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UITGAWE 1

BEEN

SE

PEEN

DAGDROME IN DALLERURBIA

deur Tenita da Silva



Die onlangse Graad 8-konsert by Hoërskool Ben Viljoen was beslis 'n aand om te onthou! Van die oomblik dat die gordyne oopgeskuif het, was dit duidelik dat die leerders hul harte en siele in hierdie produksie gestort het.



Elke registerklas het hul eie unieke dans en styl na die verhoog gebring, en dit was duidelik dat die leerders elke oomblik terdeë geniet het. Ná weke se harde werk, wat reeds tydens die Graad 8-kamp begin het, het hierdie groep gewys dat hulle nie net talentvol is nie, maar ook oor ongelooflike vasberadenheid beskik.



Die konsert het 'n boeiende storielyn gevolg, vertel deur Melinke Milner, Mpho Matsetela, Nielke Lourens en Reatile Kgaphola. Die verhaal het gehandel oor Fransien (vertolk deur Almarie Enslin), 'n meisie wat telkens slegte geluk ervaar het tydens sport- en skoolaktiwiteite. Haar talle vernederende oomblikke het die gehoor intiem laat saamleef met haar uitdagings.

Uiteindelik het haar reis 'n kragtige boodskap oorgedra: dat volharding en selfgeloof jou kan help om enige struikelblok te oorkom. Hierdie konsert was nie net vermaaklik nie, maar ook inspirerend, 'n ware bewys van wat met harde werk en passie bereik kan word.

GRADE 8 CONCERT

by Jessica Nwadike



The Grade 8 concert was an exciting and sometimes chaotic experience, filled with nerves, laughter, and moments that won't be forgotten anytime soon. For many learners, it was their first time performing on stage in high school - and it definitely showed in the mix of emotions.



Before stepping onto the stage, most Grade 8s admitted they felt nervous. Aneena Mathew (8A) said she felt "excited," while others like Genevieve Viljoen (8B) and Anethemba Mabena (8B) described a combination of nervousness and energy. Rowan Ross (8D), however, felt "calm and controlled," showing that not everyone experienced stage fright in the same way.

Despite the nerves, the best part for many learners was being on stage with their classmates. Dancing, acting, and performing together helped them bond and even build new friendships. Genevieve mentioned that dancing with others helped her get to know people better, while Anethemba enjoyed seeing the audience smile and cheer. Neo Maphopha (8D) also highlighted how exciting it was to hear the crowd clapping and singing along.

Of course, rehearsals came with their fair share of funny and unexpected moments. From someone stealing Jayden's chair — twice — to Christiaan losing his flip flop, there was never a dull moment. Some learners even mentioned how people kept forgetting the choreography, even after repeating it multiple times. These moments added to the fun and made the experience more memorable.

Through the concert, many learners discovered new things about themselves. Some learned how to communicate better with others, while others realised they enjoyed dancing or could stay calm under pressure. A few also faced personal challenges, like overcoming social anxiety or learning to work as a team — which wasn't always easy.

GRADE 8 CONCERT

by Jessica Nwadike

There were also some challenges along the way. Learners mentioned issues like lack of teamwork, people not putting in enough effort, and even small struggles like carrying props onto the stage. Still, these challenges didn't stop them from enjoying the overall experience.

When asked about their proudest moments, many learners pointed to the end of the concert — when everything came together, and they could finally relax and enjoy what they had accomplished. The audience's energy and support made it all worth it.

If they could change anything, some learners said they would improve the music, add more props, or adjust parts of the performance. Others, however, were happy to leave things exactly as they were.

When describing the concert in one word, answers ranged from "fun" and "amazing" to "chaotic" and "tiring" — perfectly capturing the overall experience.

The concert also revealed different sides of the Grade 8 group. Some learners mentioned that people could be both kind and rude, while others joked that "some boys can't grow up." Despite this, many agreed that the grade is full of energy, personality, and potential.

Looking back, what stood out most was not just the performance, but the memories made along the way - from rehearsals to backstage moments and finally being on stage. Whether it was feeling "cool" in sunglasses, making new friends, or simply having fun, the Grade 8 concert was an experience that will stay with them all the way to matric.



GRAAD 8 ORIËNTERING

deur Jenna Berry

Hierdie jaar kon daar heel moontlik 'n hele koek gebak word as gevolg van al die klits.



Die Uiltjies van 2026 het behoorlik gevoel wat is oriëntasie. Die eerste naweek nadat die skool begin het, het ons reeds 'n kamp gehad waar die UR ons al die reëls en regulasies mooi laat verstaan het. Ons het gesing en gehardloop dat ons sweet, en na dit was daar nog meel en eier op ons koppe - 'n redelike onaangename kombinasie vir ons ouers se neuse met die rit huis toe.



Ons het elkeen 'n groen beffie ontvang waarop ons name gestaan het, dit was 'n eerste vir die skool en het 'n groot indruk op ons almal gemaak.

Die UR dogters moes aangespreek word het as "Dutchess" en die hoofleiers "Emperooress" en die UR seuns as meester en die hoofleiers as keiser en as jy dit verkeerd kry dan moet jy natuurlik geklits.

Dit het omtrent gevoel of ons klits totdat ons bene inmekaar wou sak. Ons het geklits vir enige ding, letterlik al lyk jy dalk net bietjie verveeld dan klits jy. 'n Paar van ons het ekstra spiere in ons bene ontdek - dankie UR dit was goeie voorbereiding vir die sportseisoen

Elke middag klokslag om 14:00 het ons aan die Graad 8-konsert geoefen, wat 'n reuse sukses was, as ek nou self so moet sê, die beste een in 'n baie lang tyd!

Die meisies het elke dag drie bollas gemaak en die seuns het 'n middel paadjie gemaak soos in die ou dae en as dit nie goed genoeg was nie het die UR jou graag gehelp om jou hare "beter" te maak.

Na afloop van die suksesvolle konsert was daar 'n Klokluiseremonie waar ons amptelik ons beffie en graad "aggies" se naam verruil het vir ons kleurbaadjie en Hoërskool Ben Viljoen Graad 8 titel.

Die ontgroening was goed vir ons nuwelinge en nou kan ons lekker lag vir al die goed wat gebeur het. Dankie UR 2026 dit was great maar ons is bly dit is nou verby.

REVISITING CAMP: A LEADER'S JOURNEY

by **Bontle** Mkwanazi



Reflecting on the grade 8 camp we hosted earlier this year brought back a wave of nostalgia.

Five years ago, I was one of the wide-eyed learners experiencing the thrill of camp life, and I never imagined I'd be back, this time as a leader. It was surreal to relive those memories, but from a whole new perspective. Being on the other end of the experience was a beautiful reminder of how far we've come - the laughter, the late-night chats, the sense of community... it all hit differently this time around. It was a lovely kind of bittersweet, reminiscing about where I was and celebrating where we are now



INTERHUIS-SWEMGALA 2026: GEES, KLEUR EN KOMPETISIE!

deur Nicke Botha



Ons het vanjaar ons jaarlikse interhuis-swemgala suksesvol op 16 Januarie 2026 afgehandel. Dit was 'n dag vol aksie en opwinding in die swembad. Om die dag ekstra pret te maak, het elke ouderdomsgroep 'n spesifieke kleur en tema gehad waarvolgens hulle moes aantrek. Hierdie kreatiewe uitrustings het vir groot vermaak langs die swembad gesorg.

Nog 'n groot hoogtepunt van 2026 se gala was die ekstra pret-items wat die toeskouers op die punte van hul stoele laat sit het. Die resies met opblaas-swembande, snorkels, paddavoete en skopbordjies was beslis 'n skouspel om te aanskou.

Na 'n lang dag van strawwe kompetisie kon net een dogters- en een seunsgroep die louere wegdra. Die o.16-meisies (Windgat Watereende) en die o.17-o.18-seuns (Awesome Arende) was die sterre van die dag met die meeste deelname en pryse.



INTERHOUSE ATHLETICS 2026: SPIRIT, SPEED, AND SCHOOL PRIDE!

by **Blessing Ratau**

Interhouse athletics is always a major highlight of the year, and on 23 January 2026, Term 1 started with a massive bang! The entire day was packed with loud cheering, non-stop excitement, and huge school spirit.

Every single grade arrived dressed in their own bright theme colours, turning the pavilion into a sea of colour from start to finish. It was great to see everyone put in so much effort to look the part and support their houses.



The cheerleaders were the stars of the sidelines, keeping the energy high with their incredible dance moves and powerful war cries that could be heard from blocks away. Their hard work and practice really showed as they kept the crowd pumping. On the track and field, our athletes showed everyone what it means to be a Daller. They combined their natural talent with hours of hard work to be almost unbeatable in every event.



It was truly a day to remember for everyone involved. It wasn't just about who crossed the finish line first; it was a day where tough competition and great teamwork came together to make the whole experience fun. Whether you were running a race or cheering from the stands, the sense of unity made it a special start to the school year.

BEN VILJOEN SHINES AT TOP 15 ATHLETICS MEET

by Jessica Nwadike

The Ben Viljoen Top 15 Athletics Meet was filled with determination, excitement, and strong performances as our athletes gave their best on the track and field. This year, Ben Viljoen's athletes proudly represented the school and showed what hard work and dedication can achieve. Several athletes delivered outstanding performances on the track. There were also excellent results in the field events, with athletes pushing themselves to reach personal bests and even secure top positions.



Many athletes spoke about the effort they put in before the competition. Aziza Nakwa (U14) explained that she "warmed up and took training seriously" as part of her preparation, with the goal of preparing herself for bigger opportunities.

Leigh-Grant Tiemie (U14) approached the event with confidence, saying he "was there to win" and felt proud competing in long jump, despite some nerves. He also shared that he faced no challenges because he believed in his ability and stayed focused on his performance.

For some athletes, the competition brought pressure but also motivation. Elsje Dippenaar (U15) said she practiced hard and aimed to beat her personal best, although she felt stressed seeing strong competitors. Similarly, Zander Coetser (U16) focused on working hard and aiming to break a record, saying he felt proud to represent the school even against fast competitors.

Other athletes highlighted the importance of mindset and enjoyment. Edunette Kriel (U17) shared that she focused on improving her weak points and simply wanted to enjoy the run, describing it as an honour to represent Ben Viljoen. Marnu Hancke (U17) also worked daily on his technique and felt privileged to compete, even in tough conditions with strong competition and hot weather.



BEN VILJOEN SHINES AT TOP 15 ATHLETICS MEET

by **Jessica Nwadike**

Dedication and discipline stood out as key themes. Omphile Tshikane (U19) spoke about intense training, proper preparation, and staying disciplined, even under pressure. He described feeling proud and appreciated, with support from teammates and teachers playing a big role.



Itumeleng Phatlane admitted she didn't prepare much beforehand but still aimed to improve her personal best. She said the competition was challenging, especially against strong opponents, but encouraged others to keep practicing and always do their best.

Support from family, friends, teachers, and teammates was a common factor among all athletes. Whether it was parents, coaches, or classmates cheering from the sidelines, the encouragement helped push athletes to perform at their highest level.

Overall, the Ben Viljoen team performed strongly, showing resilience, confidence, and school pride. Their performances not only brought success on the day but also inspired younger athletes to continue working hard and aiming high.



ATHLETES SHINE AT PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by **Elianah Simelane**

A group of three learners, together with one former student, performed well at the Limpopo Athletics Championships in Naboomspruit. Competing against some of the best athletes in the province, they made Hoërskool Ben Viljoen proud with excellent results across both track and field events.



Jaco van der Westhuyzen led the way on the track, dominating the sprint events. He claimed gold in the 100m with a time of 10.32 seconds and followed it up with another first place finish in the 200m, clocking 21.37 seconds.



In the middle distance category, Omphile Tshikane secured victory in the 800m. His winning time of 1:58.50 highlighted his endurance and composure under pressure.



The field events also saw impressive performances, particularly from Marnu Hancke. He earned first place in both the shot put and discus, recording distances of 17.96m and 56.20m respectively.



Kadmiel Lotika, a member of the class of 2025, added to the success by winning the 400m race in 48.97 seconds, further strengthening the team's overall performance.

The athletes' achievements reflect their dedication and preparation, marking a successful and memorable championship for all involved.

BOSVELD INTERHOËR LANDLOOP

deur **Shiniska du Plessis**

Ben Viljoen se landloopspan het op 9 Maart 2026 aan die jaarlikse Bosveld Interhoër landloopbyeenkoms deelgeneem.

Hulle het vroegdag vertrek na Ellisras, en met hulle aankoms het die junior dogters wat aan die 4km-wedloop deelneem begin opwarm met die oog op 11:00 wanneer die eerste skoot geklap het. Na hulle, was dit die junior seuns se 4km-wedloop, waarna die senior meisies en laaste die senior seuns gevolg het.

Omphile Tshikane het n goeie wedloop gehardloop, waar hy en Nylstroom kom-aan-kop was vir omtrent die eerste drie kilometer totdat Omphile sy ware talent en deursettingsvermoë gewys deur met meer as 'n 500 meter gaping die eerste plek medalje te verower.

Shiniska Du Plessis het 'n algehele derde plek verwerf vir die junior meisies. Ben Viljoen spog met die junior meisies en senior seuns wat albei in die algehele tweede plek geëindig het .



ACADEMIC PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY 2026

by **Elianah Simelane**

On Wednesday, 11 March 2026, our school held the Academic Prize Giving Ceremony for Grades 8 to 11. It was a very special day where learners, teachers, and parents came together to celebrate everyone's hard work and achievements from the past year.

The ceremony was not just about the awards, but also about recognising the effort and dedication that each learner showed throughout the year.

A quote shared during the ceremony really stood out: "The elevator to success does not work; you will have to climb the stairs."

This reminded all of us that success comes from working hard, staying focused, and never giving up, even when things are difficult.

Dux Learners (Academic Honours)

The Dux learners are those who achieved the highest academic honours in their grades. Here are last year's top achievers:



Grade 8: Lanél Coetzee

Lanél was the top learner in Grade 8 and also received the Bilingualism Award for the highest combined results in Afrikaans Home Language and English First Additional Language.

Grade 9: Monique Viljoen
Monique was the Dux learner in Grade 9. She also earned the Bilingualism Award for her excellent performance in languages.



Grade 10: Marnu Hancke

Marnu was the Dux learner in Grade 10 and received the Bilingualism Award, showing excellence in both languages and overall academics.

Grade 11: Lesego Mthembu
Lesego was the Dux learner in Grade 11 and was recognised for obtaining overall best performance in various subjects



The Academic Prize Giving Ceremony was a reminder that effort and dedication matter just as much as results. Each learner showed that hard work leads to success, and their achievements are an inspiration to all students.

The school congratulates all learners and wishes them continued success in the years ahead.

INTERVIEW

LEEROY ALEXANDER

by Cebolenkosi Mahlangu

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE RUGBY?

I chose rugby because of my father. I have always wanted to be like him because he was known for his rugby skills. Watching him inspired me to start playing rugby. I want to follow in his footsteps, play like him, and most importantly, make him proud.

HOW DO YOU HANDLE PRESSURE DURING AN INTENSE GAME?

I calm myself down because when you let pressure get to you, you will not be able to play well or perform at your best. By staying calm and helping my teammates stay calm too, we can go onto the field with a positive mindset and stay focused on the game. Prayer also helps me a lot because it gives me strength, peace, and confidence.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A STRONG RUGBY TEAM SUCCESSFUL?

A strong rugby team becomes successful through trust, communication, teamwork, and respect. You need to trust your teammates, trust your coaches, and believe in the game plan. Respecting one another is also very important. We may not have everything perfect right now, but we are building it through brotherhood, hard work, and teamwork.

WHAT POSITION DO YOU PLAY AND WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE FIELD?

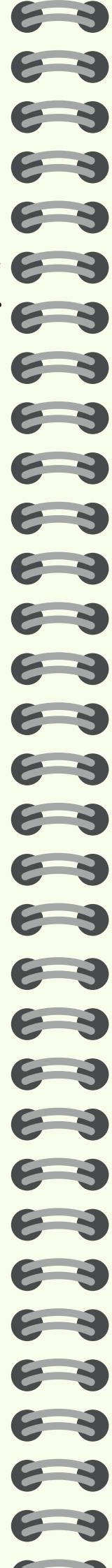
I play left wing. My responsibilities are to defend on the sideline, stop the other team from scoring tries, and use my speed to create opportunities for my team to score. My favourite part is being able to attack, chase tries, and help the team when we need points.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE SO FAR?

My biggest challenge so far has been coming back from a knee injury that almost ended my rugby career. It was a very difficult time for me, but I worked hard and came back even better than before. By God's grace, I was able to recover, return stronger, and even make the provincial team.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A YOUNG RUGBY PLAYER?

I would say that it does not matter how big or small you are. What matters most is what you can do, the effort you put in, and how hard you are willing to work. Never give up on yourself. Keep pushing, keep praying, and trust in God because through Him, everything is possible.



INTERVIEW

CORNÉ LOOCK

by Cebolenkosi Mahlangu



HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE?

I believe I can do better. It is my first time playing at this level, and I know I still have a lot to learn. Playing with the team is a great opportunity for me, and I am grateful for the chance to improve and grow as a rugby player.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN IMPROVE? ARE THERE ANY AREAS WHERE YOU FEEL YOU COULD PERFORM BETTER?

Yes, I believe I can improve. One of my strengths is my kicking, but I know that I need to work harder on my passing and overall game skills. I often ask my coach for advice and tips on how to improve. I am willing to learn new things and work hard so that I can become a better player.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE TEAM'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE?

I believe the team can do better. We are still learning to work together, but if we continue to train hard and support each other, we will grow stronger as a team.

WHEN DID YOU START PLAYING RUGBY AND WHY?

I started playing rugby in Grade 1, in the Under-8 and Under-9 teams at Mywi Primary School. I played rugby for Mywi, but I did not play Under-13 rugby because of COVID. After that, I started playing club rugby at Helmut Junior. I played for the Under-14, Under-15, and Under-16 teams, and I also got the opportunity to play for the first team at the club.



The year after that, I received a great opportunity to come and play at Hoërskool Ben Viljoen. It was an opportunity for me to learn and grow as a rugby player. Some people say that you cannot grow or learn, but I believe that you can improve if you work hard and stay focused.

The main reason I play rugby is because of my grandfather. He played rugby in the 1990s, and he inspired me to love the game. He gives me courage and motivates me to continue playing.

My grandfather never had the chance to play for the Springboks, but one day I hope to play for the Springboks. My dream is to wear the Springbok jersey and place it over his shoulders as a symbol of pride, showing him that I made it. I want to make my family and everyone who has been part of my journey proud. That is why I keep working hard and why I want to keep the spirit of rugby alive for my grandfather.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG KIDS WHO WANT TO PLAY RUGBY?

My advice is to always put God first and believe in yourself. Do what you set your mind to, even when people doubt you.

There is a saying that if you really want to do something, you must do it no matter what people say. Do not let your circumstances bring you down. When God gives you a dream, He will help you achieve it.

You may not be the best at the beginning, but if you pray, work hard, and keep learning, one day you can become the best. Always remember where you come from and make the people who support you proud.



11 RANDOM FACTS THAT YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW

by Moshopiadi Nchabeleng

1. Octopuses Have Three Hearts

Octopuses are weird creatures (and weird can be cool). They have three hearts and blue-coloured blood. Two hearts pump blood to the gills, and the third one pumps blood to the rest of the body.

2. Bananas Are Technically Berries

Bananas are classified as berries in botany but strawberries, ironically, are not berries. Crazy right?

3. Sharks Are Older Than Trees

Sharks existed over 400 million years ago, whereas the first trees appeared around 350 million years ago. Legendary.

4. Honey Never Spoils

Yes, you read that right! Jars of honey that were found in ancient Egyptian tombs are still edible today (and that's thousands of years later).

5. Your Brain Uses a Lot of Energy

Although making up only 2% of your body weight, your brain uses about 20% of your body's total energy. It's really powerful, controlling basically your entire body via the nervous system, thus it requires so much energy.

6. There Are More Stars Than Grains of Sand

Scientists estimate that there are more stars present in the universe than grains of sand on all the beaches on the Earth. This makes sense if you consider that the universe is constantly expanding and we've discovered barely 5% of it.

7. The Eiffel Tower Grows Taller in Summer

Heat causes metal to expand, so in summer, the Eiffel tower can expand up to 15 cm taller.

8. Water Can Boil and Freeze at the Same Time

This phenomenon is called the triple point, where temperature and pressure allow water to exist in all 3 states of matter simultaneously. This has to boggle your mind!

9. The first star you see in the sky in the evening is the planet Venus. That's it, simply put.

10. Red food dye comes from parasitic insects

This one is my favourite. Cochineal extract Natural Red 4 E120 in Carmine colour is what the red dye is called. This colour can be seen after crushing these insects and mixing them with water.

Keep learning new things everyday because "one fact a day keeps the brain rot away" .

KI - IS DIE NUWE PEN IN ONS PENNEBLIKKE 'N VLOEK OF 'N SEËN?

deur **Estea Jovner**

Skoollewe het in n oogwink verander. Voorheen het ons ure omgesit in biblioteke as navorsing vir skooltake, waar ons nou alles tot ons beskikking kan kry in die kwessie van 'n paar minute deur die gebruik van kunsmatige intelligensie (KI)! Baie sal dit kan vergelyk met towerkrag, jy vra 'n vraag en binne sekondes is al jou wiskunde huiswerk gedoen! Tog is die vraag op almal se lippe, is dit besig om ons luier of slimmer te maak?

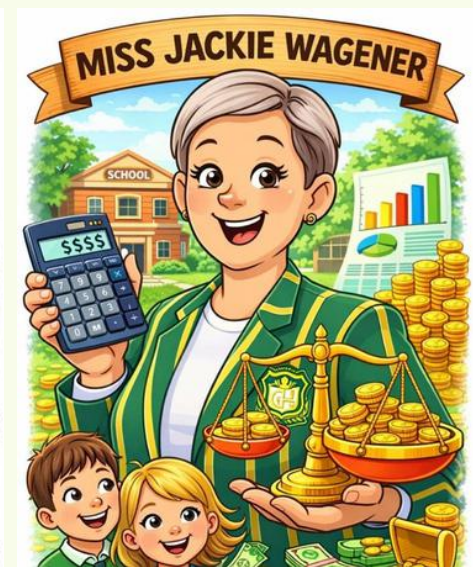
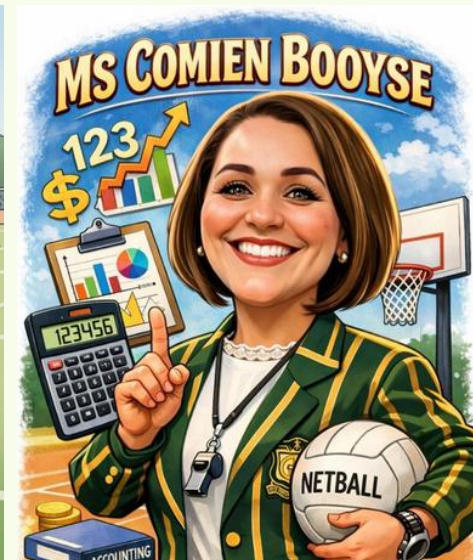
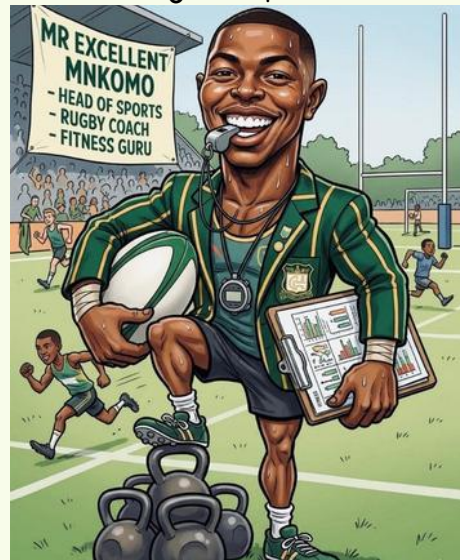
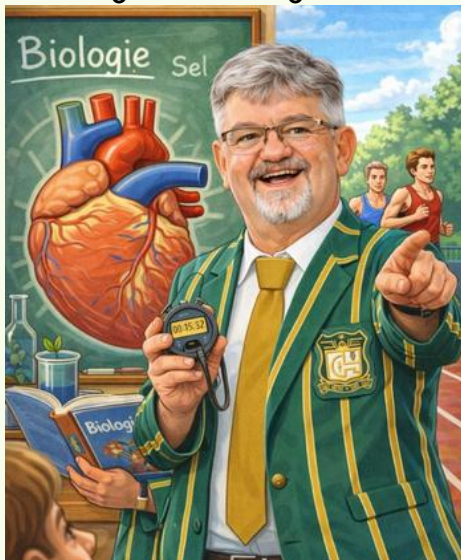
VERBEELDING OP STEROIDES

Vir my, persoonlik, is een van die opwindendste dinge oor KI hoe dit ons verbeelding kan ontsluit. Stel jouself voor jy't n idee in jou kop, maar weet nie hoe om dit te omskep in 'n visuele voorstelling nie - met die nuutste beeld-genereringstegnologie is dit maklik om ons drome 'n visuele realiteit te maak. KI dien hier as n hulpmiddel tot kreatiewe uitdrukking. Die belangrikse oor KI is om te onthou dat dit slegs kan dien as 'n hulpmiddel, nie 'n kortpad nie.

KI SE VISIE TEENoor ONS ONDERWYSERS

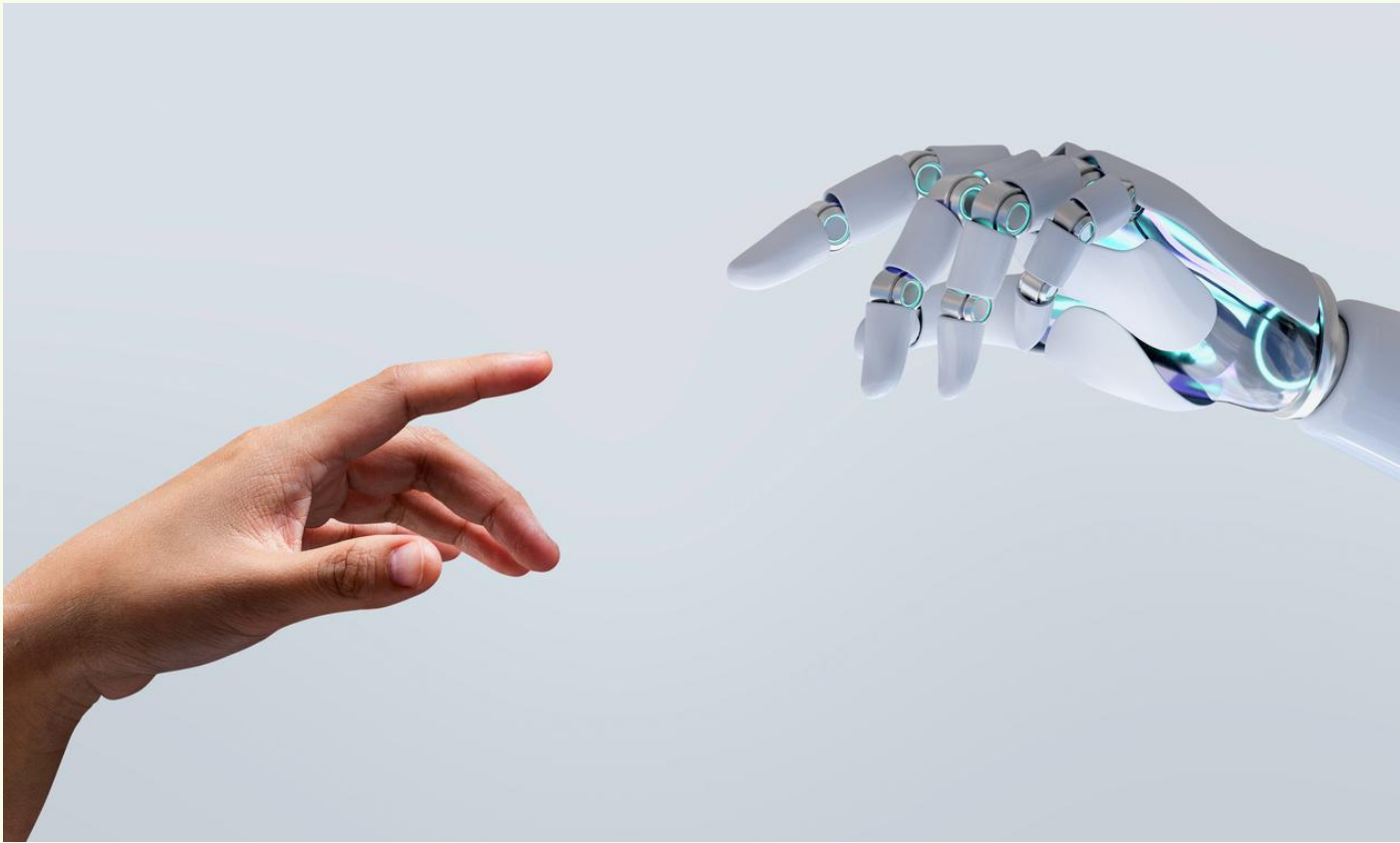
Juis deur KI, wat ons verbeeldings kan uitbeeld en verryk, kan dit ons ook help om ons onderwyser uit te beeld as oulike karikature; Dis nie net snaaks nie , maar het 'n veel groter betekenis agter... Dit beeld vir ons uit op 'n speelvolle, lighartige manier hoeveel moeite en dedikasie ons onderwysers insit op 'n doodgewone skooldag - vol energie, uniek en altyd besig om ons te ontwikkel en te help groei. Dit leer ons dat agter elke grapperige prentjie daar waardering lê.

En dalk, net dalk help die snaakse spotprente van ons liewe juffrouens en menere, ons om elke dag waardering te vind in ons alledaagse superhelde!



AI: YOUR ULTIMATE STUDY BUDDY (IF USED RIGHT!)

by **Lerato Makwana** & **Blessing Ratau**



While AI often gets a bad reputation in schools, it can be a powerful tool for success when used responsibly. Think of it as a digital tutor that can simplify tricky topics or break down long, intimidating notes into short, easy-to-read summaries. This helps you grasp the "big picture" before diving into the details. You can also use AI to create custom practice tests, quizzes, and flashcards to sharpen your memory and keep your exam prep on track.

However, balance is key. Over-reliance can be disastrous, especially in subjects like Mathematics where AI can sometimes be inaccurate. It is best used for theory-based subjects as a reference, rather than a shortcut. Always remember: AI is there to help you learn, not to do the thinking for you. Use it to enhance your hard work, and always double-check the facts against your textbooks to stay ahead!

Golden rules for using AI safely for schoolwork

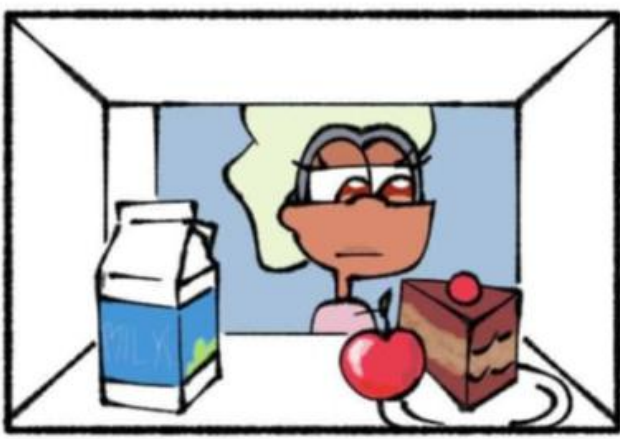
1. **Verify, Don't Just Copy:** AI can make mistakes. Always cross-check facts with your textbooks or teacher's notes to ensure they are 100% accurate.
2. **Process over Product:** Use AI to brainstorm or explain a concept, but always write the final work in your own words.
3. **Double-Check the Math:** AI is better at language than logic. It often fails at Maths and Physics, so always do the actual calculations yourself.

Moshi's
Mini • COMICS

POV: GOING TO THE KITCHEN AT 12AM TO GRAB A SNACK :



*squeek



@gallerybymoshi



THAT ONE TALL KID

by Moshopiadi Nchabeleng



Tall like a beam

With eyes that gleam

And he's talking

But what does he mean?

It's just a fist bump

But why does my heart thump?

It's almost like driving

Over a thousand humps.

I don't get you

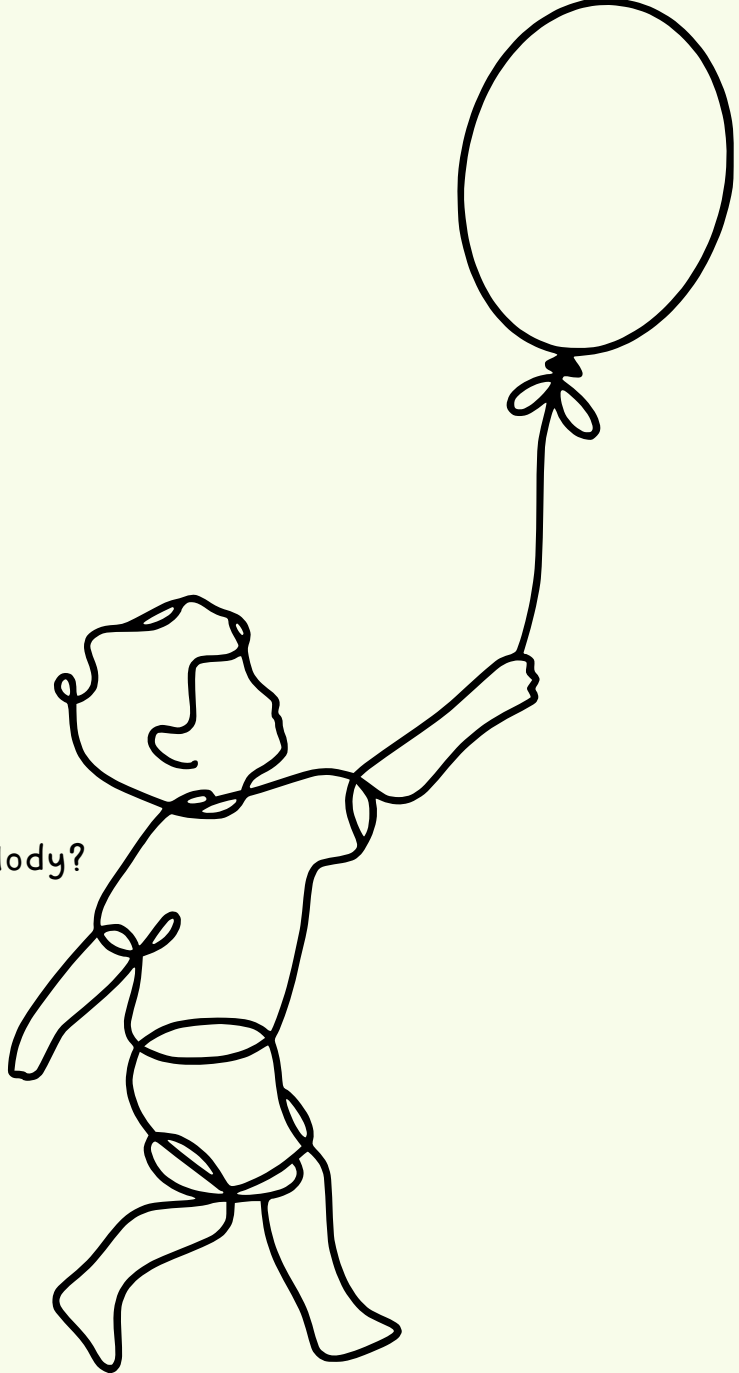
And your large shoes

Your mouth is open

But I hear no tune.

Isn't love supposed to sound like a melody?

Right now I'd rather commit a felony-



TOP 10-KAMP: WAAR HARDE WERK EN PRET ONTMOET!

deur **Elene Botes**



Vanjaar het ons Top 10-leerders weer die geleentheid gehad om 'n ongelooflike kamp by te woon, en wat 'n absolute voorreg was dit nie! Hierdie kamp dien as 'n welverdiende beloning vir leerders wat die ekstra myl gestap het om puik akademiese prestasies te lewer.

Ons bestemming was die Badplaas Forever Resort, waar die atmosfeer van die begin af gelaai was met opwinding. Met ons aankoms het ons dadelik die aktiwiteite ingevaar en seker gemaak dat daar nie een sekonde verbygaan sonder 'n vrolike giggel of 'n grappie nie.

Alhoewel die kamp hope ontspanning bied, is dit ook die ideale geleentheid om nuwe vriendskappe te smee en onbekende gesigte beter te leer ken. Die spesiale verhale om die kampvuur, die baljaar in die swembad en die strawwe kompetisie op die putjie-putjie-baan is herinneringe wat vir altyd by ons sal bly.

Ons leerders is reeds gemotiveerd om vanjaar weer net so hard te werk om te verseker dat hulle volgende jaar weer inskakel. Mag hierdie Top 10-kamp as bewys dien dat geen harde werk ongesiens verbygaan nie... Wat jy insit, sal jy beslis uitkry!

WHY EVERYONE IS CALLING 2026, "THE NEW 2016"?

by **Loti Ledwaba**

2026, a new year, right?

Well, if you kept an eye on your social media during the final days of 2025 and the first few of 2026, you probably noticed a recurring theme. Post after post declared that "2026 will be the new 2016," often accompanied by throwback pictures of friends and family from ten years ago.

So why? Why are we reliving 2016?

The year 2016 of the Common Era was a leap year starting on a Friday, which honestly felt like a sign that it was destined to be memorable.

Many iconic moments unfolded that year, both good and bad. But today's youth, the ultimate trendsetters, seem to be sentimentally drawn back to it. Whether it's nostalgia or simple longing, people are reminiscing about the summer, the music, the movies, and the memories made during a time when we were still deeply connected to reality.

Before social media fully took over.

We check our phones constantly now, don't we? But not in 2016. Back then, our phones were mainly for taking pictures or sending texts. Posting those pictures was almost an afterthought. Social media was still relatively new, and we were focused on living in the moment.

Nostalgia, of course, is a completely normal and universal human emotion. Algorithms weren't yet shaping our personalities, opinions, and daily experiences the way they do today. People were simply living their lives.

Even now, everyday experiences trigger memories of the past, whether it is listening to old songs or using decade-old Instagram and Snapchat filters. That rainbow, rose-tinted filter... if you know, you know.

Perhaps, amid growing uncertainty about the future, with wars and global challenges dominating headlines, many find comfort in revisiting a time associated with joy and simplicity.

People are still posting their 2016 throwbacks. Even more telling, they are embracing elements of that era again by buying older iPhones, cameras, wired earphones, CDs, and DVDs.

Music from 2016 is resurfacing too, with tracks like Justin Bieber's Sorry and Zara Larsson's Lush Life making a comeback.

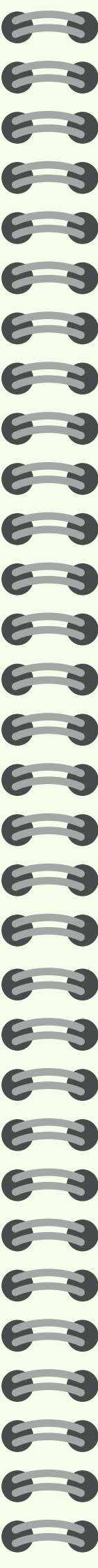
The revival of 2016 is deeply rooted in its music, dance, and carefree spirit, a time remembered for its free-spiritedness, before extreme trends, TikTok slang, and the pressure to like the same things became so dominant.

People miss when everyone was outside, genuinely connected, rather than glued to screens and scrolling endlessly.

Maybe calling 2026 "the new 2016" is not really about recreating the past.

Maybe it is about reclaiming a feeling.

#2016 <3



IF I COULD CHANGE THE WORLD

by Anne-Miké van Staden

If I could invent one thing to change the world, it wouldn't be something you could hold in your hands or buy in a store. It wouldn't be the fastest phone, the smartest robot, or a machine that prints money. Instead, it would be something far more powerful - something invisible, yet capable of changing every life on Earth. If I could invent one thing, I would create a device called "The Empathy Lens".

"The Empathy Lens" would look like an ordinary pair of glasses, simple and lightweight. At first glance, no one would think it was special. But the moment you put it on, everything would change. Instead of just seeing the world through your own eyes, you would begin to experience it through someone else's. You wouldn't just hear their words - you would feel their emotions, understand their struggles, and see life from their perspective.

Imagine walking into school wearing "The Empathy Lens". The student sitting quietly in the corner, the one everyone ignores, would no longer be invisible. Through the lens, you would feel their loneliness, their wish to belong, their silent hope that someone would notice them. Suddenly, ignoring them wouldn't feel easy anymore. You might sit next to them, start a conversation, or simply smile - and that small act could change their entire day.

Now imagine a bully putting on "The Empathy Lens". Instead of seeing their target as weak or different, they would feel the pain their words cause. They would experience the embarrassment, the fear, and the sadness they create. In that moment, hurting someone wouldn't feel powerful - it would feel wrong. The lens wouldn't force anyone to change, but it would make it much harder to ignore the impact of their actions.

"The Empathy Lens" wouldn't only work in schools. It could transform families, communities, and even entire countries. Arguments between friends could be resolved more easily if each person truly understood how the other felt. Parents and children could connect on a deeper level, bridging the gap between generations. Leaders around the world could make decisions with a clearer understanding of how their choices affect ordinary people.

One of the biggest problems in the world today is not a lack of intelligence or resources - it is a lack of understanding. People judge quickly, assume the worst, and often fail to see beyond their own experiences. This leads to conflict, discrimination, and division. "The Empathy Lens" would not solve every problem overnight, but it would create a powerful shift. It would remind people that behind every face is a story, and behind every action is a reason.

Of course, inventing something like this would not be without challenges. Some people might refuse to use it. Others might fear what they would feel if they truly understood someone else's pain. Experiencing another person's emotions could be overwhelming at times. There would need to be limits - perhaps the lens could only be used for short periods, or it could allow users to control how deeply they experience someone else's feelings.

There is also the question of whether people would change even after using it. Understanding someone does not always mean agreeing with them. However, even if it doesn't solve every disagreement, it would make the world more compassionate. And sometimes, compassion is the first step toward real change.

If I had the chance to invent "The Empathy Lens", I believe it would have the greatest impact on young people. Teenagers are still learning who they are and how they fit into the world. They are more open to change and new ideas. If students grew up using something that helped them understand others, they would carry that mindset into adulthood. Over time, this could create a generation that values kindness, respect, and understanding more than judgment and division.

In a world filled with advanced technology, it is easy to think that the next great invention must be something complex or expensive. But sometimes, the most powerful ideas are the simplest ones. "The Empathy Lens" is not about making people smarter or stronger - it is about making them more human.

I know that inventing something like this may seem impossible. After all, how can a pair of glasses allow someone to feel what another person feels? But every great invention once seemed impossible. The idea of flying, communicating across the world instantly, or exploring space all began as dreams. Change always starts with imagination.

Even without a real "Empathy Lens", we already have the ability to try and understand others. We can listen more carefully, think before we judge, and choose kindness even when it is difficult. Maybe the true purpose of this invention is not just to exist as a device, but to remind us of something we are capable of doing every day.

If I could invent one thing to change the world, it would not just be a piece of technology - it would be a new way of seeing each other. Because if we could truly understand one another, even for a moment, the world would never be the same again.

