


The Phoenix

Waterford Kamhlaba UWCSA Weekly Newsletter



“ There is **more** in us than we know if we could be made to see it; perhaps, for the rest of our lives we will be **unwilling to settle for less**. ”

Kurt Hahn, Founder of UWC

PRINCIPAL'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

By Jackie Otula

This quote by Kurt Hahn, touches on a powerful idea about human potential and self-realization. It suggests that individuals possess untapped capacity, but the challenge lies in bringing that potential to light. As a UWCer, and a Kamhlaban, have you discovered your true potential? What are you good at? What drives you every single day? What are your passions? What do you look forward to accomplishing every single day, week, term, year? What makes you tick?

We are well into the term now. Our hope is that every student and each member of staff has settled. That each has set their annual goals, that each has discovered what lies within them and if not, working towards it. This year, we have set a clear theme of elevation. What is the use of having talents if we do not put them to use? If we do not rise and soar? Our depth of character remains dormant if we can not unleash our hidden potential; and while circumstances or experiences can sometimes push us to discover them, it is through education, mentorship, adversity, or personal reflection—that we can be guided to recognize and unlock this hidden potential.

Hahn's belief in the transformative power of education and experience aligns with the philosophy of the United World Colleges (UWC), which emphasizes personal growth, global awareness, and the development of an individual's fullest potential; and that once we discover our higher potential, we may become dissatisfied with anything less. This could mean a refusal to accept mediocrity in ourselves or the world around us, always striving for greater growth and fulfillment.

Waterford Kamhlaba celebrates its 62nd anniversary this month; commemorated through our annual Stern Lecture series set for today at 6pm. You are all welcome to come and relive the vision of our founding Principal; as you are taken on a journey of its life to the present moment.

As you all prepare for a short break this weekend, do think about what you want to achieve next week: That project you are working on, the club activity you are leading, the upcoming resolution run at Mlilwane, the hostel room you are decorating, the upcoming race on athletics day next Saturday, the test you will write on Tuesday and the budding friendship you are building with your fellow UWCers on campus; and while at it, remember to show up to all of those with purpose next week and to lean on the power of small things as shared at our assembly this week.

UWCers do not settle for less!
Wishing you all a great weekend.

Newsletter Highlights

Principal's Weekly Message

Michael Stern Lecture

SAMO Olympiad 2025

CAS

THE ANNUAL MICHAEL STERN LECTURE – 7 Feb - Don't miss it!

A special evening awaits!

This is a reminder to join us for the **2025 Michael Stern Lecture** as we celebrate **Waterford Kamhlaba's 62nd anniversary** and honor the legacy of our Founder, **Michael Stern**.

This year, our **French Teacher, Therese Ndjeh**, will deliver a thought-provoking lecture on: **“Michael Stern: A Vision is Born, the Vision Lives On.”**

The graphic features a red and white background. At the top left is the UWC Waterford Kamhlaba logo. The main text reads 'WATERFORD KAMHLABA'S ANNUAL MICHAEL STERN LECTURE' in bold red and blue. Below this is the quote 'Michael Stern; a vision is born, the vision lives on'. A calendar icon indicates the date '07 February 2025, 6PM SAST'. A location pin icon says 'Join us virtually. See link below'. A circular photo of Therese Ndjeh is on the right. At the bottom right, it says 'To be delivered by Therese Ndjeh, WK Teacher' and 'www.waterford.sz' with a globe icon.

It is with great pleasure that we will once again be hosting the annual Michael Stern Lecture this Friday at Waterford Kamhlaba from 18:00p.m.-19:00p.m. SAST. This esteemed event takes place every first term of the academic year in honor of our founder, Michael Stern. The lecture brings together our community to engage with thought-provoking discussions through focusing on the people, events, methods and achievements that have built Waterford Kamhlaba into the institution it is today.

Last year, our alum and Eco Estates Manager, Steve McGuire, delivered a complete talk about “Sustainable Solutions from a School Born of Hope”, where he elaborated on Waterford’s endeavours to achieve environmental sustainability and highlighted the progress towards achieving neutrality by 2030. This year, our speaker will be, French teacher, Therese Ndjeh, addressing the theme “Michael Stern; a vision is born, the vision lives on”

[Join on youtube here. Hope to see you there!](#)

ADMISSIONS FOR 2026 ENTRY

We are pleased to confirm that we will be conducting local Entrance Testing for 2026 entry here on campus on Saturday 8th and Saturday 15th March – starting at 8am. Please **register** your next child with Martha Dlamini at martha.dlamini@waterford.sz. Please also spread the word through your family, friend and professional networks. We do appreciate the ongoing advocacy of current parents in our recruitment efforts. Boarding applicants are welcome on any weekday by making an **appointment** with John Storer at careers@waterford.sz. We will be in Nairobi on Saturday May 24th for our East African pool and in Harare at a date tbc next term. We look forward to meeting the latest crop of wise and kind candidates – further **details** can be found at www.waterford.sz/admissions/apply

Thank you!

SAMO OLYMPIAD 2025

We are gearing up to the 2025 challenge. It is yet another year that provides us with rigorous competition for the Old mutual South African Maths competition that sees great minds through three rounds. All are welcome to register with Mr. Sehluko Dlamini in the Mathematics department. Key dates are shown below:

- Closing date for entries:** 21 February
- First Round:** 13 March (any time)
- Second Round:** 15 May from 14:00 - 16:00
- Third Round:** 31 July from 9:00 - 13:00



**IMPORTANT
DATES**

All are welcome

...Still on Maths, we are pleased to share the **UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO MATHEMATICS CONTEST**. The 2025 Waterloo Euclid Senior Contest shall be on 3/4/2025. Students are welcome to register. **Deadline for registration is 06-03-2025.**

CAS

Welcome back to CAS, all students! Everyone has now received a place in their respective CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) groups. Hopefully everyone is happy! We have many recurring groups from last year available, with the addition of a couple of new ones. The CAS groups range from beekeeping, to first aid crew, to Goshen women's shelter, all the way to Permaculture and gardening. The wide spectrum of activities in which our students have the opportunity to participate in gives them both a chance to improve the local community, in addition to getting valuable life experiences and lessons.



Students working together in the Woodchopping CAS group.



Students learning from each other in Giving Back in Sports.

Alongside various CAS activities the school participates in, the CAS department and the friends of Mpaka and St Joseph cas group have organised a visit for the Waterford community to the Mpaka Refugee Camp, situated in Malindza, on the 8th February 2025. The bus leaves campus at 8:30am and will be back by 3pm .

About Mpaka Refugee Camp

The Mpaka Refugee Camp in Eswatini was established following regional unrest, including apartheid in South Africa and the Mozambican civil war, which resulted in the arrival of about **20,000 refugees**. Over time, most refugees were **repatriated**, but the government kept the camp open for future needs.

Today, the camp **hosts 1,071 refugees** from countries like Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and Mozambique. It accommodates 323 households, including children of preschool and school age. The camp offers opportunities for community service, such as engaging with children and learning about refugee challenges.

Although this is a service trip Waterford has offered for years, it is particularly important now following the large number of people who have been impacted by the post-election violence in Mozambique, and are currently seeking asylum here in Eswatini.

[Please see more here](#)

SPORTS

The new sports term has officially kicked off with our soccer teams hosting a friendly tournament on campus, our Senior and Junior Teams competing to wear off all the rust from the holiday. They have made us proud with this excellent performance, and we cannot wait to see what the term holds for all the various sports our school offers.

Alongside the soccer tournament this weekend, all the sports teams are starting up again and recruiting new members due to the influx of new students. **We have multiple cross-border trips, swimming being the first**, for various sporting codes as well as Eswatini based tournaments to look forward to this term so training has started in earnest.

Training has also officially begun for the highly anticipated Interhouse Swimming and Athletics, which are set to take place on the 15th and 19th of this month respectively. Be sure to train and get your team a winning chance at the title! Who do you think this year's interhouse champions will be?

HENDERSON, GUEDES OR STERN?

FRIENDLIES AND TRAINING IN FULL SWING





EKHAYA LINK FAMILY PROGRAM - ELF Info Night

“Ekhaya Link Family Program is hosting an Info Night on Monday, Feb 17 at 5PM on campus! (Classroom D5) We are inviting any families that are interested in hosting an international student. This can be day visits or overnights.

Please email ekhayalink@waterford.sz with any questions and to confirm your attendance. We hope to see you there!”

I-DEDICATE

I-dedicated is an annual Valentine’s Day themed event planned by the link group. The wholesome night is filled with poems, music, dance and everything in between. Students are provided a platform to demonstrate their talents while expressing appreciation, love and compassion for their friends, family and peers. I-dedicate will be held on Saturday, the 8th of February. We are looking forward to hearing you sing your heart out, and seeing students there!

-Link Group

CHINESE NEW YEAR

To welcome the year of the snake, the Asian students of Waterford organised a Lunar/Chinese New Year celebrations at the CCLD last Saturday February 1st. The students cooked food from across East and Southeast Asia for the celebrations alongside bringing various forms of beverages and tea across the region. In addition, everyone also dressed up either in red or their traditional attire and special events were also curated for those attending such as a Kahoot Quiz about Lunar/Chinese New Year, a singing session, and a fun chopsticks competition for the non-chopsticks users where they have to compete with each other on who could put the most beans into a bowl within a few seconds!





Greetings everyone!

We hope that you have enjoyed the first 2 weeks of the term. As usual, here are some updates from the SRC.



Mark your calendars! The SRC social will take place on **Friday, the 21st of February**. Remember to bring your friends. More details will be updated.

As valentines day approaches, it is time for you to order packages for your friends, your loved ones, or loved ones to be. Fill out the form and make sure to pay us by Tuesday 11th Feb. The activity reps will be collecting money by the caf at break time.

Order link: <https://forms.gle/ToNYJamP4jJjaXuZA>

FEEDBACK BOX

The SRC feedback boxes have been installed in various locations on campus, including the hostels, IT centre and classroom block. Please use them to give us constructive feedback.

Digital feedback form link: <https://forms.gle/U9yHgtrmoDUBVDr47>

CLUB REGISTRATION

Are you looking to growing student engagement of your club? If you are the head of a club, please register your club using this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFWN0hqWxMkRbsZIH0vbDhlat4YBnWdWm3f8xS81SdH1P1DA/viewform> Waterford is creating a Student Club database so that all students can easily access information of all clubs, which helps us to improve student participation. By registering, you will gain recognition, have a chance to get funding, and connect with other UWC clubs!

IMPORTANT DATES

07 February 2025:	Michael Stern Lecture Series
15 February 2025:	Interhouse Athletics
19 February 2025:	Interhouse Swimming Gala
28 February 2025:	Half term begins
04 March 2025:	Half term ends
08 March 2025:	Entrance Testing for 2026
15 March 2025:	Entrance Testing for 2026
05 April 2025:	UWC Day
15 April 2025:	Parents Evening
16 April 2025:	Lessons end
17 April 2025:	Term ends

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

Staying in touch with you is our top priority! In order to do so, we also kindly request your co-operation by updating your contact details. It is important for the school to always have your most recent contacts.



HELP US IMPROVE OUR NEWSLETTER (FEEDBACK)

Help us improve our newsletter (Feedback) We kindly ask for feedback concerning this newsletter. The purpose of the weekly newsletter is primarily to inform parents about anything and everything school-related, from school activities on campus to management decisions, news, schedule changes, updates, event, and other community developments. We kindly ask for your feedback or ideas in terms of how to improve the newsletter – we would like to know whether or not it is helpful and how best to improve it.

Send us an email: communications@waterford.sz