

VOLUME 2

Craighall

Primary School

11 February 2026

School Newsletter



Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone has settled well into the rhythm of the new school year. It is hard to believe that we are already in February, and that Valentine's Day is upon us at the end of this week. The term has begun at pace, and it has been wonderful to see classrooms buzzing, fields alive with sport, and children reconnecting with friends and routines.

REMINDERS:

13 Feb – Valentine's Civvies
24 Feb – Gr R Ear Screening
27 Feb – Gr R Pirate Picnic
Gr 1 – 7 Disco
11 March – Open Day
13 March – Extra Murals end
16 – 20 March – Netball & Soccer trials
20 March – Gr 5 & 6 Cake and Candy
21 March – Human Rights Day
23 March – Gr R Parents/teacher progress meeting
25 March – Individual & Sibling Photos
26 March – Class & Staff Photos
Parents Evening (5pm – 7pm)
27 March – School closes (10:30am)

One of the greatest privileges of leadership is watching young people step forward into responsibility.

At the end of 2025, our entire Grade 6 teaching team undertook the careful and considered process of selecting our 2026 Grade 7 Monitors. This is never a quick or casual decision. Defined criteria and collective professional judgement guide it. We look beyond popularity, sport or academic achievement alone. We consider maturity, initiative, and accountability. We observe behaviour, respect, and consistency in upholding school values. We assess work ethic, reliability, and commitment. We look at communication skills, teamwork, problem-solving ability and integrity. Ultimately, we ask whether a child demonstrates the qualities required to serve as a role model for younger pupils.

Based on this process, the following children were appointed as our 2026 Monitors:

Olivia Bosch
Iza Cooperman-Frost
Jasmine Daya
Lilly Driemel
Jemma Forlee
Kenzie Hicks
Jemima Kaplan
Christian Laubscher
Emma Li Green
Noah Love-Ballantine
Tshedza Madala
Rhys Masterton
Charley McPhail
Paige Mullins
Nellie Mutsonziwa
Aryana Naicker
Mogau Namanyana
Alex Oldnall
Siena Oxford
Gabriella Panzeri
Aliya Reddy
Khumo Rogers
Caitlyn Shaw
Levi Smith
Alex Stassen

We congratulate each of them. Leadership is not a badge; it is a daily choice to serve with humility and responsibility.

Among those selected is Lilly Driemel. Lilly has, this week, been diagnosed with lymphoma and begins treatment this week. As a school community, we are holding Lilly, her family, and her close friends very close in our thoughts. We are mindful that this news may feel particularly heavy given the loss our 2025 Grade 7 group experienced.

Moments like this remind us that leadership is not about ease or status; it is about courage, resilience, and character.

Right now, Lilly, her family, her close friends, and our staff are walking a path that none of us would choose. There will be fear. There will be uncertainty. There will be hard days. And in the shadow of the loss our Grade 7 group experienced last year, emotions may feel amplified.

As a collective school community, we choose to respond with steadiness.

We choose to pray.

We choose to care.

We choose to be kind.

We choose to be aware of the invisible weight others may be carrying.

We choose to stand together.

Parents are encouraged to speak with their children at home calmly and reassuringly, allowing space for questions and emotions. At school, we will continue to support our children with care and sensitivity, while maintaining the routines, learning, sport, play, and structure that help children feel safe and grounded. We firmly believe in the healing power of normality.

It is within this context that I also wish to address something important.

At Craighall, decisions around monitor appointments, team captains, awards, and names submitted to external schools are never made lightly. Each selection follows a clear process, guided by criteria, discussion, and careful consideration. As with any human process, errors can occur — and when a parent is genuinely checking whether something may have been overlooked, that conversation is always welcome.

What has, however, become increasingly difficult is the tone in which some of these conversations begin. Too often, queries arrive framed as allegations rather than enquiries. When this happens, it places strain on the very teachers and leaders who invest deeply and act with integrity in the best interests of children.

I am a parent too. I understand the ache when your child is disappointed or hurting. In a primary school, especially where every child still believes “this might be my moment,” there will always be tender hearts during times of selection.

The hard truth is that every year, there will be disappointed children. That does not mean they are unseen, unworthy, or unsuccessful. It means that at this point, they are not there yet.

In our assemblies and classrooms, we speak often about growth mindset, resilience, and grit. Life does not guarantee every accolade to every person. Not everyone will be selected. Not everyone will be named a top achiever. Hundreds apply; one is chosen. This is not failure, it is reality.

Our responsibility as a school is not to remove disappointment, but to teach children how to move through it with dignity, perspective, and strength.

Parents play an equally powerful role. Hold your child in the palm of your hand. Be their comfort and advocate. But also allow them to develop their own voice. Encourage them to speak to their teachers or to me. We will always listen and explain the reasoning behind decisions with care and transparency.

One parent recently wrote that when parents come forward strongly, it means people still care, and that is true. We value that our community is invested. At the same time, tone matters. When conversations begin with hostility, it chips away at the morale of those who show up daily with nothing but the best intentions for your children.

Not being selected does not say, “You are wrong.”
It says, “You are still growing.”

Research consistently shows that perseverance, not entitlement, is what ultimately carries individuals furthest. Our shared goal is not to raise children who always win, but children who can cope, can grow, and can keep going.

Leadership is not simply a role. It is the responsibility to listen before responding, to lead with empathy when pressure is high, to create clarity when others feel uncertain, and to grow alongside the people we serve.

Our school functions best when trust and partnership sits at the centre of our relationships. Together, let us model the resilience, respect, and kindness we hope to see in our children.

As we move toward Valentine's Day at the end of this week, may it serve as a simple reminder of what binds us together as a community: care, compassion, and love in action. All children are invited to come dressed in red, white or pink on Friday as we celebrate the spirit of kindness and connection within our school. (R10 for fundraising, please)

Let us continue to look after one another, rooted in strength, and rising together.

Congratulations to Miss Arnott (Gr 7 Educator) and Miss Bracey (Afrikaans Educator) on their respective engagements.

Happy belated birthday to: Mrs Kanyane (Ground staff) – 23 January; Mrs Wessels (Gr 5 Educator) – 24 January; Mrs Rowles (Remedial Support Educator) – 29 January; Mis Nkoana (Computer Educator) – 4 February; Miss Bond (Gr 3 Educator) – 4 February; Mrs Marais (Gr 5 Educator) – 4 February; Miss Meiring (Gr 7 Educator) – 5 February; -Ms Mncitshwa (Gr R Assistant) – 6 February; Miss Moonsamy (Intern Psychologist) – 10 February.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Prout-Jones
(Principal)

Sports News 2026

Welcome back to exciting times for Craighall Primary School Sport. There is so much to look forward to this term with lots of cricket and swimming to be played. Unfortunately, the first week of cricket matches were postponed due to lightning, we hope that mother nature stays away for this term.

Congratulations to Caitlyn Shaw and Ryan Kyle for making the D9 hockey training squads. We wish them all the best. Good luck to all the boys that went to Jhb North trials, we hope you all make it.

Congratulations to Lyla O'Brien for receiving a Gold Award at the Stars of the Universe Competition, as well as receiving Federation National Colours for Dance. Her brother, Brannon O'Brien achieved a gold award for his Dance Hip Hop at the same competition.

Congratulations to the following boys for making the Jhb North cricket teams in their specific age groups:
Dylan Bodmer, Ollie Rowles, Charlie Watemeyer, Jonah Laubscher, Hunter Mullins, Umair Koor, Zach Raaff, Harry Waterneyer, Jamie Dickson.



For all of our cricket matches download Cricclubs and you will be able to "watch the match" being scored live. I will send a link to the specific cricket group for these matches.

Results:

U9 vs Blairgowrie (29th January) - Well done to all the boys who participated in their first hard ball cricket match, you certainly showed progress and amazing results. We won the match by 31 runs.

Date and Day	Sport	Result
30th January	Swimming Gala	Cancelled due to Lightning
Monday 2nd Feb	Cricket	Ter Horst B beat Delta by 80 runs Comm B beat Parkview by 30 runs
Thursday 5th Feb	Cricket	U9 lost to Rosebank by 31 runs Well done to the mini cricket boys for the first games of the season.
Monday 9th Feb	Ter Horst B Comm B vs Sparrow	Ter Horst B won by 8 wickets (Brannon O'Brien 58 runs) Comm B lost by 3 runs (Cooper Marshall 4 wickets for just 5 runs)
Wednesday 11th Feb	Ter Horst A Comm A	Ter Horst A won by 8 wickets (Hunter Mullins 45, Ollie Rowles 3 wickets) Comm A won by 75 runs (Alex Oldnall 102, Hunter Pringle 54)
Thursday 12th Feb	Mini Cricket U9 Cricket vs Delta	TBC
Friday 13th Feb	Swimming Gala	TBC

Upcoming Fixtures

Date and Day	Sport
Monday 16th Feb	Ter Horst B vs Sparrow Comm B vs De La Salle
Wednesday 18th Feb	Ter Horst A vs De La Salle Comm A vs De La Salle
Thursday 19th Feb	Mini Cricket U9 Cricket
Friday 20th Feb	Gala at Craighall vs Blairgowrie, Louw Geldenhuys and Curro Aurora

ADVERTS:

CRAIGHALL / CRAIGLANDS KARATE

DISCIPLINE • CO-ORDINATION • CONFIDENCE • CONTROL

WEDNESDAY

13h30-14h00 in the Grade 1 quad

R780 PER TERM

NO REGISTRATION FEES

STUART HULLEY • 083 417 6315

sandtonksikarate@iafrica.com

ALL INTERESTED CHILDREN WELCOME TO TRY OUT!

