall with the melodious harmonies of the national anthem.

The launch of the 2024 QLTC at Heather Secondary School was not just an event; it was a reaffirmation of the school's dedication to providing quality education and fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment for its community of stakeholders.



Empowering Minds: Heather's Debate Club

In August 2023, the learners of grade 10A, including Arabella Mahomed, Pavisha Moodley, Ethan Puran, and Owami Mhlongo, proudly represented Heather Secondary School at the Msunduzi Library School Debate. Arabella further showcased her skills at the Model United Nations Debate.

Building on her experiences, Arabella recently initiated a debate club at Heather Secondary School. The club provides a platform for learners from grades 8 to 11 to present their views on various topics of interest. This initiative enhances learners' confidence and critical thinking skills, encouraging them to delve deeper into current issues.



Celebrating Sportsmanship and Achievement at Heather Secondary School's Inter-house Athletics



Heather Secondary School's sporting spirit was on full display on April 30, 2024, as athletes, educators, and supporters gathered for the annual inter-house athletics event. The day was filled with excitement, camaraderie, and outstanding athletic performances.

Under the leadership of Mr. K Morhan and his organising team, the event showcased the best of Heather's sporting talent. After days of fierce competition, Rome emerged victorious as the overall champions, followed by Troy in second place, Athens in third, and Sparta in fourth. Among the standout performers was Akhona Ndawonde, who dominated the track with first-place finishes in the 100m, 200m, and 400m events. Diya Devpersad also shone, securing first place in the 200m and 400m races, along with a second-place finish in the 100m.

In the field events, Seth Rajah's impressive throw of 10.44m in the U15 division Shot Put led across

all divisions, while Siyanda Ndlovu's 28.15m Javelin throw topped the O17 division. London Dwarika of the U14 division threw 13.87m in discus, and Chumile Bujela of the U16 division threw 19.84m in Javelin; with both athletes leading across the 6 divisions. Michelle Chapasuka showcased her versatility with first-place finishes in Shot Put, Javelin, and Discus.

Days like these become deep seated memories in the lives of our learners and special thanks are extended to Mr. & Mrs. Balkissoon and Mr. & Mrs. Dhanlall for their generous meal sponsorships, ensuring that participants and organisers alike were well-fed and energised throughout the day.

Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and sportsmanship. Your dedication and passion inspire us!





an Adventure for the record books: Matriculants Dive into Excitement at uShaka Marine World

On the 26th of April 2024, 180 enthusiastic matriculants from Heather Secondary School embarked on a thrilling excursion to uShaka Marine World, Durban's premier ocean-themed amusement park. Organised by the dedicated Ms. KT Reddy, the day promised unforgettable experiences and boundless fun. Accompanied by a team of diligent teachers, including K. Morhan, R. Singh, C. Adam, U. Bagwandeen, R. R. Naicker, N. Naik, K. Naick, R. Budree, and the ever-enthusiastic Ms. K. T. Reddy, the matriculants were set for a day of adventure and exploration. The itinerary was packed with excitement, starting with a visit to Sea World, home to the largest aquarium in the southern hemisphere. Here, the matriculants were mesmerised by the vibrant underwater world, showcasing a stunning array of marine life. Next on the agenda was the thrilling Dolphin Show, where these intelligent creatures captivated the audience with their grace and agility. The penguin viewing area provided a delightful encounter with these adorable creatures, adding a touch of charm to

the day's adventures. The highlight of the excursion was undoubtedly the visit to Wet n Wild, where the matriculants unleashed their inner thrill-seekers on the exhilarating water rides and attractions. Throughout the day, the learners displayed exemplary behaviour, reflecting the maturity and respect befitting their status as senior students. Reflecting on the excursion, Farhan Essop from 12C shared, "As a grade 12 learner, I felt that it was amazing to go out with our peers and have a great time. It was a stress reliever and an extraordinary experience for us all." Ms. K. T. Reddy, echoing the sentiments of the learners, expressed, "The 2024 uShaka Marine World excursion was one of the highlights in the matric calendar....wonderful memories were created with the most amazing pupils!!!" The excursion to uShaka Marine World was not just a day of fun and excitement but also a bonding experience that will be cherished by the matriculants as they journey towards the culmination of their high school years.





Championing Excellence: Heather Secondary's Stellar Performance in Inter-School Athletics



Inter-school athletics play a pivotal role in shaping the high school experience, offering students a platform to showcase their athletic prowess and build a sense of community pride. These events transcend the boundaries of the classroom, providing invaluable lessons in teamwork, discipline, and resilience. Let's dive into why inter-school athletics are a cornerstone of high school life.

Recently, Heather Secondary School hosted their annual inter-house athletics, where many athletes excelled, earning the opportunity to represent the school at the Cumberwood inter-school athletics. This event, comprising both field and track events, was held on two dates: the field events took place on May 4, 2024, at Raisethorpe Secondary School, while the track events were held at Harry Gwala Stadium, with heats on May 8, 2024, and finals on May 11, 2024.

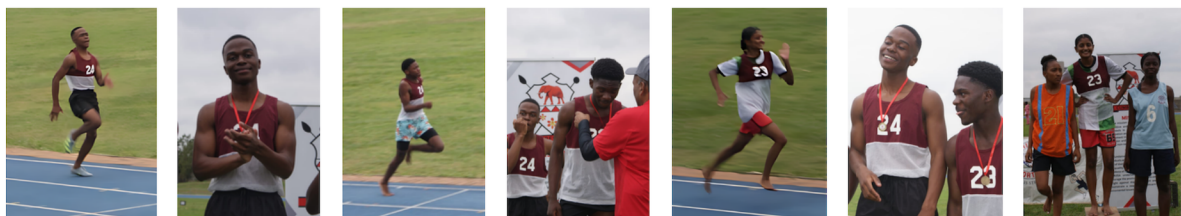
Our young athletes gave it their all, aspiring to one day represent our nation at the Olympics.

They truly shone in the track events, with many achieving podium finishes. We are immensely proud of the following learners for their outstanding performances:

1. Akhona Ndawonde (11G)
2. Kaitlin Marion (11G)
3. Sphumelele Makhathini (11D)
4. Alwande Mtshali (11F)
5. Saharsh Maistry (Grade 8)
6. Eurica Reddy (12D)
7. Believe Binsanga (12A)
8. Boys Over 17 Relay Team
9. Girls Under 17 Relay Team
10. Boys Under 17 Relay Team

We also extend our congratulations to the other athletes who performed exceptionally well, even if not mentioned by name. Thank you to all the athletes who dedicated themselves to representing the school. Special thanks to the educators who sacrificed their time to support and motivate the learners in athletics. With all the hard work and effort put in, we hope Heather Secondary will continue to shine through sports.

Heather Secondary School placed 4th overall, a commendable achievement that reflects the dedication and effort of our athletes and staff.



The CareerFest '24: Connecting Grade 12 Learners and their Parents with Alumni

A remarkable event took place at Heather Secondary School from the 15th to 17th April 2024 that brought together school alumni from various domains with aspiring learners and their parents. This event, known as the Heather Secondary School CareerFest '24, was an innovation aimed at providing grade 12 learners and their parents with valuable insights and guidance regarding their future career paths across fields such as medicine, education, commerce, IT, engineering, and law.

The CareerFest '24 was a resounding success, generating a palpable sense of excitement and energy among all participants. The event was well organised, ensuring that each attendee had the opportunity to interact with alumni from their respective fields of interest.

The atmosphere was buzzing with enthusiasm as grade 12 learners and their parents eagerly explored the various options and engaged in meaningful conversations with the alumni. The event provided a unique platform for these young individuals to gain firsthand knowledge and advice from professionals who had once walked the same hallways.

Through panel discussions, workshops, and one-on-one interactions, the alumni shared their personal experiences, challenges, and triumphs. They offered valuable advice on choosing the right career path, pursuing higher education, and navigating the job market.

The alumni stressed the significance of building a strong professional network and emphasised that these connections could open doors to exciting opportunities in the future.

The inaugural Heather Secondary School CareerFest was a remarkable event that successfully connected grade 12 learners and their parents with alumni from various fields. The excitement and energy generated during the event was a testament to its success. By empowering these young individuals and their parents with valuable insights and guidance, the CareerFest played a crucial role in shaping their future career paths, enabled by the giving spirit of the Heather Alumni. It served as a reminder that with the right knowledge and support, the possibilities are endless.



Merusha Mangalparsad, a Heather matriculant of 2008, is an inspirational Accounting educator at Heather Secondary School since 2016. Merusha pursued a BComm in Accounting and a PGD in Accounting from UKZN, followed by a PGCE from UNISA. Celebrated for her excellence in teaching, Merusha has guided learners to secure top ten district accolades in accounting, affirming her belief in nurturing not just scholars, but good human beings. She draws inspiration from Rumi's wisdom, embracing the silent, intrinsic motivation that drives one's true passions. Accordingly, Merusha has not only imparted academic knowledge but also fundamental life lessons, emphasising the importance of positive human impact over material gains.



Dr. Sanjay Ranjeeth is a Senior Lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, with extensive involvement in the education sector, having been a teacher at Heather Secondary for 13 years. At UKZN, his focus is on software development, coordinating the Advanced Systems implementation course, and teaching Software Engineering at Honours level and Knowledge Management at Master's level. His qualifications include a B.Sc in Maths and Computer Science, B.Sc Honours, a Masters in Technology, and a PhD in Information Technology, with research interests in software engineering and computer programming.

The CareerFest I attended was incredibly Impactful. It provided invaluable insights into the starting track of various careers, shedding light on the journey towards specific vocations and the emotions tied to reaching those destinations. It was enlightening to understand not just the steps to take, but also the feelings associated with achieving one's career goals, Overall, It was a truly enriching experience that has left me feeling inspired and motivated for the journey ahead.

Exploring career avenues at the CareerFest was like opening a treasure chest of possibilities, where each sector sparkled with opportunities waiting to be discovered!

Christian Brown - Grade 12 C



Breaking the Silence: Project Sanitary Care Empowers Women and Girls



Arabella Mohammed, the dedicated 2nd RCL of 11A at Heather Secondary School, is on a mission to address a critical issue affecting millions of women and girls worldwide: the lack of access to menstrual hygiene products. Arabella's initiative, "Project Sanitary Care," aims to shed light on this issue and provide essential menstrual hygiene products to those in need.

Research has shown that the lack of access to menstrual hygiene products has a

profound impact on education, leading to reduced school attendance and missed opportunities for growth. Through "Project Sanitary Care," Arabella is committed to making a difference in the lives of the 7.7 million women and girls who lack access to these essential products.

The project's approach is twofold: providing donations of sanitary napkins and tampons to women's shelters in nearby communities and supporting learners at Heather Secondary School who require assistance. Additionally, Arabella aims to install and stock sanitary dispensers in the school's girl's bathrooms, ensuring easy access for all students.

These dispensers will be regularly stocked to ensure that no student goes without the products they need.

Donations for "Project Sanitary Care" can be dropped off on Tuesdays and Fridays during first registration outside Mrs. Devcharran's office, with the final day for donations being August 2nd. On Women's Day, August 9th, the donated products will be distributed to women's shelters, followed by distribution to learners at Heather Secondary School.

Arabella invites everyone to join in breaking the silence, challenging the stigma surrounding menstrual cycles, and ensuring that every woman and girl has access to the products they need to manage their menstrual health with dignity. Any assistance in the form of donations or funding towards this initiative will be greatly appreciated and will make a meaningful impact on the lives of women and girls in need.

Former Educator Spotlight:

Mrs DRN Naidoo

Started at Heather: 1983
Retired: 2020



Mrs. DRN Naidoo's career as an English teacher at Heather Secondary School is a testament to her unwavering dedication and the profound impact she's had over nearly four decades of service. Drawing on the values her mother exemplified, Mrs Naidoo has been a guiding force for her learners, embodying faith, loyalty, humility, and compassion in every lesson.

Matriculating from Woodlands High School, Mrs. DRN Naidoo went on to enjoy a solid academic foundation from the University of Durban-Westville. She began her teaching career at Greytown Secondary School, and her arrival at Heather Secondary in 1983 marked the beginning of a deeply impactful era that would continue until her retirement in 2020.

Through literature, Mrs. Naidoo has not only taught her students about language but also about life, often echoing Shakespeare's call to self-honesty, "Above all to thine own self be true." Her legacy is one of inspiration, not only urging students to excel academically but to live with integrity and authenticity.

As we reflect on Mrs. DRN Naidoo's distinguished career, we celebrate her contributions to education and the lives she has touched. Her name will forever be associated with the quality and character of teaching that Heather Secondary School values. Her influence remains, a beacon of the powerful role educators play in shaping the future.



Please help reach more people that belong in the Heather Community!

Share our newsletter with those you know



We are keen to get in touch with our former learners

Scan the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/r/FTmvYXyrFr>

Fill out the Alumni form



We are keen to get in touch with our educators too!

Scan the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/r/igRnL5w7j2>

Fill out the Educator form

We are using a Microsoft Office form to capture your data. Your data is important to us and we treat it with the confidentiality and high regard it deserves!

Don't be a stranger...

Thank you for taking the time to get closer to the happenings at Heather Secondary School...

Heather Chronicles will be our way of summarising and sharing some of the newsworthy events from our school on a quarterly basis going forward. Our website (heather.org.za) will share activities as and when they come to the fore.

We'd love to hear from you so please fill out the alumni and or educator initial data capture form, so that we can stay in touch...

This issue had several contributors, like most things of substance do... chief among them are Mrs M Mangalparsad, Ms D Mungal, Ms K Naick, Mr A Ndlovu and Ms R Roopnund. We are grateful for your service ma'ams and sir!

Feel free to drop us a mail at community@heather.org.za with any feedback you may have! We'd love to hear your story too! Until we connect again...

Heatherly yours,

*Heather Chronicles
Crew X*