



KOPANO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"Not For Ourselves But For All"

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK:

"The dictionary is the only place where success comes before work." – Vince Lombardi

Virtue of the Month: Diligence

At Kopano, we believe that diligence is more than just working hard; it is about perseverance, dedication, and taking pride in our efforts. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or in extracurricular activities, diligence builds character and shapes individuals who are prepared for life's challenges.

In academics, diligence means showing up every day, putting in consistent effort, and embracing challenges as opportunities to grow. Success is rarely instant—it is earned through determination and a willingness to push through difficulties. In sport, diligence fosters discipline and resilience, teaching students the value of persistence and teamwork. Similarly, in clubs and extracurricular activities, those who are diligent develop skills that help them achieve their goals and make meaningful contributions to their teams and communities.

Parents play a vital role in nurturing diligence at home. Encouraging children to set goals, establish productive routines, and complete tasks with care instils a strong work ethic. Praising effort rather than just outcomes reinforces the idea that hard work leads to success. At Kopano, our staff is committed to demonstrating and encouraging diligence in all aspects of school life, helping students understand that dedication and perseverance are far more valuable than any single achievement.

As Headmaster, I firmly believe that an individual's work ethic tells me more about them than their results ever will. The ability to remain consistent, determined, and resilient is a far greater indicator of future success than grades or trophies alone.



Helpful Tips for Parents to Encourage Diligence at Home

1.Create a Routine – Establishing a consistent daily routine helps children develop good habits and discipline. Encourage them to set aside dedicated time for homework, reading, and other responsibilities.

2.Set Realistic Goals – Help your child break tasks into smaller, manageable steps. Celebrate progress rather than just final achievements.

3.Encourage a Growth Mindset – Teach your child that mistakes are part of learning. Emphasize effort, perseverance, and problem-solving over immediate success.

4.Limit Distractions – Create a focused environment for study time by reducing screen time and setting clear expectations for when work needs to be completed.

5.Be a Role Model – Children learn by example. Demonstrate diligence in your own work, commitments, and responsibilities.

6.Recognize and Reward Effort – Acknowledge your child's hard work with positive reinforcement. A simple "I'm proud of your effort" goes a long way in building motivation.



February Highlights

Inter-Zonal Gala – February 8

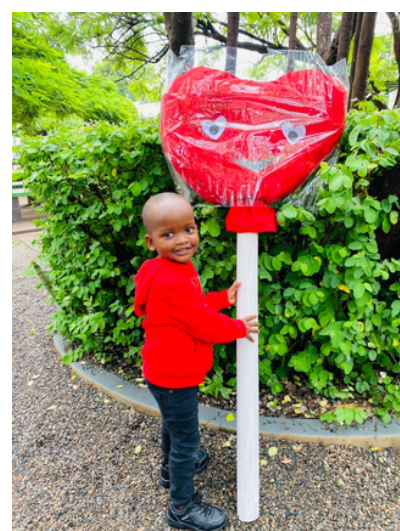
We were proud to host a fantastic Inter-Zonal Gala, competing against Morula, Swaneng, and Kgaswe to find the top swimmers in our zone. Congratulations to the 13 Kopano swimmers who have advanced to the next round! They will compete in the Northern Zonal Gala at Clifton School in Francistown on Saturday, 1 March. We wish them all the best!

Valentine's Day Civvies

Our Valentine's Day Civvies event was a great success! The school was brightened up by the vibrant reds, pinks, and whites associated with the day. Thanks to the enthusiasm of some of our Grade 4 parents, we were able to sell waffles to students, which added to the fun and festive atmosphere. A big thank you to everyone who participated and supported this event!

Weather Disruptions

The rainy season has certainly tested our patience, with several sporting events unfortunately cancelled. Our U13 7-a-side cricket festival and high school cricket fixture against Morula were both washed out, much to the disappointment of our eager players. Last weekend, a government directive required all schools to close due to adverse weather conditions, which meant making some necessary adjustments to our calendar. Our high school athletics team will now compete at Clifton and JMS on Friday, February 28, and Saturday, March 1. We wish them every success!



Cultural Activities

Our Form 1 students kicked off their journey at Kopano with a wonderful orientation outing to La 'Amour Gardens in Mmadinare. It was a fantastic opportunity for students and teachers to bond outside the classroom.

This week, our Form 3 students will take their learning beyond the classroom with an educational visit to Maartensdrift, where they will explore Immigration, BURS, and Customs offices to see their studies in action.

Meanwhile, our Form 4 students—the leaders of our school—are eagerly anticipating their leadership weekend at Tantebane. This retreat is designed to equip them with valuable leadership skills that will serve them well both at school and in their future endeavours.



Parent/Teacher Consultations and New PTA Structure

Thank you to all the parents who attended our recent parent/teacher consultations. These meetings are an essential part of your child's education, allowing for open communication between home and school. A child's education is a partnership, and full parental involvement is key to their success.

We are also excited about a new approach to the PTA. Instead of a traditional committee, parents have opted for a class representative system. Each class now has a designated representative who will communicate with other parents about fundraising initiatives and opportunities to support the school. This system will only succeed if parents actively participate, so we encourage everyone to get involved and support their class representatives.

We are looking forward to a rewarding and enriching term ahead. Thank you for being part of the Kopano community and for helping us instil the value of diligence in our students.

Warm regards

SM Phillips

Headmaster



KNOW YOUR TEACHER Q&A

Mrs. Moses

1. **Inspiration to Teach:** Passion for communication and storytelling drives my teaching approach.
2. **Experience and Why Kopano School:** Four years in education, drawn to Kopano for its quality education, academic success, and supportive environment.
3. **Favourite Subject:** Adore teaching Global Perspectives for its life skills and critical thinking focus.
4. **Enjoyment with Students:** Appreciate students' curiosity and growth in confidence and critical thinking.
5. **Memorable Moment:** A shy student became confident in public speaking and expressed gratitude for my support.
6. **Hobbies:** Enjoy writing, singing, photography, and exploring global events, places, and cuisines.
7. **Travel Aspirations:** Desire to visit Korea for its blend of tradition and innovation, especially in storytelling.
8. **Fun Fact:** Interviewed a public figure under pressure before teaching, a thrilling experience.
9. **Favourite Teacher:** My high school English teacher inspired my passion for storytelling and writing.
10. **Alternative Career:** Likely would have pursued journalism or media training if not for teaching.



Mrs. Phillips

1. **Inspiration to Teach:** Family's financial struggles led to a bursary for teacher training.
2. **Experience and Why Kopano School:** 30 years in education; joined Kopano as Grade 4 teacher with Mr. Phillips.
3. **Favourite Subject:** Enjoys teaching English for its creativity; loves teaching Grade 4 for their engagement.
4. **Working with Students:** Values witnessing students' understanding and teaching respect and kindness.
5. **Memorable Moment:** Helped a struggling student at Queen's College by addressing his reading issues, showing the importance of knowing students.
6. **Hobbies:** Enjoys family time, listening to loud worship music, and running.
7. **Travel Aspirations:** Wishes to visit Scotland and France to connect with her parents' heritage.
8. **Fun Fact:** Terrified of heights, loves sweets, and completed the 91-kilometer Comrades Marathon.
9. **Favourite Teacher:** Remembers kind headmistress Miss Shirly James for her elegance and care.
10. **Alternate Career:** Uncertain but would pursue a people-oriented role.



PRIVATE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Kopano School, we are thrilled to support private extracurricular activities that allow our students to explore their interests, develop talents, and build lifelong skills. These activities are independently managed and offer enriching experiences for children of various ages. Below are the exciting opportunities available this term:

Kwena Swimming Club

Led by Mr. Tombo and Mr. Morekisi, this programme is perfect for young swimmers aiming to develop their skills and, potentially, for future Olympians!

- Times: Monday to Friday, 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- Ages: 3 years to 18 years
- Cost: P300 per child per month
- Contact: Mr. Tombo at 72376180

Please note that this club is not part of the school programme.



KPS King's Minds Chess Club

We are excited to announce that the KPS King's Minds Chess Club continues this term, focusing on discovering and nurturing chess talent in children. This engaging club fosters strategic thinking and concentration in a supportive environment.

- Times:
 - Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm (if there are no other school commitments)
 - Saturday mornings: 8:00 am to 10:00 am
- Cost: P300 per month
- Contact: Mr. Machola at 72657662 / 76109070

Please note that this club is not part of the school programme.



Dance Starz Studio

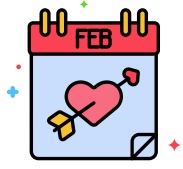
Students with a passion for movement and rhythm are invited to join these dynamic dance classes, offering a blend of contemporary, hip-hop, jazz, and ballet classics.

- Times: Saturday mornings, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
- Cost: P150 per student per month
- Contact: Mrs. Pelotshweu at 75697461

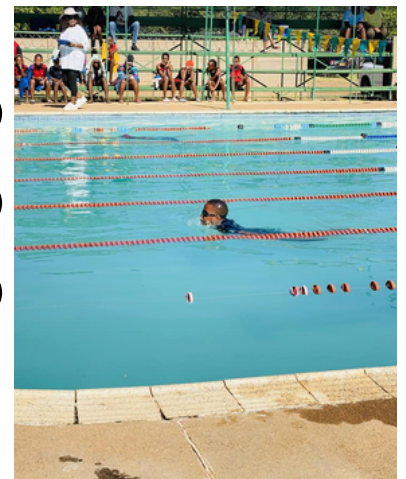
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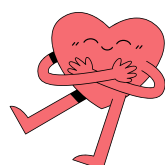
We encourage parents to explore these fantastic opportunities and support their children in pursuing their interests.



THE MONTH IN PICTURES



February





IMPORTANT DATES

05 March

- U11 & U13 Softball @ Clifton

10 March

- Play Matinee

11 March

- School play – 6:30 pm @ PAG

12 March

- U11 Cricket @ Kgaswe

13 March

- Maths Whiz Final

15 March

- Inter-Schools Quiz – Flamingo

17 – 20 March – No afternoon Activities

- **Assessment Week**

21 & 22 March

- North vs South Gala (Maun)

22 March

- High School gala @ Clifton

26 March

- U13 Cricket vs Clifton

27 March

- Board of Governors AGM

02 April

- U11 & U13 Softball vs Clifton @ KPS