



“Not For Ourselves But For All”

FROM THE HEADMASTER’S DESK:

“Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.” – Thomas Jefferson

Honesty is one of the most fundamental virtues a person can have. At Kopano, we emphasize that being truthful and acting with integrity are just as important as academic and sporting achievements. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or within clubs and extracurricular activities, honesty builds trust, strengthens character, and fosters a strong sense of responsibility.

In the classroom, honesty means being truthful in one's work—acknowledging when help is needed, submitting original work, and taking ownership of mistakes. It teaches students that growth comes from effort, not shortcuts. On the sports field, honesty is reflected in playing fairly, respecting opponents, and accepting victories and defeats with grace. Within clubs and extracurricular activities, honesty strengthens teamwork and leadership by ensuring that students commit to their responsibilities with sincerity.

As educators, our staff instils honesty by creating an environment where students feel safe to tell the truth. We encourage open conversations, highlight the value of integrity, and ensure that honesty is recognized and appreciated. Parents play a key role in reinforcing this virtue at home. Encouraging children to speak truthfully, take accountability for their actions, and demonstrate integrity in daily interactions helps build strong moral foundations that will serve them throughout their lives.



Our inter-school sporting fixtures continued this month, providing our students with valuable competition experience.

- **Softball:** Our U11 and U13 girls' softball teams faced Clifton twice this term. Although Clifton had the upper hand in both matches, these games were an excellent learning experience for our players. Competing against strong opposition teaches resilience, teamwork, and the importance of continuous improvement.
- **Cricket:** Unfortunately, weather conditions disrupted many of our fixtures this term. Our U11 matches against Kgaswe and Clifton had to be cancelled, but our U13 side managed to compete against both schools. Their game against Kgaswe was close and competitive, but Clifton, with four players representing the Northern Botswana side, proved too strong. We are proud to have had two boys, Mohammed Essack and Kala Yame Onkabetse represent Kopano at the U13 Northern trials earlier this month. Unfortunately, they were not able not make the final team.
- **Swimming:** Congratulations to Marco Smit and Panashe Elias for being selected for the ISAB Northern Swimming Team! They competed in the North vs. South Gala hosted by Matshwane School in Maun on March 22. The competition was extremely tough, but both swimmers achieved personal bests—an achievement worth celebrating! Thank you, Marco and Panashe, for flying the Kopano flag high.
- **Athletics:** Our high school athletes finally had their postponed inter-schools athletics competition in Francistown at the beginning of March. Many of our students performed well, with several finishing in the top three in their respective events.





- **High School Gala:** On March 22, our high school swimmers competed in the Inter-Schools Gala hosted by Clifton. The competition was fierce, but we had some strong individual performances. Well done to all our students who participated!
- **Moana Production:** A big highlight this term was our school's small production of Moana. This was the first play directed by our dedicated teachers, Mrs. Pelotshweu and Ms. Clarke, and it was a resounding success. A lot of hard work went into this production from both students and staff, and we are incredibly proud of everyone involved.
- **Inter-Schools Quiz:** Our quiz team took part in the ISAB Inter-Schools Quiz earlier this month, hosted by Flamingo School in Sowa. It was a great learning experience, and the students thoroughly enjoyed their overnight trip.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Sponsors

Kopano School would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the generous sponsors who supported our two talented swimmers in the recent North vs South Gala. Your contributions made it possible for them to compete at the highest level, representing the North with pride.

*A special thank you to **Nardi Investments (PTY) LTD** for securing and covering the accommodation costs for Panashe Elias for two nights—your generosity ensured he could focus entirely on his performance.*

*We also deeply appreciate the substantial financial contributions made towards Marco Smit by **Motor Rewind Centre, S.P Electrical, Jumbo Warehouse, and Selebi Phikwe Citrus**. Your support played a crucial role in making his participation possible.*

Your commitment to young athletes is truly commendable, and we are proud to have such strong community backing. Thank you for investing in the future of our swimmers!

**Thank
you!**



**JUMBO
WAREHOUSE**

Assessment Week went smoothly, and reports for the term will be sent to parents on April 10. We encourage all parents to sit down with their children and review these reports together. This allows children to see your interest in their progress, discuss areas for improvement, and celebrate achievements. Remember to praise where praise is due, as encouragement plays a huge role in building a child's confidence and motivation.

On a sad note, we will be saying goodbye to Mr. Ramsden, our dedicated Grade 5 teacher, at the end of the term. He has accepted a new teaching position out of town, and while we are sad to see him go, we wish him all the best in this new venture. Mr. Ramsden has made a significant contribution to Kopano, both in the classroom and on the sports field, and he will certainly be missed by students and colleagues alike. Thank you, Mr. Ramsden, for your dedication and passion—you will always be part of the Kopano family.

As we approach the end of the first term, I encourage all students to use this holiday as a time to rest, recharge, and prepare for the opportunities that Term 2 will bring. Whether in academics, sports, or cultural activities, there is always room to grow and achieve new goals.

To our parents and guardians, I wish you all safe travels if you are heading out of town. Enjoy this quality time with your children, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting second term.

Warm regards,
SM Phillips
Headmaster

It is with heavy hearts that we acknowledge the passing of Mr. Machola. His sudden departure was a great shock to both our staff and the wider Kopano community. Mr. Machola was more than just a colleague—he was a mentor, a friend, and a dedicated educator who touched the lives of many. His warmth, kindness, and unwavering commitment to his students will be deeply missed.

A respected member of our school, Mr. Machola always went the extra mile to support his learners, inspiring them with his passion for teaching and his gentle encouragement. His impact extended beyond the classroom, where he fostered a sense of belonging and care among both students and staff.

To honour his memory, a memorial service was held in our school shelter, where colleagues, students, and friends gathered to pay tribute to his remarkable life and legacy. He was laid to rest in his home village of Ramokgwebana, surrounded by loved ones who cherished him.

During this time of mourning, we extend our deepest condolences to his family. May they find comfort in the outpouring of love and support from all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of those he influenced, and he will always be remembered as a valued member of the Kopano family.



Rest in Power Mr. Machola





KNOW YOUR TEACHER Q&A

Mr. Shumba

1.What inspired you to become a teacher?

A teacher who taught me in Grade 5, who helped me to understand some concepts that had been a challenge for me.

2.How long have you been working in education, and what brought you to Kopano School?

I have been in the education sector for more than 2 decades. What brought me to Kopano was the reputation of the school. I have always enjoyed adding value to organisations which have good reputations.

3.What is your favourite subject or area to teach, and why?

Mathematics. It helps with critical thinking and problem solving.

4.What do you enjoy most about working with students?

Seeing them responding to whatever they are learning and changing in behaviour for the better.

5.Can you share a memorable moment or success story from your teaching career?

Every time I witness a student discovering something new is usually memorable to me.

6.What do you like to do in your free time or as a hobby?

I enjoy quiet meditation and writing whatever I will be meditating upon.

7.If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

I would go to Israel. I want to touch the ground where my Lord and Saviour lived and walked.

8.What is one interesting or fun fact about yourself that your students might not know?

I am loving but very strict.

9.Who was your favourite teacher when you were a student, and why?

Mr Shiri - my Grade 5 teacher. He managed to unlock my understanding. He was passionate to see every child succeeding.

10.If you weren't a teacher, what career do you think you'd be in?

I would be a salesman. I love talking to people.



APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



IMPORTANT DATES

10 April

- Reports sent Home

11 April

- Easter Bonnet (P5)
- End of Term 1 - School Closes at 10:00

12 May

- Staff return

13 May

- Start of Term 2 – Assembly @ 07:15

16/17 May

- High School Quiz/Debate/Tennis -@ Kgaswe

21 May

- U9 & U11 Soccer vs Mophato @ KPS

22 May

- English Assessment

24 May

- U13 Soccer & Netball Tournament @ Kgaswe
- Zana Charity Run
- High School Debate @ Clifton
- High school Basketball @ JMS

28 May

- Maths Assessment
- High School Soccer vs Morula
- U9/U11/U13 Netball and Soccer vs Morula @ KPS

29 May

- Ascension Day – Public Holiday (NO School)

30 May

- Spelling Bee – Round 1
- Grade 4 – 7 Cake Sale
- High School Chess, Soccer and Netball vs Eastern Gate Academy @ KPS

31 May

- FESTIVAL OF COLOURS, including Colour Run