

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

The Phoenix

Waterford Kamhlaba UWCSA Weekly Newsletter



PRINCIPAL'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

By Jackie Otula

This past week has been a vibrant and dynamic one on campus, filled with various activities across academics, sports, CAS initiatives, and student leadership. Our students continue to amaze us with their efforts. Here's a reflection on the events that made this week so remarkable.

On the sporting front, our teams participated in a range of competitions both locally and across the border. Our Chess and Public Speaking teams competed at Lusundvu with outstanding results, bringing home multiple gold, silver, and bronze medals. Meanwhile, various other teams represented us at the St. Peter's Tournament in Johannesburg - South Africa, with impressive performances from our Debate, Football, Basketball, and Hockey teams. Congratulations to all the participants and a heartfelt thank you to the coaches for their hard work and dedication in ensuring that Waterford remains so well-represented. You can read more details about these incredible achievements in the articles below.

Additionally, we also had the opportunity to reflect on the concept of peace in the world during our Peace Day Assembly on Wednesday. Our students took the lead in organizing the assembly, offering thoughtful performances centered on the theme. They reminded us all of the importance of striving for peace, and how the UWC movement continues to use education as a force to unite nations for a more peaceful and sustainable future. It is always inspiring to witness our students take leadership in such matters, demonstrating the kind of compassionate and purposeful leaders we aim to develop here at Waterford. Events like Peace Day truly show the power and

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potential of our students to make a positive impact in the world.

As we look ahead, the WK community extends its best wishes to our Form 5 students as they prepare to begin their final summative exams next week. We encourage them to stay focused, confident, and to reach out for support whenever needed. We believe in you - our 5th formers - and are excited to see your hard work come to fruition.

On a somber note, this week we also received sad news about the demise of a much-loved member of the Waterford community, former Maths teacher Peter Shields. Peter was a deeply respected figure at WK, remembered for his kindness, wisdom, and dedication to both his students and colleagues.

We will miss him dearly, but his legacy will continue to inspire us. You can read the full condolence statement the school published on Wednesday by clicking [here](#).

Finally, WK extends its gratitude to all staff for their continued hard work and dedication. Your commitment to nurturing the talents and potential of our students, both in and outside the classroom, is truly appreciated. To our students, thank you for your efforts, your energy, and your passion. Whether on the sports field, in academic competitions, or taking part in environmental cleanups, you have made us proud once again this week.

Wishing you all a restful and reflective weekend.

PEACE DAY - BY LINK GROUP HEADS

Our first Link Group event was an amazing success. The Waterford Community came together, in white, to commemorate victims of conflict and encourage each other to work together for a more peaceful and just society, in line with our theme this year "Together We Change". We had a beautiful array of performances from different creatives on campus and symbolised our commitment to working together for peace with ribbon tying and fingerprinting. Peace Day is when our 17 sister schools celebrate t

their UWC day, as this was the day that the United Nations adopted The Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. Peace is at the heart of inclusivity, diversity and therefore the UWC movement, which is why we at Waterford make such an effort to celebrate the progress we've made in achieving World Peace. We thoroughly enjoyed organising this momentous occasion. Between now and 21st September 2025, how will YOU work together for change?



2024 Peace Day photo.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

This past week, our sports teams proudly represented Waterford in various competitions, both within Eswatini and across the border in South Africa.

Our Chess and Public Speaking teams participated in the Lusundvu tournament with outstanding results. Both the Junior and Senior Chess teams claimed gold medals and trophies. The Senior Public Speaking team triumphed as champions in their category, winning gold, while the Junior Public Speaking team earned bronze. Congratulations to the following individuals for their exceptional performances: Sigodlo, who won the Junior Silver Medal for Best Impromptu Speech; Mauwena, awarded the Junior Bronze Medal for Best Prepared Speech; Emihle, who secured the Senior Silver Medal for Overall Best Speaker; Laura, who took home the Senior Gold Medal for Best Speaker; Simeone Abreha, named Junior Best Player of the Tournament (Chess); and Abib Abreha, recognized as Senior Best Player of the Tournament (Chess).

Last Wednesday, various sports teams traveled to South Africa to compete in the St. Peter's Tournament. Our Debate team emerged victorious, securing first place. In Public Speaking, Sihlelelwe Dlamini placed 5th, and Jabin Jaman 8th, out of over 60 speakers. The Boys' Football team became champions of the Bowl Tournament, winning medals and a trophy, while the Girls' Football team finished third in their Bowl Tournament. Our Girls' Hockey team finished in 5th place, and the Boys' Hockey team placed 9th. The Tennis team secured 9th place, and our Netball team unfortunately did not advance past the group stages. Both the Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams finished 4th in their respective Shield Tournaments. Lastly, our Chess team ranked 7th out of 16 competing schools.

A huge well done and thank you to all the players and coaches for their hard work and dedication in representing the school this past week!



FROM THE CAS DEPARTMENT

On September 26, 2024, our IB1 students from the Coding and Robotics CAS had the wonderful opportunity to visit Saim Christian High School. During this inspiring visit, they engaged with a Form 1 class, sharing insights about robotics. The students demonstrated a robot they had assembled, showcasing its capabilities and discussing how robots can enhance our lives. At the end of the session, the Saim students formed groups to explore how robotics can be utilized effectively, culminating in engaging presentations based on their discussions. This collaborative experience sparked creativity and deepened their understanding of technology's potential impact on our future.





This week has been particularly eventful on campus, with numerous activities spanning sports, pastoral care, and environmental initiatives. As the Student Representative Council (SRC), we remain committed to supporting our fellow students through these busy times.

Jethro Muhumza, captain of the chess team and a dedicated basketball player, reflected on his experience at the St. Peter's Tournament, calling it both "thrilling and memorable." He expressed his gratitude to the Sports Department and the SRC sports representatives for their seamless coordination of recent events.

In other exciting news, our Public Speaking team achieved remarkable success, bringing home the gold. We extend heartfelt congratulations to all participants, who took great pride in representing our school on such a prestigious platform.

On the environmental front, our representatives have been actively engaged in sustainability efforts. On Wednesday, 25th September, they organized a local cleanup initiative to tackle the growing litter problem in the area. During their short journey down the mountain, they collected multiple bags of trash, contributing to the preservation of our environment. We commend their dedication to promoting environmental responsibility and are immensely proud of their efforts.



IMPORTANT DATES

- 11 October: Half Term starts
- 15 October: Half Term ends
- 9 November: IB Graduation
- 16 November: F5 Graduation
- 21 November: Lessons end
- 22 November: Term ends
- [2024 Calendar](#)
- [2025 Calendar](#)



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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