

RECTOR'S eNEWS



MICHAELHOUSE

NEWSLETTER 30/2025: Wednesday 24 September

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Rector's Message

Over the past week, our boys and staff have largely been in the great outdoors, whilst the A Block have finished their trial examinations and the B Block have engaged in their Leadership Programme, as well as in a work-shadowing experience. As you are most probably aware, the C Block have been undertaking the Journey and growing to feel the rhythms of the transition from day to night and night to day as they set up and take down their tents in the evenings and in the mornings. The D Block are in Pondoland for their four-day experience, growing to understand a local community in a remote part of the country. And the E Block are camping relatively close by in our Reserve and preparing for their hike.

The result of this is that the conventional activities which usually appear in the eNews in abundance are somewhat in abeyance. Nevertheless, it has been another term of exceptional endeavour and achievement in which many boys have been, once again, up early to exercise often in pre-season training, then proceeding to lessons, to their in-season sporting commitments, cultural activities and to a solid couple of hours of prep.

Part of the Michaelhouse way is to encourage our boys to be multi-faceted, to engage in a variety of activities and to promote the idea of a holistic education. What has worried me recently is that often our competitors in sporting activities, most often in the large boys' schools, have a focus on just a couple of sports and do not have any emphasis on the development of an all-rounder. Their boys often have a pre-season and then a season in one particular sport and often there is a very limited emphasis on any cultural activities. Because our boys want to be competitive and to take part in a range of activities, this often means that the pre-season training, in which there are sometimes provincial trials and matches, takes place at the same time as the season in which the boys should be engaged. This diminishes their capacity to be true all-rounders since they simply do not have the time. There is no easy answer to the general pattern of seasons encroaching on each other and to the multiplicity of "top ten" tournaments in which our school is invited to engage during the term-time (as opposed to the holidays) and it may be that we will need to be more selective in due course in our attendance at some tournaments/festivals in order to maintain a keen academic priority and to allow for a more holistic education. Some consideration will need to be given to this over the next year.



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In the meantime, your sons will shortly be on their way to you at home and I wish you a wonderful two weeks re-connecting with them and hearing many stories about the past term – and especially their outdoor education experiences.



Snippets from the D Block Pondoland journey (above) and the C Block Journey (below)





E Block adventures this morning in the cold frosty hills behind Michaelhouse

Heritage Day Collaboration

Our staff and boys celebrated Heritage Week from 8-12 September with a number of different activities: for example, there were different foods on the menu for all to taste and experience as well as two guest speakers during the week. The first, Dr Thandeka Mdlalo, is originally from Gqeberha. She holds a PhD in Speech Language Pathology from UKZN. Her main areas of interest include linguistic and cultural diversity and she supports therapists in integrating linguistic and cultural diversity into their assessment and intervention practices.

Secondly, Mr Matthew Willman who is a South African based documenter, fine art photographer, adventurer and storyteller, is a true master of his destiny. He has expressed himself through an extraordinary body of work which includes writing, storytelling and original collections of hand printed silver gelatin analogue prints.

Perhaps one of his greatest achievements is his significant contribution to the recording of the process of South Africa's democratic change. In 2003 he was commissioned to archive and document the life and times of Nelson Mandela for the Nelson Mandela Foundation. Over the years this afforded him many intimate experiences with a man who he feels embodies the very spirit and conviction we all possess as South Africans in the world today.



What the boys wore on the Friday of the Cultural Week

Jazz Band

On 10 September, the Michaelhouse orchestral programme which consists of the Orchestra and Jazz Band, travelled to Maritzburg College to play in the first ever Maritzburg College and Michaelhouse In House Concert. The orchestra played two pieces, *Micasa Magic* arranged by Alex Hitzeroth and *Spider-Man No Way Home Theme* arranged by Johnnie Vinson. The Maritzburg College ensemble joined the Michaelhouse Orchestra for a combined item entitled *That's What I Like* by Bruno Mars.

The Jazz Band presented the set they will be playing in Stellenbosch at the finals of the Stellenbosch National Ensemble Competition taking place on 27 September.

It was an excellent celebration of music, brotherhood, and community.



The Michaelhouse Jazz Band performing at Maritzburg College

Cross Country

Congratulations to **Callum Baird** (E Block West) on a fantastic achievement of being placed fifth in the Karkloof 10 Miler (16km) on Saturday morning. He finished in an incredibly impressive time of 1h18minutes!

The Karkloof 10 Miler is part of the Karkloof Trail Run series, starting and finishing at the Karkloof Country Club. The scenic out-and-back route takes runners through forests, rolling hills, and the beautiful Karkloof Valley, with the turnaround point at the famous Benvie Gardens.



Callum Baird after completing the Karkloof 10 miler

Cricket

This past weekend our 1st XI played a T20 match against Hilton College and won by 5 wickets. Hilton were all out for 105 with **Rendani Nonge** taking 4/30 and Michaelhouse ended on 107/5 with **Nicholas Baker** and **Ben Heuer** making 41 and 40* respectively.



1st XI after their 5 wicket win against Hilton

Holiday Co-Curricular Festivals/Tours

As the upcoming holidays approach, our school will be participating in a variety of sporting and cultural tours, festivals, and excursions. We wish our boys all the best, as they represent the school against some of the finest competition in the country and engage in enriching experiences.

Below is a summary of the upcoming tours, festivals, and excursions:

Water Polo

U18A Clifton College Tournament: 24–27 September

U15A Michaelhouse Snow Cup Water Polo Tournament: 26–28 September

U14A Hilton College Water Polo Tournament: 2–5 October

Tennis

St Anne's Invitational Tennis Mixed Doubles Tournament: 25–28 September

Basketball

Independent Schools' Stayers Basketball Tournament (ISSBT) at Kearsney College: 26–29 September

U15A Northwood Basketball Tournament: 9–12 October

U14A Tournament at Michaelhouse: 9–12 October

Cricket

U14A Hilton College Festival: 2–6 October

U15A Pretoria Boys' High School Festival: 3–7 October

U17A Michaelhouse Cricket Festival: 8–12 October

1st XI Michaelmas Festival: 4–7 October

Canoeing

Canoe Fish River Marathon: 10–12 October

Debating

National Debating Team Finals in Johannesburg: 6–8 October

Competition Marimba Band and Second Team Marimba

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS
marimba competition
2025

29-30 SEPTEMBER
MICHAELHOUSE
INDOOR CENTRE

DAY 1 - CATEGORIES 1, 3, & 5

09:00	Opening Ceremony
09:30	Category 5 - Compose your vibe
10:00	Category 1 - Timeless Classix
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Category 3 - Global Harmony
19:00	Concert featuring Woezor

DAY 2 - CATEGORIES 2 & 4

08:00	Welcome & Catch-up Session
08:30	Category 2 - Rhythm Fusion
11:30	Category 4 - Mzansi Fo Sho!
12:30	Lunch
14:00	Category 4 - Mzansi Fo Sho!
15:00	Announcement of Finalists
15:30	Finals
18:00	Prize-giving

www.marimbanationals.co.za
+27 33 234 1000

TICKETS - Quicket
R200 per day or
R300 for 2 days

OUR PARTNERS:



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A·M·I

End of Term Arrangements

A reminder that school closes for the end of the 3rd Term this Friday, 26 September. Please take note of the following important arrangements.

Transport Bookings

Transport bookings are now closed.

End of Term Arrangements:

The last day of the quarter is Friday 26 September. However, the outdoor education for C, D, and E Block return tomorrow, Thursday 25 September. Boys will be allowed to leave **with their parents** on this day, or, as usual, leave the following day. No school transport will be made available tomorrow.



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Summary of End of Term Arrangements per Block:

- A Block: Boys will end their Trial Exams on Wednesday but may only depart on Thursday after all exam checking has been completed
- B Block: Boys will be on community service, the details of which have been communicated separately
- C Block: Boys have a Chapel service at **15:00** on Thursday 25 September, after which they may depart
- D Block: Boys are expected to arrive back from Pondoland in the evening on Thursday 26 September; this is sometime after dark
- E Block: Boys will arrive back from 14:30 in the afternoon on Thursday 25 September

Buses to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Durban will depart on the last day of the term, Friday 26 September at 7:30 am.

Transportation Details

Please note that there will be no airport transfers or Michaelhouse transport available on Thursday. However, buses to Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Durban will depart on the last day of the term, Friday 26 September at 7:30 am.

For any queries please contact Mrs Nirvana Naicker, School Transport Co-ordinator:

Cell: 060 562 3954

Office: (033) 234 1170

E-mail: opsadmin@michaelhouse.org

West Service Initiative



**MICHAELHOUSE**

Join us in supporting our partnership schools by purchasing a raffle ticket (or a few). Every ticket brings us closer to creating real and lasting change.

WEST RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are available at R20 each.

Funds raised this year will go towards:

- Planting more trees
- Building a much-needed bus shelter
- Repairing soccer nets that bring joy to so many pupils

There are also fantastic prizes to be won, including hampers, vouchers, nights away, and much more.

Your generosity helps uplift schools in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. Together, we are growing stronger, greener, and better.

Thank you for helping us make a lasting difference.

 **CLICK TO ENTER**



DURBAN BRANCH



ANNUAL GOLF DAY

Friday, 03 October 2025 | Royal Durban Golf Club

Tee Time: 11h00 (Shotgun Start)

Cost: R2600 per fourball | Dinner and Prize Giving

Please contact the Pro Shop to book golf carts

Contact Nick Tatham on nick@podmedia.co.za to secure your fourball!



THE PIETERMARITZBURG OLD BOYS CLUB
INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN THE

88TH HUDSON BENNETT GOLF DAY 2025

24TH OCTOBER 2025

Hudson Bennett Trophy: Teams of 4 playing in a 4-Ball Stableford Alliance with two scores to count on each hole

Rhys Evans Trophy: Individual gross medal for players with handicaps of 12 or lower

Ken Drysdal Trophy: Individual Stableford

Kehla Trophy: Individual Stableford for golfers aged 65+

Many more prizes to be won on the day

Where: Victoria County Club (170 Peter Brown Drive, Town Bush Valley, PMB)

First Tee Off: 11H00

Format: Four Competitions played simultaneously

Cost: R600 per person or R2400 per 4-Ball (incl after golf snacks and drinks)

You may enter A 4-Ball, or if you wish to enter as an individual you will be allocated a team

Bookings and Shirt Sizes: Jamie Wichmann
jamie@albidaholdings.co.za | 079 696 6567
By 12 noon Friday 17th October 2025 (after making payment)
(Nedbank Savings Account | Acc No 9005168926)

Limited Edition
Hudson Bennett
Golf Shirt
R350
Pay before 17th October



Conclusion

Here are some thoughts from Wayne Goldsmith, a highly-respected sports consultant, renowned for his extensive experience and innovative approach to coaching, coach development, high performance sport, leadership and team development.

His article entitled **The Participation Trophy Myth** is as follows:

Three Important Things to Remember:

1. The problem isn't participation trophies - it's how adults explain them;
2. Recognition for effort and improvement teaches valuable life lessons;
3. Winner-takes-all mentality drives more kids away from sport than participation awards ever will.

Here we go again. Another expert complaining about participation trophies "ruining kids" and "destroying competitive spirit." Complete garbage.

I've been in elite sport for three decades. Know what actually ruins kids? **Adults who think sport is only valuable if you win.** Adults who measure a child's worth by their position on a podium. Adults who forget that 90% of kids will never be elite athletes but could love sport for life.

The participation trophy isn't the problem - the conversation around it is. When you hand a kid a participation award and say "Great job showing up," you're missing the point. When you say "I'm proud of how you improved your technique today" or "You showed real courage trying that new skill," you're teaching something valuable.

Kids aren't stupid. They know the difference between first place and participation. But they also know the difference between feeling valued and feeling worthless.

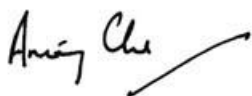
The real trophy isn't made of plastic - it's the confidence to try again, the joy of improvement and the understanding that effort matters more than outcome.

Summary: Participation trophies aren't the enemy - adults who only value winning are destroying youth sport.

Two Practical Tips:

1. **Recognize Specific Actions:** When giving any recognition, name exactly what they did well - "Your passing improved significantly today".
2. **Separate Effort from Outcome:** Celebrate maximum effort regardless of results, criticize poor effort regardless of results.

With my best wishes



ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR