

Term 2, edition 2 2026

From the Head's Desk

I recently heard a statistic that horrified me: there are currently 132 armed conflicts taking place across the world. From Ukraine to Gaza, Sudan to Myanmar and many other regions, the world is experiencing the highest number of recorded armed conflicts since the end of World War II. This is not a statistic to be proud of.

The consequences of these conflicts are devastating. Food supplies are disrupted. Lives are lost. Mental health suffers. Economies crumble. Healthcare systems struggle. Infrastructure is damaged. Poverty increases and communities become divided. Education systems collapse.

The sadness for me is best encapsulated in these words from former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan: "We may have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race."

The greatest casualty of war is often not territory or wealth, but human potential. The loss – on every level – is profound and the damage can last for generations.

We recently commemorated June 16, Youth Day, a day on which we recall the courageous young people of Soweto who, in 1976, stood up against an unjust education system. Their sacrifice reminds us that education is not something to be taken for granted. It is a right that millions of young people around the world still do not enjoy today because of conflict, poverty or discrimination.

We are fortunate. We are not living in a war zone. We do not have bombs falling overhead. Our families are not being called to military service. Our girls have food on the table, teachers in their classrooms, and opportunities to learn every day. They are not fighting for their lives or fighting for an education.

I would hope that the lessons they are learning extend far beyond the bounds of the syllabus.

I would hope we are teaching them respect over rudeness.

I would hope we are teaching kindness over cruelty.

I am not alone in this hope. I see the parents who are teaching these lessons with us. The sports team supporters who cheer in the cold, the moms and dads who wait in the dark car park for their children to finish a rehearsal, the parents who recognise a teacher's private time and engage respectfully, the folk who step in to help in times of crisis, the volunteers for the PA, the families who open their homes to boarders on a weekend... thank you. You too are teachers and the lessons are those of commitment, sacrifice and love.





In the flurry of this examination and winter sports term, I need to acknowledge the staff. The endless hours of coaching, training, teaching, marking, report writing, meetings, marketing, outings, meals prepared, mails sent, fields mown, gardens tidied and venues set up do not go unnoticed. Your lessons are those of professionalism, pride and care for the girls of Epworth.

Enjoy the July break. Be safe and be blessed and let's all return in Term 3 thankful for all we have and all we are as a school.

PS: Coffee vouchers for three parents (excluding staff) who email Kath Botha with three good things about Epworth.

Notices:

- ◆ A reminder that as of Term 3, Grade 8-10 girls will not be allowed to use smart phones. The details for boarders will go out in a boarding newsletter. The rule is simple for day scholars: No smart phones on campus.
- ◆ We are returning to the Byte App from Term 3. There will once again be three options for the girls to select from apart from days when chicken is served. On such days, the option will be chicken or vegetarian. Menus will continue to be available on Teams for the girls and weekly orders will be monitored by tutors in registration on a Friday morning.
- ◆ Our Mid-Year Academic and Winter Sports Awards Assembly will be the first Friday of next term (Friday 24, July) from 13:00—13:40. Lunch will be served afterwards for girls staying in. Parents are most welcome to attend. We have shifted the time of our usual assembly to accommodate parents who fetch their daughters on a Friday.





United for chapel

Whole school chapel: where hearts unite, faith grows and community shines brighter!



Civvies for a cause

On 29 May, the pupils enthusiastically supported Community Engagement Civvies Day by wearing civvies and contributing R20 towards the High School's community engagement activities.



Faith Compassion Courage



Sweet success in consumer studies



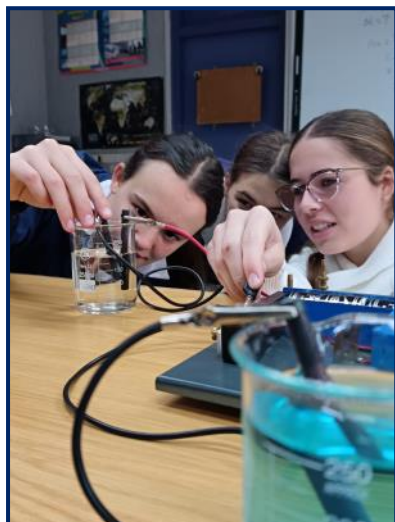
Grade 10 consumer studies practical: Cupcakes baked and decorated in line with a chosen theme.



Grade 11 consumer studies practical: novelty cakes

Physical Sciences: Grade 12s in the lab

The Grade 12 physical sciences girls had the opportunity to use chemicals to create electricity in one of their laboratory sessions.





Supporting community initiatives

The pupils enthusiastically supported the SPCA campaign, which will benefit the animals at the local SPCA.

Grade 8 pupil Nicole Perks went above and beyond, raising over R6000 in donations.



SPCA

SANBS



In recognition of World Blood Donor Day, The South African National Blood Service ran a blood drive on campus in the WJ Williams Centre. Thank you to the girls and staff who donated.

Theatre at work

The girls pulled out all the stops during the final audition round for the 2027 production, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.



Seen at Burgers & Bubbles



Epworthians representing classes from 2017 to 2021 attended the Epworthian event in Mount Edgecombe, Burgers and Bubbles.

Faith Compassion Courage



A showcase of visual art

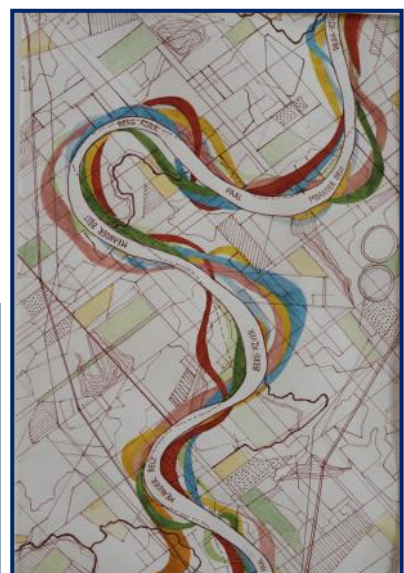
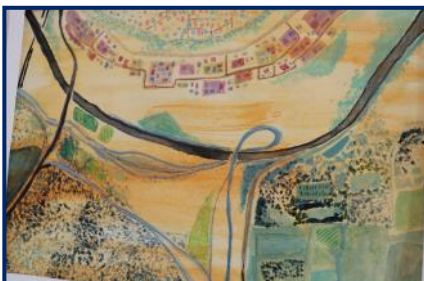
The visual art pupils in Grades 9, 10 and 11 have been hard at work this term, creating some beautiful artworks.



Grade 9 Nana figures celebrating the female form.



Grade 10 lino cuts based on a landscape theme.



Grade 11 Google maps



Achievements

KZN Inland Hockey



The following girls were selected for **U14** teams:

U14A: Ayabonga Zuma

U14B: Mieke Grobbelaar

U14C: Jessica Jansen van Vuuren and
Limpho Liphapang

U14 Non-travelling reserves: Blair
Ducler des Rauches and Blair Walker



The following girls were selected for **U16** teams:

U16A: Chelsey Cameron and Zingce
Mkondweni

U16B: Leah Hailu, Thandolwethu
Sentongo and Cherlaigne Sucks

U16C: Sandziso Kunene, Kate Larter
and Emma Rawson

U16 Non-travelling reserve: Snegugu
Zondi



The following girls were selected for **U18** teams:

U18A: Anna Schulze, Chanel Dennis,
Unecebo Mchunu, Owami Mthethwa
and Siphokazi Mpotshane

U18B: Cara Macfarlane and Katee van
Laun

U18C: Happiness Tshiamala,
Vuyolwethu Polo and Gabriella Snyman

KZN Diving



The following girls were selected to represent KZN at the
SA Schools Diving competition:

U14 Novice: Nomvelo Rukidi

U18 Novice: Sbulelo Nyandu

Development section

Year 1 Girls: Amy Kötting

Year 3 Girls: Nicolene Anderson

Year 4 Girls: Rosamund Smit



Biathle



Jessica Jansen van Vuuren came second in
the U15 age group at the KZN Biathle
Championships. She achieved a world
qualifying time and will now compete in
the SA Biathle Championships in July.



Achievements

Cross-Country



Epworth's junior cross-country team won the junior division of the Midlands Cross-Country League. Abigail Blomeyer and Jessica Jansen van Vuuren came first and second respectively amongst the juniors

Equestrian



Claudia Kieck was selected for the following KZN equestrian teams: the KZN Junior Intermediate Equitation team, the KZN Junior 85 cm Eventing team and the KZN Junior Show Jumping team. She will compete at the 2026 South African Youth Championships.

KZN Squash



The following girls were selected for KZN squash teams:

U19A: Tamlyn Galliers, Sophie Hobden and Amy Gerber

U17A: Rylee Howells and Chelsey Cameron

U17B: Sibonelesihle Zulu

U15A Kimeya Moonisami and Okuhle Mbabane.

U15B: Unathi Ndlazi

KZN Debating



Mizpah-Dharling Kelly and Ruchika Jhilmeet were selected as reserves for the KZN debating team.

ABRSM Exams

Palesa Mlangeni completed her Grade 2 violin ABRSM exam with distinction.





Achievements

Speech and Drama



The following pupils were awarded an A+ for their monologue performances at the Speech and Drama Association of South Africa (SADASA) Festival: Qhawekazi Lushaba, Mia Tubb, Misha Tsayang, Chelsie Evered-Hall and Tafadzwa Sigudu. They have been nominated to participate in the Bruce Piper Monologue Competition with other top achievers from the KZN region.

Theatre



The Aladdin production, a collaboration between Epworth and Hilton College, has been selected to perform at the Innibos National Arts Festival in Mbombela during the first week of the holidays.

Running



The following staff members successfully completed the 2026 Comrades Marathon: Braden Nott (Sports department), Sharon Banche (Grade 3 teacher), Leanne Janas (Consumer studies teacher) and Ian Griffiths (Sports department).

During the holidays, our pupils will be participating in a variety of performing arts and sports activities and events. These include: the national marimba competition at Michaelhouse, LiveArt Streetcrew dance competition in Umhlanga, Innibos National Arts Festival in Mombela, inter-provincial tournaments for squash and hockey around the country, netball All Ages Tournament in Gauteng and the KZN Canoe Marathon Championships on the North Coast.



67 minutes for Mandela Day



To commemorate Mandela Day, which falls on 18 July during the holidays, the whole school joined together for a litter pick up, covering the campus and the immediate vicinity around Epworth. It was a fun team exercise that generated plenty of banter and camaraderie and ultimately benefited the community.

EPWORTH GOLF AND PADEL DAY

FRIDAY
7 AUGUST 2026

MARITZBURG
GOLF CLUB



We still have spaces available for golfers and padel players, and we would be grateful for sponsorship of prizes.

EPWORTH

Independent Preparatory and High School

As part of our Women's Day celebrations, we invite you to a parent talk by motivational speaker and best-selling author, Caitlyn de Beer.

Raising Confident Girls in a Comparison Culture

This inspiring and insightful talk is suitable for parents of girls of all ages.

MONDAY, 10 AUGUST | 8:30 AM | EPWORTH CHAPEL

Tea will be served on the Haley Hall veranda from 7:30 am.

Caitlyn worked as a university Psychology lecturer for a number of years before moving into the fields of motivational speaking and writing. She also runs a well-known NPO in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, KwaZulu-Natal.

Caitlyn's much-loved women's and children's devotional books will also be available for purchase at the event.



BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:
SCAN THE QR CODE

www.epworth.co.za



Click [here](#) to book your spot.

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