GONUBIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter



30 July 2026

Vitae Discemus – Here We Learn for Life

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Learners,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our entire Gonubie Primary School family back for **Term 3 of 2026**.

I trust that everyone enjoyed a restful and refreshing mid-year break and that our learners have returned ready and enthusiastic for the second half of the school year. A particularly warm welcome is extended to our new learners, families and staff members joining the GPS family this term.

The first six months of 2026 have certainly been busy. Term 2 was characterised by outstanding learner participation across our academic, sporting and cultural programmes, strong parental involvement and a tremendous commitment from our staff to providing a holistic educational experience to every child entrusted to our care.

As we begin Term 3, I would like to reflect on what was a memorable Term 2 and celebrate some very special achievements that took place during the mid-year break.

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LOOKING BACK AT A WONDERFUL TERM 2

Academically, Term 2 was both demanding and productive. Our Grade 4–7 learners completed their formal assessment programmes, reports were finalised, and we concluded the term with individual Parent-Teacher Interviews across all phases.

We also celebrated academic excellence at our **Grade 4–7 Academic Assembly**, recognising learners with Merit and Academic Honours Awards. These occasions are important because they celebrate achievement while encouraging every learner to continue striving towards his or her personal best.

Our classrooms were complemented by an extraordinary range of learning experiences outside the traditional academic programme.

These included the **Grade 1 excursion to Jonginenge, Grade 4 visits to the Bird Sanctuary and Lone Oaks Farm, a Grade 4 Author Visit, Grade 5 Camp to Addo Adrenalin, Grade 3 Big Bug Bash, Early Act activities, Grade R "Jobs People Do" Dress-Up Day and Grade 2 Animal Dress-Up Day**.



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The **Grade 4 and Grade 5 Idiom Dress-Up Day** was another memorable occasion and demonstrated wonderfully that learning can be meaningful, creative and great fun.

Our younger learners and their families also enjoyed some very special occasions, including the **Grade 3 Mother's Day Picnic, Grade R Art Exhibition and Grade 1 Father's Day Assembly**.





Term 2 was an exceptionally busy sporting term. Our learners represented GPS in **rugby, hockey, netball, tennis, cross country and chess**, participating in numerous fixtures, festivals and tournaments.

Our rugby players participated in the **Andre Vos Rugby Festival, Border Rugby Trials, fixtures against Selborne College and Queen's College, the Kingfisher U7 and U8 Festival**, as well as numerous league and festival fixtures.

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Our hockey and netball players enjoyed equally busy programmes, while tennis, cross country and chess continued to provide wonderful opportunities for learners across the school.

A special mention must be made of our **U13A Hockey Team** and our **U13B Rugby Team**, who travelled to Graaff-Reinet during the holidays to participate in the annual **Anne Beagley Junior Hockey and Rugby Festival**, hosted by Union High School.

U13B RUGBY TOUR – GRAAFF-REINET



Our boys faced three challenging matches against U13A teams from **College Hill, Lilyfontein and Kroonvale**. Although the results did not fall our way, the boys demonstrated tremendous bravery, determination and perseverance against strong opposition.

The tour was about far more than rugby. Our boys enjoyed the festival carnival and participated in a TEAMBO team-building session, giving them opportunities to interact with players from other schools, form new friendships and create memories that will last well beyond their primary school years.

Most importantly, their behaviour throughout the tour was exemplary. They represented Gonubie Primary with pride, and that will always matter more than a scoreboard.

Well done, boys!

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U13A GIRLS' HOCKEY – ANNE BEAGLEY JUNIOR FESTIVAL



Our **U13A Girls' Hockey Team** also represented GPS proudly at the Anne Beagley Junior Festival.

The girls recorded victories over **Riebeek and Sonop**, suffered narrow defeats against **Craddock and Sunridge**, and recorded draws against **Union, Clarendon and Lilyfontein**. Across the festival, they scored eight goals and conceded eight.

The team demonstrated commendable discipline, sportsmanship, resilience and skill throughout the festival, learning and adapting as the competition progressed.



Congratulations to our girls, their coaches,

Ms Jurie and Mrs StJohn-Rose Palmer, our hockey

coaches and everyone who contributed to a memorable tour.

To all our coaches, managers and parents who sacrifice afternoons, weekends and holidays to create these opportunities for our children – **thank you**.

Well done, girls!

OUR DRUMMIES SHINE AT THE SAMCA NATIONALS 2026!

During the holidays, our **Gonubie Primary Majorettes** had the privilege of competing against some of the finest teams in the country at the **SAMCA Nationals 2026**.

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What an achievement it was for our girls to step onto a national stage and represent Gonubie Primary with such confidence, discipline, determination and pride.

We congratulate the team on these outstanding results:

- **Overall Leader – Ababaliwe Siwisa: 3rd Overall**
- **Mace – 6th**
- **Baton – 4th**
- **Large Drill Display – 5th**
- **Squad – 10th**
- **Sub-Leaders – 6th**
- **OVERALL TEAM – 8TH IN SOUTH AFRICA**



A very special congratulations goes to **Ababaliwe Siwisa**, who brought home a **national bronze medal** by finishing third overall. Ababaliwe, your school is incredibly proud of you!

Our Drummies programme has become one of the flagship cultural activities at GPS. The Nationals followed months of preparation during Term 2, which included competitions at Kingsridge and Stirling High School, a training camp and the Provincial Competition hosted at Gonubie Primary.

Results, however, tell only part of the story. What makes us particularly proud is the **sportsmanship, resilience, teamwork and heart** displayed by our girls throughout the championship. They carried the Gonubie Primary badge with dignity and demonstrated exactly what our values of **Respect, Integrity, Commitment and Excellence** look like in action.

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Our sincere appreciation goes to **Mrs Riddin, Mr and Mrs Swartbooi, Mr Matembisa and Mrs Fransman** for the tremendous amount of work that takes place behind the scenes.

To our wonderful Drummie parents, thank you for filling the stands in a sea of red, supporting our girls and coaches and making the enormous commitment required to compete at this level.

"Girls, you have made GPS incredibly proud. Keep dreaming, keep believing and keep striving for greatness."



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CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND GIVING

Our cultural programme was also extremely active during Term 2. Our choir participated in the **Eisteddfod** and a **Choir and Marimba Development Workshop**, while learners represented GPS in the **SACEE General Knowledge, Fun with Words and Poetry competitions**. Many gr 4 – 7 learners participated in the second round of **AMESA Maths** and we eagerly await these results.

One of the biggest highlights of Term 2 was undoubtedly our **Annual Colour Dash and Family Market**.

The support received from our parents, learners, staff, sponsors and broader Gonubie community was tremendous. It was not simply a fundraiser; it was a wonderful celebration of what makes our school community so special.

Our learners also participated in initiatives including **World Book Day, World Library Week, Autism Awareness, Early Act service projects and Civvies Day in aid of Guardians of Hope**.

When we consider everything that took place during just one term, it reminds us that a child's education is about far more than what happens behind a desk.






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Term 3 also brings some important changes to our staff complement, and I am delighted to formally welcome several new members to the Gonubie Primary School family.

We warmly welcome three educators who have joined our school through **Department of Education state transfers**:

Mrs Diedericks – Grade 5
Mrs Easton – Grade 4
Mrs Scheepers – Grade R

We are delighted to have all three educators join our permanent teaching team.

Starting at a new school is always an exciting new chapter, and I know that our learners, parents and staff will make Mrs Diedericks, Mrs Easton and Mrs Scheepers feel at home. We wish each of them many happy and successful years at GPS and look forward to the experience, enthusiasm and contribution they will bring to our school.

At the end of Term 2, we also bid farewell to two of our teacher interns, **Miss Morgan and Mrs Van Wyk**.

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We thank them sincerely for the time, energy and care they invested in our learners and school during their time with us. Internships are an important part of developing the next generation of educators, and we trust that the experience they gained at Gonubie Primary will serve them well as they continue their journeys in education.

Miss Morgan and Mrs Van Wyk, thank you for being part of our family, and we wish you every success for the future.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW INTERNS

In their place, we are delighted to welcome two new teacher interns:

Mr Mazantsana – Grade 6 & 7 Intern
Mr Thanki – Foundation Phase Intern

Both young educators will have the opportunity to develop their teaching practice while becoming actively involved in the broader academic, sporting and cultural life of Gonubie Primary School.

We extend a very warm GPS welcome to Mr Mazantsana and Mr Thanki and hope that their time with us will be professionally rewarding, enjoyable and memorable.



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FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

During the opening weeks of Term 3, we will unfortunately also say goodbye to three members of our staff.

Ms Jessica Chantler was part of the Gonubie family for two years, first as an intern then as a Gr 5 educator. We wish her well in her new position at Voorpos Primary. At the **end of July 2026**, we bid farewell to **Mrs Stewart from Grade R**.

We thank Mrs Stewart for her contribution to our youngest learners and for the care and commitment she has shown during her time at Gonubie Primary School. Teaching children at the beginning of their school journey is an enormous responsibility, and we appreciate the role she has played in the lives of our Grade R learners.

Mrs Stewart, we wish you happiness and every success as you begin the next chapter of your journey.

In **mid-August**, we will also bid farewell to **Mr Chris Rheeder from our Maintenance Department**.

Much of the work performed by our maintenance team happens quietly behind the scenes, but it is essential to the daily functioning, appearance and upkeep of our school. We sincerely thank Mr Rheeder for his service to Gonubie Primary and for the contribution he has made to our school environment.

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Mr Rheeder, thank you for your hard work and service to GPS. We wish you every success and happiness for the future.

Schools are ultimately about people. While we are always sad to say goodbye to members of our GPS family, we are equally fortunate to welcome new people who bring fresh energy, experience and ideas to our school.

To **Mrs Diedericks, Mrs Easton, Mrs Scheepers, Mr Mazantsana and Mr Thanki** – welcome to Gonubie Primary School. We hope you will quickly come to understand what makes our school and community so special.

To **Miss Morgan, Miss Chantler, Mrs Van Wyk, Mrs Stewart and Mr Rheeder** – thank you for being part of our journey. You leave with our appreciation and our very best wishes for everything that lies ahead.

Once part of the GPS family, you will always remain part of our story.

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THANK YOU TO OUR GPS STAFF

I would like to acknowledge our teaching, administrative, sporting, aftercare, grounds and support staff.

Term 2 was demanding. Our educators managed a full academic and assessment programme while simultaneously supporting an enormous extracurricular calendar.

Professional development also continued throughout the term through curriculum and subject meetings, QMS processes, mentorship and development opportunities.

The commitment of our staff to our learners remains the foundation upon which this school operates, and I thank every member of our team for what they contribute.

To our **School Governing Body**, under the leadership of **Mr Owetu Tyali**, thank you for your continued support, guidance and commitment to the strategic direction of our school. The partnership between governance, management, staff and parents remains vital to the continued success of GPS.



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WELCOME TO TERM 3 – THE SECOND HALF BEGINS



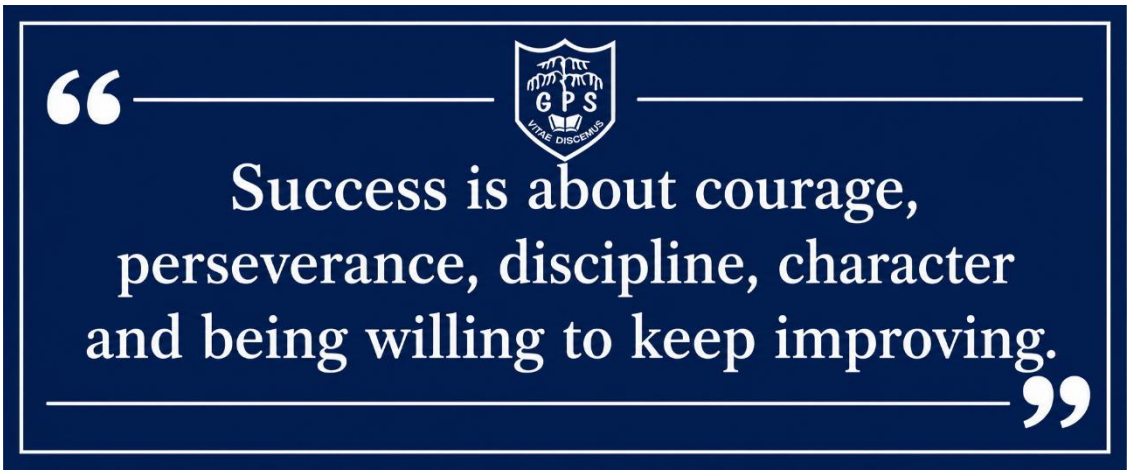
Perhaps your report at the end of Term 2 was excellent. **Your challenge is to keep working and remain humble.**

Perhaps there were one or two subjects that did not go as you hoped. **Term 3 is your opportunity to improve.**

Perhaps you did not make the team, receive the award or achieve the mark you wanted.

Keep going.

The stories of our rugby boys, hockey girls and Drummies teach us something important. Success is not simply about the final score, medal, position or mark.



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To our **parents** and **guardians**, thank you for your continued partnership. Your support of our teachers, attendance at school events, encouragement from the side-lines and involvement in your children's education make an enormous difference.

As we enter the second half of 2026, I encourage all of us to return to the four values that guide Gonubie Primary School:

RESPECT - INTEGRITY - COMMITMENT - EXCELLENCE

If we continue to live these values – in our classrooms, on our sports fields, at cultural events and, most importantly, in the way we treat one another – I have every confidence that Term 3 will be another rewarding chapter in the life of our school.

Welcome back, GPS.

May Term 3 be filled with **hard work, laughter, learning, friendship, opportunity and achievement**.

May God bless our learners, our staff, our families and Gonubie Primary School as we begin the second half of 2026 together.

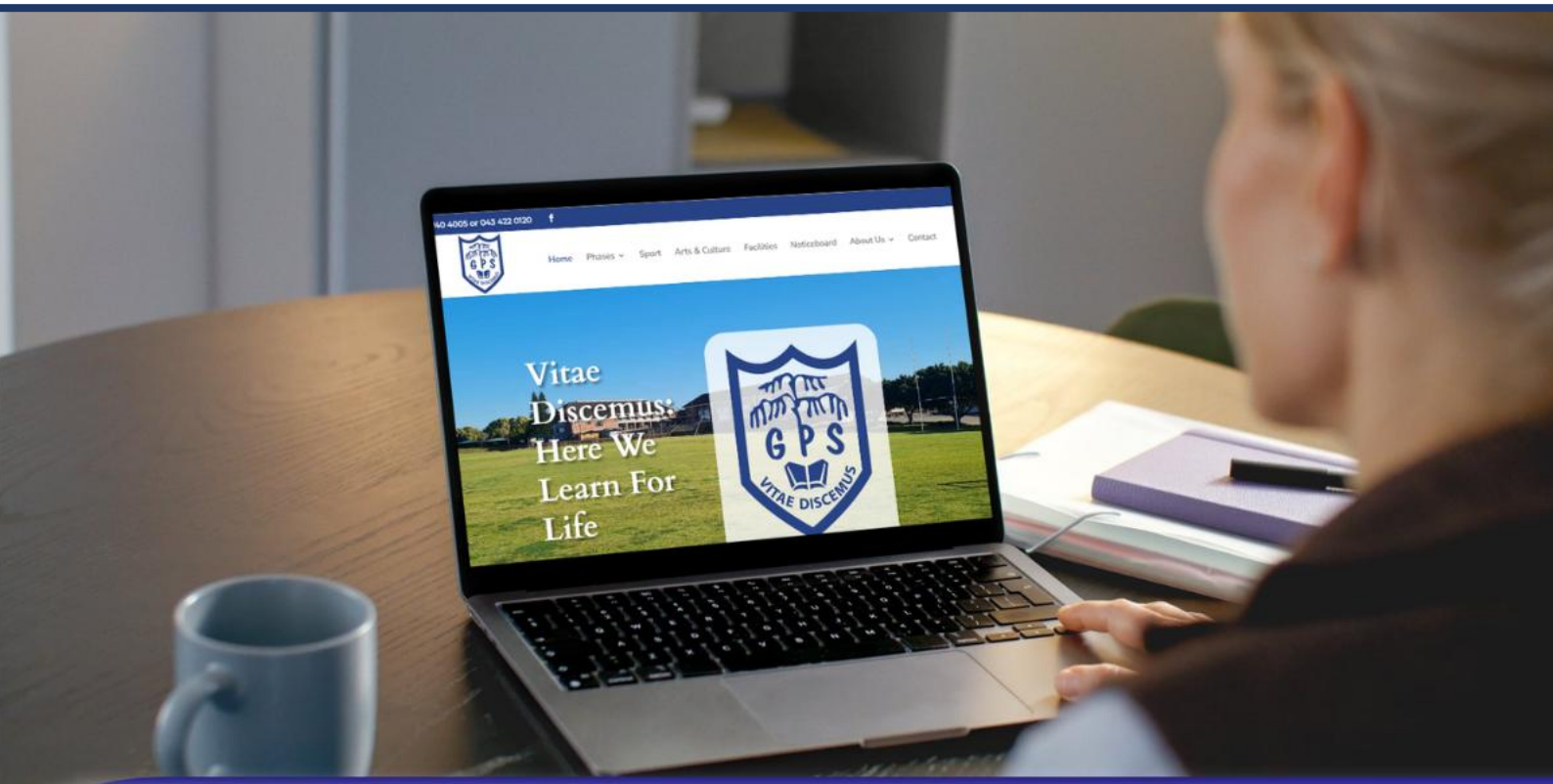
Yours in Education

Mr J. M. Kent
Principal
Gonubie Primary School

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EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!



WEBSITE RELAUNCH IN 2027

GPS
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Here We Learn For Life

OUR MISSION

To create a stimulating and nurturing learning environment where every child is empowered to discover their unique talents, skills, and intelligence. We strive to ensure that all learners leave our school confident in their abilities, equipped to pursue their dreams, and inspired to believe in themselves and their potential.



RESPECT | INTEGRITY | COMMITMENT | EXCELLENCE