



ZWAANSWYK ACADEMY

338 MAIN ROAD

RETREAT 7945

E-MAIL: secretary@zwaanswyk.net



TEL.: (021) 712 2051

FAX: (021) 7121047

13 FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians

HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY, ZWAANSWYK : THE JOURNEY TO BECOMING AN ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL

In 2007, when the current Principal embarked on his Zwaanswyk Academy journey, he was met with the scenario of tiny Afrikaans classes. Officially a dual medium school (having moved from an Afrikaans medium school), the Afrikaans classes were significantly smaller than English medium ones. For instance, the Grade 1 (2) and 2 (3) Afrikaans class was a combined one with 5 learners. The Grade 9 class had 8 learners with a WCED teacher. The English medium classes were considerably bigger (20+), with an SGB employed educator. There were two classes per grade (one English

and one Afrikaans). Dual medium implied that the two languages enjoyed equal status.

It soon became apparent that the small classes were not economically sustainable, as we were not getting any Afrikaans applications. It was then decided, with some opposition, to phase out the Afrikaans medium classes. In January 2009 we took in only English medium Grade 1 learners, and the school grew from fewer than 300 learners to the 747 learners we have today.

Next week we will delve into the various principals who have served Zwaanswyk Academy.



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SYSTEMIC RESULTS 2025

The results of the 2025 systemic evaluations for English Home Language and Mathematics have been published, and Zwaanswyk Academy has again done very well.

GRADE 3			
LANG PASS %	LANG AVE %	MATHS PASS %	MATHS AV %
91.4%	75.1%	87.1%	73.8
GRADE 6			
LANG PASS %	LANG AVE %	MATHS PASS %	MATHS AV %
89.5%	65.8%	90.7%	74%

SOCIAL MEDIA AND OUR LEARNERS

This week we learnt that Australia, France, and a host of countries have placed an age restriction of 16 on accessing and using social media. This is a significant development as it points to the acknowledgement that our children are not mature enough to deal with all that social media entails and exposes them to.

This week we were alerted to chat groups amongst learners. While a number of learners shared that their parents had controls on their phones, many more said that they did not experience these controls. They spoke of unexpected images appearing, inappropriate language being used in chat groups, and bullying and nastiness being prevalent.

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It is important that we are vigilant how our children use what is often state-of-the-art phones. Especially chat groups should be monitored. Before it is too late.

GRADE 4 LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Grade 4 learners are currently researching the history of their school. Exciting!!

FLAG BEARERS



Because of the Valentines Day event by the Student Council, we did not have assembly, and thus no flag bearers.

SENSORY SAVVY WORKSHOP: 03 March 2026

In our quest to better serve our learners, teachers will be trained in how best to support the diverse needs of learners.

Learners will be **dismissed at 1.30pm on Tuesday 03 March 2026** to allow teachers to attend this 2 ½ hour workshop presented by Beacon LSEN (*Learners with special educational needs*) School.

There will thus be no extra-mural activities on 03 March 2026.

DIARY INFORMATION

It is vital that every parent completes the information sheet, with accessible telephone numbers, in the diary. This week we had two instances where we

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had to call parents after 5.30pm because learners were stranded. In the one instance it was easy, as all the information was there. In the other, there was absolutely no contact information.....

VALENTINE'S PICNIC

The Student Council's Valentine's picnic was a hive of activity amidst a sea of colour, and even the drizzle could not dampen the enthusiasm. Picnic blankets were paid out on the netball courts, and with karaoke in the background, the atmosphere was amazing!! Thank you so much, Parents, for buying into this event. You're amazing! The Student Council, who organised the event – you're awesome!!

Photographs (lots!) on Facebook.

EISTEDDFOF MATTERS

It's time to get ready for participation in the annual Afrikaans Eisteddfod! Please look out for the letter and entry forms. Zwaanswyk Academy has a proud history of participation which is part of our efforts to get learners to improve Afrikaans.

U – TURNS: please do not do this



U-Turns – still happening (sad face). Even in the Main Road.

Response from a learner when the principal asks her dad not to drop off in a prohibited spot : "Sir, I TOLD him he can't stop here".

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PLEASE LIMIT THE DROP-OFFS



A heartfelt appeal to Parents to please limit the number of drop-offs. Every drop-off

has a ripple effect, and we ask (again) that these be kept to a minimum. Thank you so much for your cooperation in this regard.

ART EXHIBITION

Mr Kenneth Alexander, a Parent who assists with our Art Club, is currently exhibiting his original work in Loop Street. Please feel free to support. Well done Sir!



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RIP MR PRINS

Mr George Prins, who served Zwaanswyk Academy for 15 years as groundsman, and whose retirement we celebrated in August last year, will be laid to rest at 9am on Saturday 14 February 2026 at the Church of the Nazarene in Steenberg. The Zwaanswyk Family unites in sharing sincere and heartfelt condolences with the family.

SPORT

• SWIMMING

Our learners performed very well at the first gala of the year at Muizenberg Junior on Thursday. Demonstrating grit and determination our team secured a close third place behind powerhouses Kommetjie and Bergvliet. The message was clear... we're coming to get you!!

SWIMMING LEADERBOARD

1. Kommetjie Primary, 122
2. Bergvliet Primary, 114
3. Zwaanswyk Academy, 95
4. Generations School
5. Muizenberg Junior

• ATHLETICS

Our athletes performed with pride and determination last Saturday, and can be very proud of their performance.

The following athletes have qualified for the District Championships on **21**

February 2026 at **Blue Downs Stadium.**

Well done!!

1. Armani Abrahams, 1500m
2. Dorian Barron, H J
3. Blaine Abrahams, LJ, 80m, 100m
4. Kacey Solomons, 1200m
5. Luca Davis, 1200m

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6. Kenya Frank, SP, Discuss
7. Zachariah van Heerden, SP, Javelin
8. Presley Tshimuena, HJ
9. Benaya Ngoma, 80m, 100m
10. Lilah Txala, 80m
11. Levi Hoffman, 80m
12. Claudia Venancio, 100m, 200m
13. Connor Petersen, SP
14. Day-Lee Ambraal, 800m
15. Seth Jantjies, Javelin, Discus
16. Hunter Ford, Discus

• CRICKET RESULTS

Date		11.02.2026	
AGE GROUP		U11	
HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM	
WESTCOTT		ZWA	
Runs	33	Runs	33
Wkts	4	Wkts	2
Result: Match tied			
Top batsman: Sithasolwazi Makasi			
Top bowler: Aiden Nimmerhout			
POM: Mason Daniels			



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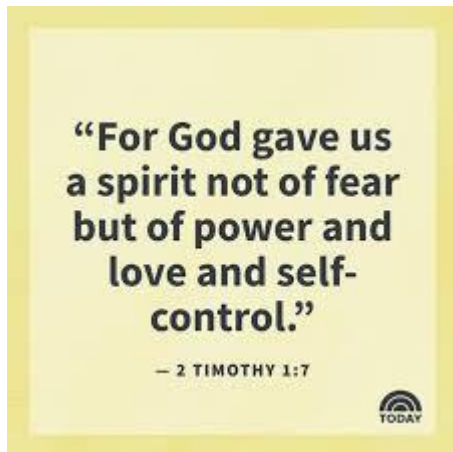
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IN PRAISE OF GOD



FOR YOUR 1st TERM DIARY

VALUE	LEADERSHIP
	Birthday: Ms C. Assur
07 Jan	Birthday: Ms L. v d Meulen
12 Jan	School starts for Staff Induction of new teachers Phase meeting 1 — 3pm
13 Jan	Birthday: Ms I Abrahams Assistants Meeting @ 9am Gr 4 Orientation @ 11am — 12.30pm Staff Meeting @ 1pm
14 Jan	School starts for Learners Dismissal: FP @ 1pm & ISP @ 1.30pm Committees meet @ 1.30pm
15 Jan	Dismissal: FP @ 1pm & ISP @ 1.30pm SMT @ 1.30pm
16 Jan	Dismissal: FP @ 12.30pm & ISP @ 10pm Staff Meeting
17 Jan	Gr 1 Parent Meeting 9 — 11am
19 Jan	Sport & Culture Sign-up

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21 Jan	Parent Meeting: Grade R Parent Meetings: Grades 5 – 7 @ 6.30pm
24 Jan	Gr 2 Parent meeting @ 9-11am
26 Jan	Sport & Culture Programme starts
27 Jan	Birthday: Ms A Crowster Gr R Individual + siblings Photos 10 Day Survey
28 Jan	Transporters Meeting @ 8.15am
29 Jan	Inter House Athletics (all welcome)
30 Jan	Gr 7 Workshop
31 Jan	Gr 3 Parent Meeting @ 9am L1 Netball Coaching Course
VALUE	COMPASSION
01 Feb	L1 Netball Coaching Course
02 Feb	Book Bus Visit
03 Feb	Gr 1 Individual & sibling photos Book Bus Visit
04 Feb	WORLD READ ALOUD DAY METRO visit
05 Feb	Gr 2-4 Individual & sibling photos Staff Photo

	METRO visit
06 Feb	Student Council Braai Inspection Day
10 Feb	Birthday: Mrs J Kirby Gr 5 HPV inoculations
13 Feb	Birthday: Ms Van Deventer Student Council Valentines Day Event
14 Feb	Pre Level Netball Coaching Course
19 Feb	METRO visit
20 Feb	Student Council Assembly
27 Feb	Bathroom Civvies @ R10
28 Feb	Birthday: Mr G Prins (29 th Feb)
VALUE	HONESTY
02 March	Start of Test series Textbook retrieval
03 March	OPEN DAY Music Concert @ 6.30pm Sensory Savvy Workshop for Educators
04 March	METRO Visit
05 March	Birthday: Ms J Elliott

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	METRO Visit
06 March	Gr 4 Assembly
10 March	Birthday: Ms Timmie School Admission Applications Open
13 March	COLOUR ASSEMBLY Finalise textbook retrieval
14 March	L1 & L2 Netball Umpires Course
18 March	METRO Visit
19 March	METRO Visit
20 March	Eid ul Fitr
21 March	Public Holiday : Human Rights Day
24 March	SURF WALK
25 March	Parent/Teacher meetings & Report Issue
27 March	End of Term 1
31 March	Birthday: Ms T Overmeyer

CALLING ALL FORMER ZWA SCHOLARS & STAFF (1976–2026)!

Were you a learner or teacher at ZWA between 1976 and 2025?

Then we're looking for YOU to be part of something special!

As we prepare to celebrate 50 YEARS OF ZWA, we are building our official Alumni Network and would love for you to be part of it.

- ☒ Like our Facebook page
- ☒ Fill in the Google Form to join the ZWA Alumni community

Let's reconnect, celebrate our legacy, and make history – together.

Just because you haven't found your talent yet doesn't mean you don't have one.

Kermit the Frog

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