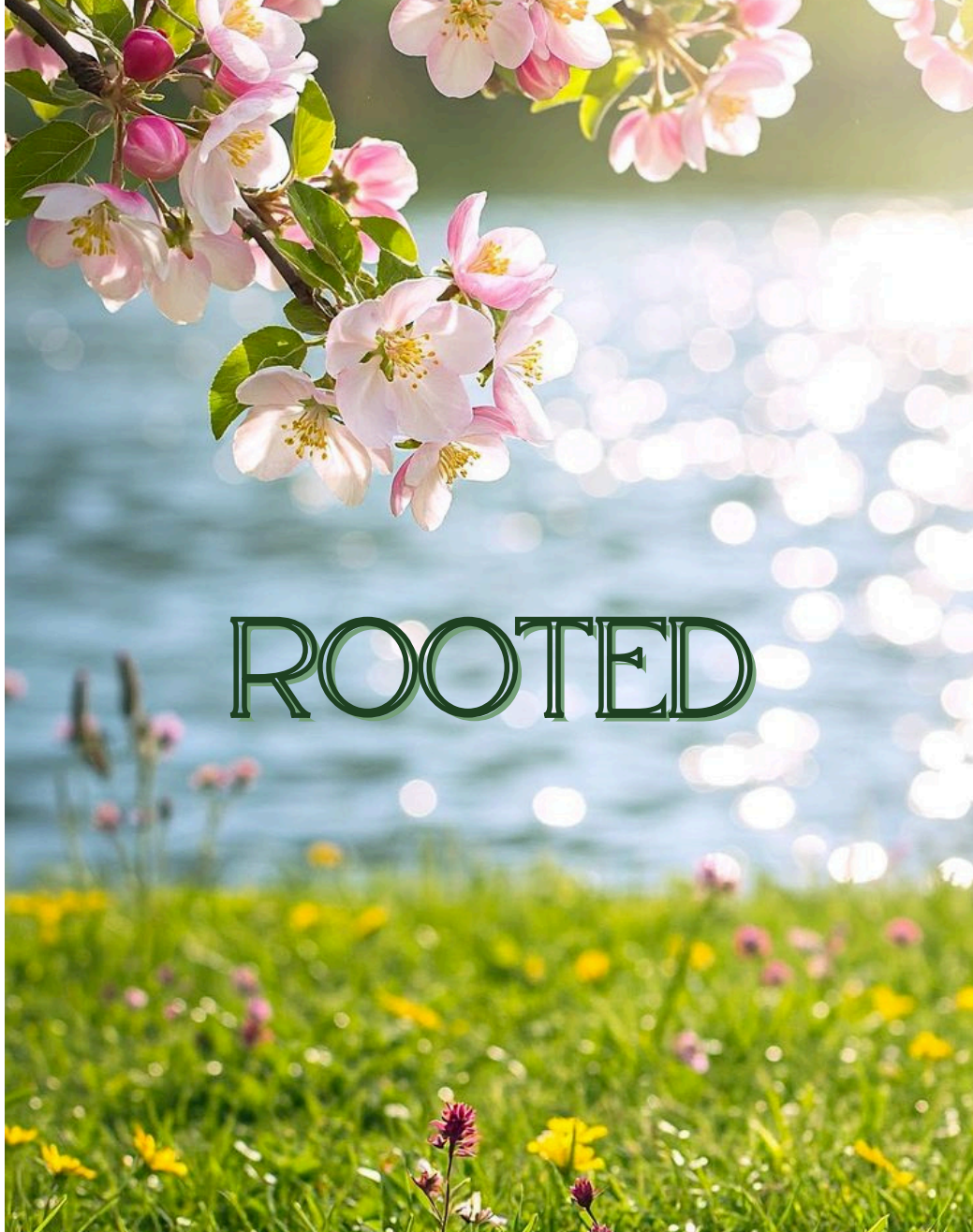


SOMERSET

GAZETTE



VOLUME 2. ISSUE 3.



ROOTED

The season
of bloom and
becoming,
environmental
awareness,
and cultural
awareness - it
all grows
together here.
Turn the page,
let yourself be
rooted.

Note from Managing Director

This edition holds a very special place in my heart. While helping compile it, I couldn't help but feel that it was destined to come together just this way. The message of this edition resonates with me not only on a physical level but also on a deeper, spiritual one.

Spring is the season of growth and renewal. It reminds us that every being- whether with a soul or without- returns to life in harmony, each part of creation praising Allah in its own way. The earth itself awakens, blossoming into a rhythm of beauty and balance, calling us to pause and reflect on the Creator's signs all around us.

It is also a reminder that this earth is an *amānah*, a trust placed in our care. Just as spring breathes life back into the land, we are called to safeguard and nurture it, ensuring its beauty and blessings remain for generations yet to come.

In these pages, I hope you feel that same sense of renewal and inspiration that spring carries with it. I hope it can serve as a gentle reminder that change can be beautiful, and that every ending is also a beginning.

A special thanks to the writers, who have breathed life into these pages with their words, and heartfelt appreciation to the layout team, who have harmonized colours so that each page reflects the vibrance of life itself:

Core team

- Rubab Zaidi (co-managing director) - Juwairiah Salim (layout director)
- Ayesha Omar
- Gulnuz Jorayeva
- Zakia Jahin
- Rahma Djallo
- Ilhaam Hajat
- Rumaisa Vahed
- Juwairia Dawood
- Taufiq Djallo
- Rubayyi Akhalwaza
- Taha MD Zahir
- Wafeeqa Mahomed

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- Asma Lambert
- Aafiya Sunesara

Freelance writers

- Maha Shafique
- Hayia Jamal
- Nabila Nowsin
- Aleena Mehmood

And to Miss Ameera—without whom this edition would not have been possible—your guidance is a voice we can all rely on, one we pray will echo for many years to come, In'shā'Allāh. You continue to help us align our values with our school's motto, "*Hikmet akil kalb*"—where hearts and minds meet—by making this newspaper a place where hearts can whisper their secrets, and minds everywhere can come to understand them.

Written by:

Jannat Ahmed (co-managing director)

"Anything but a Bag Day"

Written by: Nabila Nowsin

Friday, 8 August, was "Anything but a Bag Day" at school. Instead of carrying their books in ordinary school bags, learners arrived with the most creative alternatives they could think of, while also enjoying the freedom of Civvies Day in their casual clothes.

From buckets and baskets to pillowcases and cardboard boxes, the corridors were filled with laughter at the unusual "bags". One learner even carried their books on a rack, drawing plenty of attention from fellow learners.

By the end of the day, it was clear that "Anything but a Bag Day" was a major success. Learners not only managed to carry their books in clever ways but also managed to carry the spirit of fun and togetherness throughout the school. It was a cheerful change from the usual routine and showed that school can be full of fun as well as a place to learn.



Spring Day



Written by: Ilhaam Hajat

Nizamiye turned into a little garden of its own as Spring Dress-up Day unfolded in full bloom. Sunlight danced along the hallways, bouncing off of outfits as bright as the season itself. The scuff of sneakers echoed against lockers, while chatter floated like petals caught in a breeze.

Some learners twirled through the day in beautiful pastels, while others bloomed boldly in flourishing patterns that turned heads with every step. Together, they turned the school into a meadow of personality. By the time the last bell rang, school felt like it had caught a case of spring fever.

For those few hours, spring owned the classrooms. If this was just the start, we can't wait to see how the rest of this season blossoms

Designed by: Fatima Asif and Juwairiah Salim



ESKOM

SCIENCE

expo

Written by: Taha MD Zahir
Designed by: Fatima Nanlawala

On the 26th of July, 9 of our learners participated in the EskomScience Expo, showcasing their creativity, intelligence and their scientific proficiency. The event brought together many young scientists from various schools to present their innovative projects, and our school made us proud with a series of remarkable achievements.

In addition to the above medals, our school was also awarded a few special awards - *Raghad Irhuma* and *Le Mariam Kassa* received "**Best energy project**"



Nizamiye Mayfair was recognized as the **Top Performing School**, and also awarded the **Beacon of Discovery** award for being the school with the highest number of entries. A special mention goes to *Mr Osman Babacan* and *Miss Fatema Ismail* who were awarded **Champion Educator of the year 2025** for Gauteng South – a truly rewarding moment for Mr Babacan who is the expo propagator for high-school learners, driving them with motivation and faith in science.

Every learner who represented our school worked with dedication and presented their projects with confidence and enthusiasm. Their hard work truly paid off, and we are incredibly proud of each participant.

We congratulate all our future scientists and are thrilled to see what they come up with next!

Bronze Medal Winners

- *Rubab Zaidi*
- *Rahma Diallo*

Silver Medal Winners

- *Ilhaam Hajat*
- *Rumaisa Vahed*
- *Tanaaz Shaikh*
- *Juwairiah Salim*

Gold Medal Winners

- *Abdurrahman Irhuma*
- *Raghad Irhuma*
- *Le Mariam Kassa*
- *Maghfira Mohammed*
- *Nazheeneen Khan*

The Wits Integrated Experience (WIE)

This year, 5 of our grade 11 learners had an opportunity to participate in the Wits Integrated Experience (WIE). The announcement of the WIE filled our learners with both excitement and curiosity. They spoke to previous participants and wondered how the 2025 experience would be. The learners were especially eager to be introduced to the Wits campus.

Our learners described the WIE as the most memorable event of the year so far. Part 1 of the WIE began where the assignment, **Day Zero**, was explained- a future with no water in South Africa. This session was both concerning and thought-provoking as it made participants aware of the severity of water shortages. After that, learners were taken to explore each of the five faculties present at Wits where they made links between the faculty at hand and Day Zero. A period of two months was given to all participants to come up with a solution to Day Zero, while keeping all the faculties in mind. Hereunder the 5 learners and the faculties they each represented:

Fatima Ijaz- Law and Commerce

Gulnur Jorayeve- Sciences

Rahma Diallo- Humanities

Ayesha Omar- Health sciences

Rubab Zaidi- Engineering

Part 2 of the WIE gave learners the opportunity to present their solutions. This was truly a proud moment as our learners presented their solutions in front of a panel of judges and learners from other schools. The 'question-answer session' after each presentation made this part quite interactive and informative. Lastly, all the participants were taken to the Great Hall where they received recognition for the hard-work, effort, and time to make the WIE successful.

The WIE was hands-on, and this made the experience quite unique for the learners. They were not just required to take notes and listen to lectures, but rather were able to actively brainstorm, discuss and plan possible solutions all together. The experience was enhanced when each group member uniquely contributed to the assigned project. This highlighted that learning is beyond memorising facts- it includes exploring and trying out new ideas.

The learners were given the opportunity to interact with people from other schools and explore their approach to the topic. The energy and enthusiasm of the participants created a lively and inspiring environment.

Aside from the lessons, the learners were able to explore the vastness and beauty of Wits university which instilled hope in some of them to be students at Wits after finishing school.

A big thank you goes to *Miss Hafsa* and *Miss Mahnoor* for guiding our learners throughout this unique experience.

Written by: Fatima Ijaz

Designed by: Fatima Nanlawala



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DEBATE COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

JUNIORS

Written by: Taha MD Zahir

On the 26th of July, our learners had the wonderful opportunity to attend the debate competition held at **Star College Pretoria**. The junior team representing our school included: *Aminata Saccogh, Hamdi Salah, Yusrafa Ali, Faiza Jatt and Taha Zahir*. Each speaker was given 4 minutes of time to present their arguments.



The first round featured **Nizamiye Mayfair** vs **Nizamiye Midrand** on the topic: *"Should hate speech be criminalised even at the cost of free speech?"*. Nizamiye Mayfair represented the proposition side, while Nizamiye Midrand represented the opposition side. After an hour of preparation, the debate commenced. Our school performed exceptionally by winning the debate. **Aminata Saccogh** stood out with an outstanding performance and was awarded best speaker of the round.

The second round featured **Star College Durban Girls** vs **Nizamiye Mayfair** on the topic: *"Social media companies should take responsibility for the content posted on their platforms."* Our team once again represented the proposition side with Star College Durban Girls on the opposition. Following another hour of research, the debate began. It was a close and intense battle, and while Star College Durban Girls took the win, our learners displayed excellent skill, confidence, and teamwork.

Although we didn't bring home the final trophy, the experience was incredibly valuable. We are immensely proud of our team for their dedication and performance, and we look forward to even greater achievements in the future.



Designed by: Fatima Nanlawala

SENIORS

Written by: Zakia Jahin

The senior debate team of **Nizamiye Mayfair** took part in an inter-school competition hosted by **Star College Pretoria**. As one of their first debate experiences beyond the familiar walls of their own school, the event provided a meaningful opportunity to connect with students from other schools, share perspectives, and gain exposure to a wider debating community. Representing Nizamiye Mayfair were *Rubab Zaidi, Jannat Ahmed, Zakia Jahin, and Fadila Turbe*. Each participant brought a unique perspective and individual strengths to the competition, contributing to a memorable experience.



The team's first match was against **Star College Durban Boys School**, where **Nizamiye Mayfair** took the role of the opposition in debating the motion: *"Teachers should avoid discussing culture wars."* The topic required a deep understanding and confident rebuttals, and while the team delivered a strong performance, Star College Durban Boys School ultimately secured the win. A highlight of the round was *Rubab Zaidi* being awarded *Best Speaker*, recognizing the precision of her arguments.

In the second round, the team faced **Star College Midrand** as the proposition, debating the motion: *"Cancel culture is a tool for social justice."* The match was highly competitive, and the final result was separated by just a single point. Although Nizamiye Mayfair lost the round, the close outcome reflected the team's growth and resilience throughout the competition.

The finals featured **Star College Durban Girls** and **Star College Cape Town Girls**, with Star College Durban ultimately taking the win. Observing the final round offered further insight into advanced debating techniques and strategies.

Although Nizamiye Mayfair didn't walk away with a trophy, the experience proved to be incredibly rewarding and educational. It pushed each participant to think critically, speak with conviction, and work as a cohesive team. More than anything, it offered valuable insight into the world of competitive debating, laying the foundation for future growth. Congratulations to our participants for their efforts in representing our school and we look forward to more inter-school debate competitions in the future.

THE FOUNTAIN COMPETITION

Written by: Gülnur Jorayevea

The Fountain Magazine is a magazine from the Fountain Trust organisation which touches on all aspects of modern life, ranging from science, biology and religion. It always features a lead article by Fetullah Gülen Hocaefendi, bringing joy to readers of all ages by interconnecting knowledge and religion. With this magazine, arises an opportunity to both enjoy and learn as our Trust schools hold an annual competition based on it.

On the 1st of August our fountain magazine team made us proud once again by keeping the winning streak of our school. Our team consisted of three members, namely *Aminata Saccogh, Zakiyyah Sutlan Ravat and Gulnur Jorayevea* (from grades 9B, 11B and 11A respectively). This team was selected through the results based on two internal rounds which took place in the first and second terms in our school.



The Fountain Competition took place in Star College Bridgetown in Cape Town and our members made their way to Cape Town accompanied by Mrs. Medine, Mrs. Guncha and Mr. Erbay on the 31st of July, a day before the nerve-racking competition. The competition consisted of 35 multiple choice questions which earn 10 points each and were all based on the January, March and May 2025 issues of the magazine. There was a total of 8 Trust schools which took part in the competition and each of them displayed proof of their hard work and effort as they all wanted 'The Number One' title which was also accompanied by a prize of R1000 per member of the team. Our school took the spotlight with their shocking streak as they answered each question without breaking a sweat and won the competition with 340 points (34 questions out of 35) leaving their mark on the Fountain Magazine competition once again.

After all that stress, all the students were taken out for sightseeing and visiting various places all around Cape Town and enjoyed a well-deserved rest. We congratulate our team and hope to see newer faces and more fierce competition accompanied by fun in the upcoming years.

Designed by: Zeenat Haq

The Matric

Written by: Zakia Jahin

On the 12th August 2025, Nizamiye Mayfair came alive with emotion, laughter, and heartfelt memories as we celebrated our annual Matric Valedictory Ceremony, a tradition that marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another for our Grade 12 learners.

The day began with a graceful entrance of our beloved teachers and matriculants, each Grade 12 student receiving a single rose symbolising growth and the beauty of a journey now drawing to a close. The venue, beautifully decorated by the Grade 11's, reflected the care and thoughtfulness behind every detail. This year's theme, "cottage core", brought a whimsical charm to the space, with soft florals and rustic elegance.



The ceremony, guided by MCs Fatima Ijaz, and Ilham Khan, opened with Sumaya Ahmed's heartfelt dua, which quieted the hall and set an emotional tone. Principal Mr. Akinci then spoke on how "everything that begins must one day end," blending reflections on life, learning, and the inevitable changes that shape us. His words were a gentle reminder of the fleeting nature of school years. The emotional peak continued with speeches by Maryam Ravat and Naaila Moosa, who thanked teachers and friends with tearful gratitude. Naaila's reflection on how quickly high school passes struck a chord with everyone present. A slideshow followed, filled with nostalgic snapshots and moments that tugged at our hearts.

Former Deputy Principal, Ms. Zainab Mayet offered practical advice on studying and university life, grounding the emotions with wisdom and encouragement. Following her insightful words, came a burst of laughter, a hilarious play by the Grade 11's, portraying teachers with playful accuracy. It was a moment of lightness that brought smiles to every face.

"GO CONFIDENTLY IN THE DIRECTION OF YOUR DREAMS.

Valedictory Service

Fariha Kgwale took the stage to thank her hostel sisters, her teachers, and friends, expressing her love and appreciation with touching sincerity. This was followed by Fizza Muhammad reminding the Grade 11's and 12's that time is fleeting, urging them to seize every moment. A motivational video from Head Girl, Romisaa Fadel echoed through the hall: "The sky is not the limit, it's just the beginning." Her message was a powerful reminder of the hard work and resilience of the matriculants. Following this, Mustakima Mohammed recited a heartfelt poem, calling her class teacher Ms. Deniz a mother figure, blending humour and affection. Soon after, Rana Iruhuma, with honesty, shared her journey through growth, acknowledging the patience and support of her teachers. A touching video tribute from Ms. Shamshaad, whose decades of teaching had shaped countless lives. Her motto, "Teamwork makes the dream work," was a guiding light for the matriculants. She ended with a beautiful sentiment: "This is not goodbye, it's Fiamanillah—I leave you in the care of Allah, and nothing is ever lost in His care."

Deputy Principal, Ms. Ameera Fakir delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the Grade 11's, support staff, teachers, management, and everyone who made the day possible. The celebration continued in the Admin Hall. Ms. Denise and Ms. Shamshaad shared final words of wisdom, with Ms. Shamshaad reciting Sonnet 130, adding a poetic touch to the farewell.



Lunch was served, laughter echoed, and dancing filled the room. It was a moment of joy, unity, and celebration—a perfect ending to a day that honoured the journey of the Class of 2025.

As the Class of 2025 closes this chapter and prepares to step into the next, they carry with them the love, lessons, and laughter of their school years. We honour not only their remarkable journey but also the unwavering support.



Designed by: Zeenat haq

Live the life you have imagined." — Henry David Thoreau

TABLE TENNIS

Written by: Aleena Mehmood

CHAMPIONS! NIZAMIYE MAYFAIR
TAKES 1ST PLACE IN THE UNDER-18
TABLE TENNIS SPORTS LEAGUE!

Written by: Maha S. Muhammad

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This term, learners participated in another impressive table tennis competition. Unlike previous terms, however, they competed against other districts, some of which were Johannesburg West, East, Central, and North. The learners represented the Johannesburg South district with great dedication and determination.

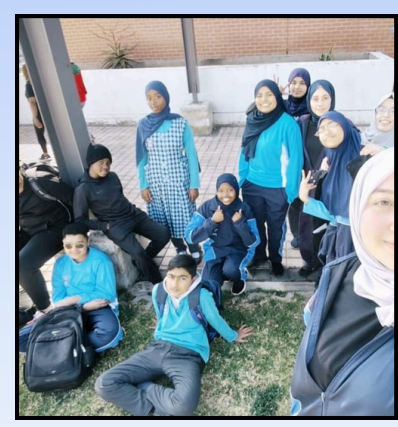
The following learners participated in the under-14 (U14) category:

- Fatima Halom
- Sena Akinci
- Naseeha Kaka
- Aleena Mehmood
- Abubakker Muhammad
- Obaid Raza, Abdul Rehman
- Musab Rajab

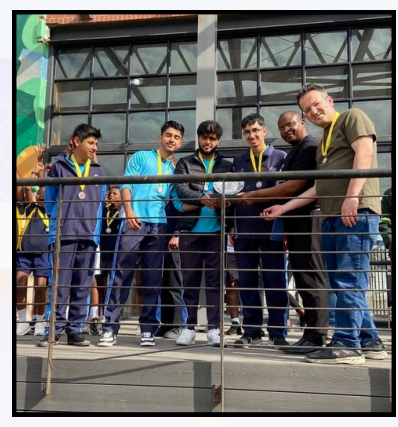
The competition took place over 2 days (12th and 26th of August) at Paterson Park multi-purpose centre. Each student played 2-3 games each day, showing their commitment and passion for table tennis.

At the end of the competition, the U14 category achieved 2nd position in the competition. Although they may not have won the tournament, we are still extremely proud of the learners for their hard work, especially as it was a major achievement for our school to compete across the district level. A special mention goes to Mr Babacan for organizing the competition and accompanying our learners.

Designed by: Juwairiah Salim



Juniors



Seniors

In August, our school proudly represented Johannesburg South at the Under-18 Table Tennis Sports League at the Paterson Park Multipurpose Center - and what a tournament it turned out to be!

Nizamiye Mayfair entered the competition with a strong team of eight players: four girls and four boys. The girls' team consisted of Grade 11 learners: **Maha S. Muhammad, Gülnur Jorayeve, Zakiyyah Sultan Ravat,** and Grade 10 learner: **Fadilah Turbe.** The boys' team included four Grade 10 learners: **Akmal Muhammad, Aniq Gul, Abdurrahman Irhuma, and Mazhar Mansoor**

The league was played over two match days. The first of which was held on 12 August. Each player participated in two matches, competing in both singles and doubles. Thanks to their teamwork, focus, and determination, Nizamiye emerged victorious in all matches played on the first day.

The second match day took place on 26 August. Once again, every player faced-off in two matches against tough opponents. The games were intense, but our Nizamians showed resilience and skill. By the end of the day, both the girls' and boys' teams secured first place in the Under-18 category-making Johannesburg South the champions of this tournament!

During the awards ceremony, the entire team was celebrated for their outstanding performance. Each player proudly received a medal, and together they lifted the trophy, a moment that will remain unforgettable.

This victory is a true reflection of hard work, unity, and the sporting spirit of our school. Congratulations to our talented players for making us proud and for setting the bar high for future tournaments!

Designed by: Juwairiah Salim

PROVERTO OLYMPIAD- 2nd ROUND

Written by: Nabila Nowsin

Our students have once again shown their commitment to academic excellence by participating in the Proverto Olympiad. Focused on Economics, Business Studies, and Accounting, the Olympiad continues to be a powerful platform for Grade 10, 11, and 12 learners to grow their knowledge and showcase their skills.

After a strong showing in the first round, a group of our learners successfully progressed to the second round, where they had the opportunity to engage with more advanced material and represent our school with pride. Their hard work, preparation, and enthusiasm were evident throughout the competition.



The participants:

Grade 10:

- Zahrah Vally Omar (Accounting)
- Mousa Maguiraga (Business/UJ fimo)
- Rumaisa Vahed (UJ Fimo)

Grade 11:

- Gulnur Jorayeva (Accounting/UJ Fimo)
- Nazheneen Khan (Accounting/UJ Fimo)
- Rubab Zaidi (Accounting/UJ Fimo)
- Ayesha Omar (UJ Fimo)
- Ilhaam Khan (Business/ UJ Fimo)

Grade 12:

- Fizza Muhammad (Business / Economics)
- Ajwa Asif (Business)
- Mahin Surti (Business/ UJ Fimo)
- Laila Dawood (Business / UJ Fimo)
- Mustakima Mohammed (Business/ UJ Fimo)
- Saeeda Abdullah (Business/ UJ Fimo)
- Fatima Palel (Business)
- Suwaydah Schroeder (Business)
- Fariha Kgwale (UJ Fimo)

PROVERTO
Educational Publishers • Opvoedkundige Uitgewers

We are incredibly proud of all participants and extend a special congratulations to those who made it to the next stage.

Designed by: Juwairiah Salim

AMS CROSS COUNTRY



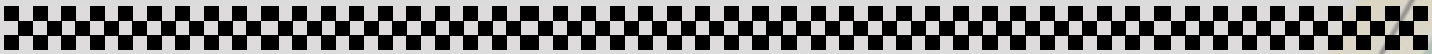
Written by: Juwairiah Salim



On Wednesday, 10 September 2025, 24 enthusiastic learners from our school proudly participated in the **AMS Cross Country** event, hosted by **Auckland Park Academy of Excellence (APAX)** at the **Rietvlei Zoo Farm**.

In preparation for the big day, our learners trained diligently on school grounds, running laps and building their stamina. The weather on the day was ideal with a gentle breeze creating the perfect conditions for a successful race.

Our learners gave it their all and performed exceptionally well, showcasing not only their athletic ability but also their determination and team spirit.



Participants included:

Under 15 Girls:

- Asma Lambat
- Aminata Saccoh
- Faiza Jatt
- Liyanah Khan
- Raghma Jonkers
- Saliha Pillay

Under 17 Girls:

- Juwairiah Salim
- Rabia Ceyhan
- Rimsha Zulfiqar
- Saniye Babacan
- Siyam Ababulgu
- Yasmin Adan

Under 15 Boys:

- Ahmed Yusuf
- Ayanda Maseko
- Ameen Cheti
- Basit Mahmood
- Mikaeel Kashir
- Waleed Razzaq

Under 17 Boys:

- Abdulhafiz Kemale
- Akmal Muhammad
- Aniq Gul
- Ayman Bambawala
- Huzafa Ismaeel
- Suleman Ali



Among our dedicated runners, Ayanda Maseko delivered an outstanding performance, securing 1st place and the Under 15 Boys team also made us proud by placing 3rd overall in their category.

We applaud every learner who participated, not just for their results, but for the spirit, effort, and unity they brought to the event.

Designed by: Juwairiah Salim



Nizamiye Athletics Day: A Full-Throttle Day of Fun, Speed, and Spirit!

When students stepped onto the field on the 28th August, it was clear: this wasn't just any school day. Books were left behind, sneakers were tied tight, and excitement was in the air. No schoolwork, no homework — just games, races, and non-stop fun. And let's be real, who doesn't love a day where P.E. takes over the entire schedule?

Four fierce houses battled fiercely throughout the day:
Fiery Phoenix – bold, blazing, and impossible to miss
Jade Dragons – fast, focused, and ready to roar
Lunar Panthers – smooth, strategic, and strong
Glorious Griffins – powerful, quick, and wild at heart

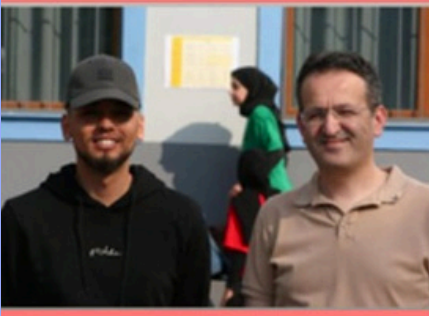
The events were a whirlwind of movement, laughter, and some very competitive chaos. There were nail-biting 100-meter sprints, heart pounding shuttle relays, and the classic egg-and-spoon races that had more than a few scrambled eggs by the finish line.

The tug-of-war ropes stretched and strained under determination, while sack race had students tumbling, laughing, and racing for glory. This year included an octopus race, where teamwork was put to the test as pairs stumbled their way to the finish line. Also new was the warrior challenge which had participants crawling, climbing, and sprinting through an obstacle course, while the ball pass race tested focus, as players worked together to pass balls overhead and under without dropping them. Even the shotput throw had the field in suspense every time it flew through the air.



War cries echoed across the field, each chant louder than the last, urging teammates forward with every jump, throw and sprint. By the end of the day, it all came down to a heart stopping finish:

- 1. Jade Dragons 332
- 2. Fiery Phoenixes 326
- 3. Lunar Panthers 311
- 4. Glorious Griffins 272

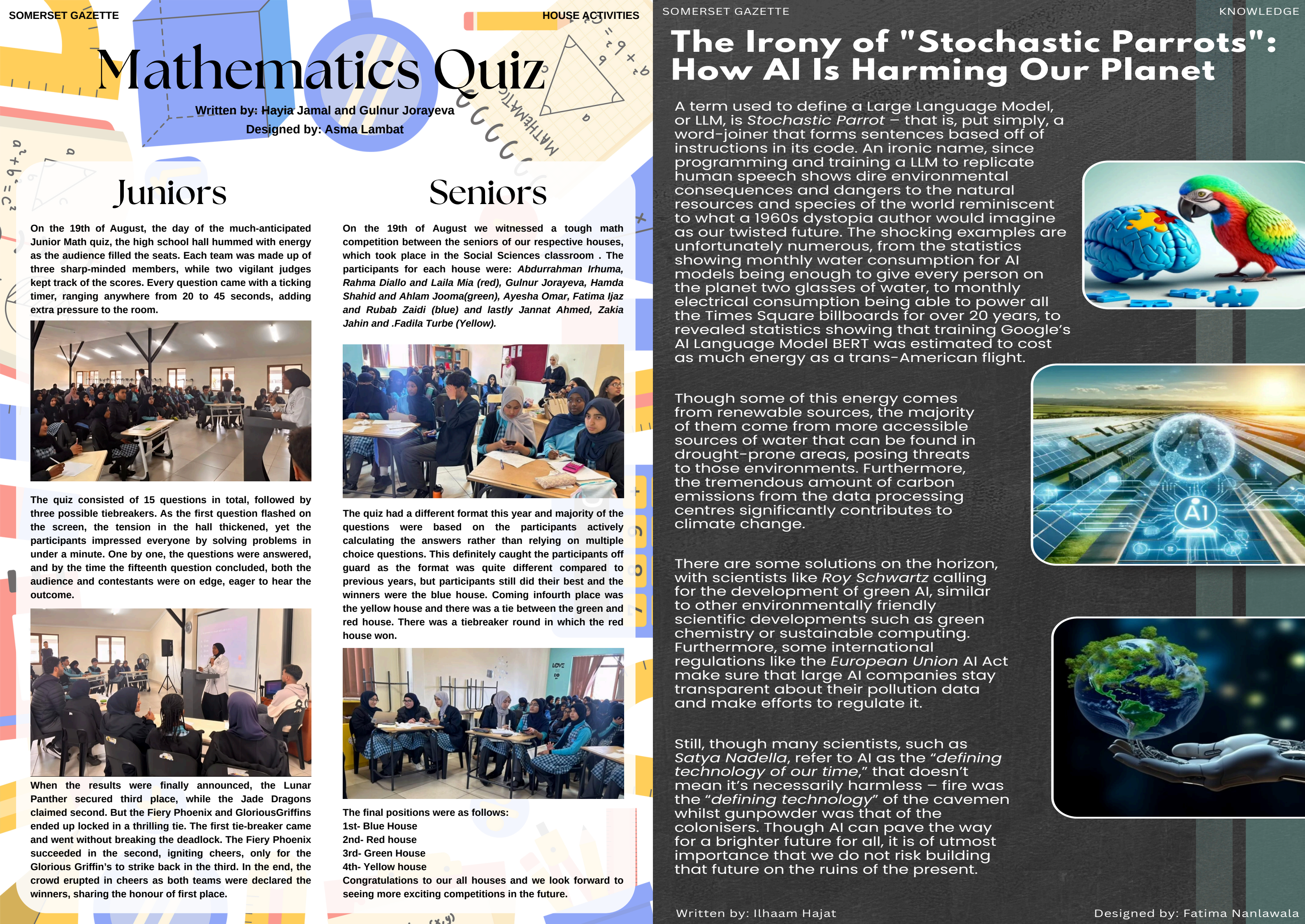


Written by:
Hayia Jamal and Wafeeqa
Mohammed(junior girls)
Rumaisa Vahed and Juwayria Dawood (senior girls)
Taufiq Diallo and Taha MD Zahir (boys)
Designed by : Aafiya Sunesara

As if the competition wasn't exciting enough, the school treated everyone to free ice cream. Whether you were sprinting for gold or chilling on the sidelines, nothing beat cooling off with a cold, creamy cone under the sun. But athletics day wasn't only about running. The stage also lit up with incredible performances during the talent showcase. The boys talent show had dancers showing off their moves, reciters delivering heart-touching qiraat, and even a few surprise comedy acts. The competition was tough and the audience was left amazed by the creativity and confidence of their classmates.

By the end of the day, faces were sweaty, shoes were dusty, and hearts were full. Win or lose, everyone walked away a champion — and maybe a little sunburned, too. The students had an unforgettable and amazing day. So here's to Nizamiye House Athletics Day: a full-speed, full-smile kind of day that reminded us all that school can be fun, fast, and full of flavour (especially vanilla ice cream).





Mathematics Quiz

Written by: Hayia Jamal and Gulnur Jorayeve

Designed by: Asma Lambat

Juniors

On the 19th of August, the day of the much-anticipated Junior Math quiz, the high school hall hummed with energy as the audience filled the seats. Each team was made up of three sharp-minded members, while two vigilant judges kept track of the scores. Every question came with a ticking timer, ranging anywhere from 20 to 45 seconds, adding extra pressure to the room.



The quiz consisted of 15 questions in total, followed by three possible tiebreakers. As the first question flashed on the screen, the tension in the hall thickened, yet the participants impressed everyone by solving problems in under a minute. One by one, the questions were answered, and by the time the fifteenth question concluded, both the audience and contestants were on edge, eager to hear the outcome.



When the results were finally announced, the Lunar Panther secured third place, while the Jade Dragons claimed second. But the Fiery Phoenix and GloriousGriffins ended up locked in a thrilling tie. The first tie-breaker came and went without breaking the deadlock. The Fiery Phoenix succeeded in the second, igniting cheers, only for the Glorious Griffin's to strike back in the third. In the end, the crowd erupted in cheers as both teams were declared the winners, sharing the honour of first place.

Seniors

On the 19th of August we witnessed a tough math competition between the seniors of our respective houses, which took place in the Social Sciences classroom . The participants for each house were: *Abdurrahman Irhuma, Rahma Diallo and Laila Mia (red), Gulnur Jorayeve, Hamda Shahid and Ahlam Jooma(green), Ayesha Omar, Fatima Ijaz and Rubab Zaidi (blue) and lastly Jannat Ahmed, Zakia Jahin and .Fadila Turbe (Yellow).*



The quiz had a different format this year and majority of the questions were based on the participants actively calculating the answers rather than relying on multiple choice questions. This definitely caught the participants off guard as the format was quite different compared to previous years, but participants still did their best and the winners were the blue house. Coming infourth place was the yellow house and there was a tie between the green and red house. There was a tiebreaker round in which the red house won.



The final positions were as follows:

- 1st- Blue House
- 2nd- Red house
- 3rd- Green House
- 4th- Yellow house

Congratulations to our all houses and we look forward to seeing more exciting competitions in the future.

The Irony of "Stochastic Parrots": How AI Is Harming Our Planet

A term used to define a Large Language Model, or LLM, is *Stochastic Parrot* – that is, put simply, a word-joiner that forms sentences based off of instructions in its code. An ironic name, since programming and training a LLM to replicate human speech shows dire environmental consequences and dangers to the natural resources and species of the world reminiscent to what a 1960s dystopia author would imagine as our twisted future. The shocking examples are unfortunately numerous, from the statistics showing monthly water consumption for AI models being enough to give every person on the planet two glasses of water, to monthly electrical consumption being able to power all the Times Square billboards for over 20 years, to revealed statistics showing that training Google's AI Language Model BERT was estimated to cost as much energy as a trans-American flight.



Though some of this energy comes from renewable sources, the majority of them come from more accessible sources of water that can be found in drought-prone areas, posing threats to those environments. Furthermore, the tremendous amount of carbon emissions from the data processing centres significantly contributes to climate change.



There are some solutions on the horizon, with scientists like *Roy Schwartz* calling for the development of green AI, similar to other environmentally friendly scientific developments such as green chemistry or sustainable computing. Furthermore, some international regulations like the *European Union AI Act* make sure that large AI companies stay transparent about their pollution data and make efforts to regulate it.

Still, though many scientists, such as *Satya Nadella*, refer to AI as the "*defining technology of our time*," that doesn't mean it's necessarily harmless – fire was the "*defining technology*" of the cavemen whilst gunpowder was that of the colonisers. Though AI can pave the way for a brighter future for all, it is of utmost importance that we do not risk building that future on the ruins of the present.





TENNIS

june-july

GRASS, GRIT AND GREATNESS

2025

Wimbledon 2025 unfolded like a gripping novel, one where every serve, rally, and celebration felt like a plot twist. The world's oldest and most prestigious tennis tournament once again reminded us why it holds such a powerful place in the world of sport. From high-stakes showdowns to heartfelt farewells, this year's matches left audiences breathless and inspired.

Carlos Alcaraz, the 22-year-old Spanish phenomenon, stormed into the final with his usual fire, facing off against Italy's Jannik Sinner in a match that felt less like a game and more like a war of wills. For nearly five hours, they exchanged thunderous groundstrokes and razor-sharp tactics, dragging each other to the edge. Alcaraz emerged victorious, not just with the trophy, but with the respect of millions who watched his resilience play out point by point. His ability to turn defence into offense in a heartbeat left even seasoned commentators struggling to find words.

On the women's side, Poland's **Iga Świątek** stepped onto the grass

WIMBLEDON

Written by: Rumaisa Vahed



with something to prove, and she did exactly that. Known for her dominance on clay, many doubted her ability to conquer Wimbledon's unpredictable surface. But match after match, she adapted and conquered, culminating in a commanding victory over America's **Coco Gauff**. The final wasn't just a clash of talent, it was a masterclass in mental strength. Świątek's quiet intensity and near-flawless footwork turned the court into a canvas, and every shot painted a picture of control. There were also surprises,

bright sparks of the future breaking through. Among them was 17-year-old British wildcard **Amara Weston**, who stunned crowds by taking down a top-ranked opponent in her second match. Her game was bold and raw. Though her run didn't take her to the finals, her fearless style made it clear: the next generation has arrived, and they aren't here to wait their turn.

And then came a moment that had the entire stadium standing still. **Andy Murray**, the man who once carried the weight of British tennis on his shoulders, stepped onto Centre Court possibly for the last time. The applause was thunderous, but the emotion was quiet, etched into the faces of fans who had grown up watching him fight, fall, and rise again. He didn't win his final match, but he left the court as a legend.

Wimbledon 2025 wasn't just a tournament, it was a story of legacies being built, torchbearers bowing out, and new voices rising in a sport that continues to evolve. For young tennis fans, and even those just beginning to understand the game, this year reminded us that greatness isn't always loud, it's consistent, it's brave, and it leaves a mark long after the final point is played.

Green and Gold

Written by: Rumaisa Vahed

South African rugby has always had its wizards, but no one has galvanised unity and patriotism more than coach **Rassie Erasmus**. As the director of South African rugby, he has won **two** Rugby World Cups and transformed the national team into a formidable force. It's not just the on-field achievements but also the inspiration **Rassie** has brought to South Africa as a whole. The entire nation has united behind the sport, and it has become a source of pride for all South Africans.

Rassie has created a multi-cultural team that optimises **Mandela's** dream of a rainbow nation. He achieved this through development and the selection of the best athletes across all racial groups based purely on merit. Some of his famous quotes capture the heart of his philosophy: "We're not playing for ourselves anymore, we are playing for our people back home," and "You need players who take ownership, who challenge themselves to be the most professional and to be the best in their position."

Under **Erasmus**, the Springboks have been built on unity and trust. The squad shares a brotherly bond with each other; they are not merely a team, they are a family. They achieve this by granting trust among one another and leaving their egos aside to focus on the greater good of the team.

This rugby season has been a roller coaster of heartbreak, revenge and redemption. It all exploded at **Ellis Park** in Johannesburg. With the stadium feeling electrified, South Africa shot out of the blocks with an early lead that had fans already celebrating. But in true Hollywood fashion, **Australia** flipped the script, scoring six unanswered tries and leaving the **Bokke** stunned at **22-38**. Silence fell over **Ellis Park** as the shock spread, and the 'number-1 world ranking' slipped away in one weekend.

Just when that sting was starting to fade, Cape Town answered. A week later, same opponents, new attitude. This time discipline ruled the dance. Smart kicks, grinding scrums, and **Handré Pollard's** boot did the job, while **Canan Moodie**, **Kwagga Smith** and **Eben Etzebeth** crossed the line to close out a gritty **30-22** win. The stadium erupted. The chants were back. Everything felt right again.

Then came the first New Zealand clash at **Eden Park** in **Auckland** on 6 September. No team has won there since 1937, and this year's **All Blacks** (New Zealand) side looked unbreakable at home. Despite every fan's hope, the **Boks** couldn't quite get there, going down **24-17** in a tough but narrow loss.

In the match that followed in **Wellington**, the **Springboks** flipped the script in historic fashion. In front of a stunned New Zealand crowd, South Africa produced their heaviest ever test win over the **All Blacks**, running out **43-10** winners. Power, precision and relentless defence turned the match into a statement of intent, showing exactly why **Erasmus** is testing combinations and demanding resilience from his squad.

Now all eyes are on the final stages of the Rugby Championship. The Springboks face **Argentina** in Durban on **27 September** before closing out the tournament at **Twickenham** in **London** on **4 October**. With selection changes already rumoured and tactical tweaks on the cards, this is the moment the **Boks** can carry their momentum forward or rewrite the storyline entirely.



AMERICA



FROM TRADE WARS TO SUBMARINES



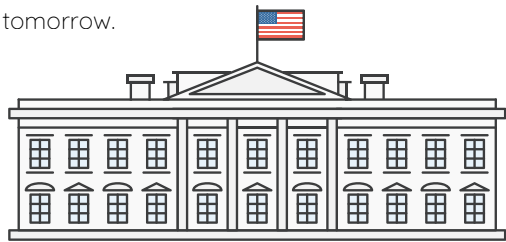
Written by: Rumaisa Vahed

When **President Donald Trump** announced in August that the United States would impose a 30% tariff on goods from South Africa, the news sent ripples through both nations. For South Africa, this meant a heavy blow to industries like car manufacturing and agriculture which have long relied on exports to the American market. Factories quickly felt the pressure and surveys showed business confidence dropping. Economists warned that thousands of jobs could be at risk if sales kept shrinking, and the government rushed to set-up support packages and search for new export markets. But trade never exists in isolation, and what damages one link often strengthens another. With South Africa now facing restrictions in the United States, there is fresh energy in its trade relationship with countries such as China. Chinese exports to Africa have already been climbing at record levels this year and now Beijing seems ready to step even further into the gap. From soybeans to cars to machinery, China is presenting itself as a steady buyer and supplier.



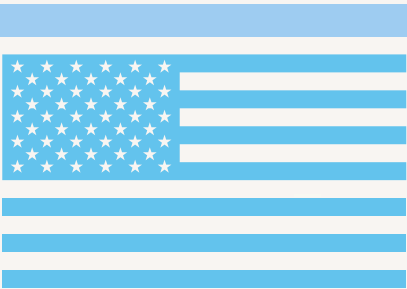
At the same time another move by **Trump** highlights the tense and unpredictable nature of global politics. In August, he revealed that he had ordered two American nuclear submarines to be moved into “appropriate regions” after hostile remarks from former Russian president **Dmitry Medvedev**. The statement was vague and gave no details about where the submarines were going or what weapons they carried – yet the symbolism was clear. Nuclear submarines are among the most powerful tools in America’s arsenal and even a suggestion that they are being shifted sends a signal of strength. For many observers this is less about actual military action and more about projecting power and

warning rivals that careless words have consequences. Demonstrating how quickly global politics can turn - one week the headlines focus on tariffs and trade, the next week they are about submarines gliding through international waters. Both stories remind us that we live in a world where one decision can tilt economies or raise the temperature of international security overnight. It is a reminder that history is not written in distant textbooks but in headlines we read today, and the echoes of those choices may shape the future we inherit tomorrow.



Written by: Rumaisa Vahed

◆ The Death of Charlie Kirk ◆



Those were the final words **Charlie Kirk** spoke, according to witnesses, just moments before he was fatally shot during an open debate at Utah Valley University. Kirk, the founder of Turning Point USA, had been addressing a crowd of students when a gunman fired from a nearby rooftop. Kirk briefly clutched his neck before collapsing from his chair, sending attendees feeling. He was 31 years old. Six officers were working the event along with a private security team and there were more than 3,000 people present at his “prove me wrong” debating table, taking questions from the audience. The moment was one of devastating irony. Kirk had just been asked, “Do you know how many transgender Americans have been mass shooters over the last 10 years?” to which he responded, “Too many.” He then engaged in a technical debate, asking, “Counting or not counting gang violence?” Seconds later, the man who was clinically quantifying acts of violence became a victim of a sudden, violent attack himself. In a cruel twist, the commentator on violence was transformed by it. Kirk was a well-known speaker with strong and often controversial opinions. He strongly supported the right to own guns, saying that some gun deaths were a sad but acceptable price to pay for that freedom. On social issues, he believed women should have traditional roles and was completely against abortion.

“Counting or not counting gang violence”



He often made inflammatory statements about race. He argued that Black people are more violent toward white people, and he criticized movements like Black Lives Matter. He also made offensive comments about Islam, comparing its prophet to a criminal and saying the religion doesn't fit with Western values. **President Trump** and his supporters were deeply shocked and angered by Kirk's death. Trump described the killing as a “dark moment for America.” and he felt it was so significant that he ordered all American flags to be flown at half-staff as a sign of respect and mourning. He expressed his sorrow by calling Kirk a “patriot” who loved open debate. But he was also very angry, blaming his liberal opponents for the assassination. He felt that their harsh and hateful rhetoric had created a climate of violence that led directly to the tragedy. He demanded that it

“ Must stop right now”
Initial reports from law enforcement indicated that there were two suspected shooters. They were described in their late teens or early twenties and were seen fleeing the scene immediately after the attack. Authorities launched a large-scale manhunt and have not yet publicly identified a motive for the assassination. Charlie Kirk's assassination forces a haunting question upon us all: Is any political view worth killing for?
His death, in the very act of debate, becomes a dark mirror to a nation tearing itself apart over words turned weapons. If we allow disagreement to be settled with bullets instead of ballots, what remains of a free society?



FOOTBALL: SPAIN



Written by: Rubayyi Akhalwaya

SPANISH DREAM TURNS INTO A NIGHTMARE

On the 6th of July a group of young and ambitious players along with 3 coaches from the **BT Football Academy** departed from South Africa to Spain for a football tournament, the **Donosti Cup**.

Unfortunately on the 16th July, when the team had planned to come back home, they discovered they had no return flights and were stranded in Spain. The **BT Football Academy** which had organized this trip did not pay for the return flights due to inflated costs and visa delays. Only five of the young players from the group had return flights. The rest were now stranded in a foreign country with neither accommodation nor food. This was because the owner of the Academy had failed to book return flight tickets for 20 boys, 5 girls and 3 coaches.

The players were allegedly evicted from their accommodation, with the 3 coaches having to using their own money to help provide food and transport for the team. The team went to the Madrid airport to find shade while one of the coaches arrived with meals for the children, paid for from his own pocket.

The players were allegedly evicted from their accommodation, with the 3 coaches having to using their own money to help provide food and transport for the team. The team went to the Madrid airport to find shade while one of the coaches arrived with meals for the children, paid for from his own pocket.

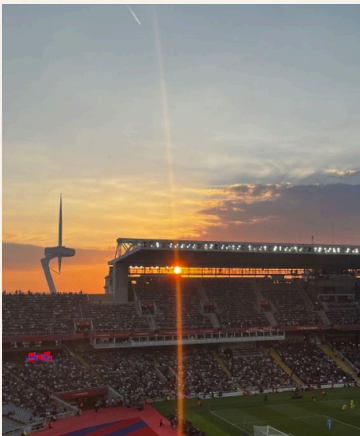
Parents, friends and the media were left in significant stress about the kid’s safety and arrival back home. They were left anxious as schools were about to re-open and the children had not yet returned.

BT Football Academy had been planning this trip from November 2024, with the cost per player coming approximately to R30 000 each. Concerned citizens of Cape Town, as well as family and friends of the players, have called on the **Department of International Relations and Cooperation** (DIRC) and the local community leaders for assistance.



The public began calling for government intervention. On the 23rd July the DIRC confirmed that the group of footballers and coaches were staying in a hotel and were safe. Family members, friends and the community then all clubbed together to secure flights and the group has now safely returned to Cape Town.

Upon their arrival, parents rushed to the airport to meet their kids and thank the 3 coaches who used their own finances to help the young footballers. Relief swept the air as the Spanish dream which turned into a nightmare had finally come to an end; and our young football stars had returned home.



Designed by: Yusairah Syed

THE SOMERSET GAZETTE

ADVICE
Column

LIFESTYLE

Written by: Taha Zahir

Q: I want to change certain aspects of my personality (e.g. how I dress), but I’m scared people will think I’m being fake or trying too hard to fit in. How do I become more confident without overthinking everything?

A: Growth can feel awkward, but it’s not fake. You are allowed to try different versions of yourself until you find the one that feels right. Some people will judge, but more people will respect you for owning who you are and expressing your true self.

Q: Spring is here, and everyone is talking about “new beginnings.” I want to change some habits, but I always quit after a week. How do I actually stick to a fresh start?

A: Start small, like planting a seed. A whole garden can’t grow in a week – it takes time. Pick one habit and focus only on that habit until it feels natural. Then add the next habit. Real growth is slow, steady, and the results are beautiful.

Q: I care about the environment, but I feel like one person can’t make a difference. Recycling seems pointless when the world is so polluted. What’s the point?

A: Think of it like spring cleaning. One small action might not fix everything, but it makes your space better, and it inspires others too. If everyone thought “my actions don’t matter,” nothing would change. But when each person plants a seed, recycles, or saves energy, it adds up to a storm of change. Your effort matters more than you think.

Designed by: Zeenat Haq

Vanilla custard cake

Ingredients:

- 5 eggs
- 1 and ½ cups white sugar
- 1 and ¾ cups flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1/3 cup oil
- ¾ cup boiling water
- 2 tsp vanilla essence

Method:

1. Whisk the eggs till light and fluffy, add in sugar gradually.
2. Sift the flour and baking powder into the sugar-egg batter. Mix mildly
3. Add remaining liquids (oil, boiling water and vanilla essence)
4. Pour into a 2 fully line 20cm round trays and bake 20-25 in baking tin. Check that the cake is done with a toothpick and bake longer if needed.
5. Run a knife along the sides of the cake, leave the cake to cool in the pans for about 29 minutes and then release and cool on a wire rack.

Cream icing

1. Whip the cream and icing sugar till stiff.
2. Add in the custard and whip till stiff peaks form being careful not to overwhip.
3. Decorate cakes with cream icing and chopped strawberries.

Ingredients:

- 400ml fresh cream
- 200ml custard
- 2-3 tbsp icing sugar

Lemon Herb Chicken

Ingredients

- 4 chicken breasts
- Juice & zest of 1 lemon
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- Fresh thyme & rosemary
- Salt & pepper

Method:

1. Mix lemon juice, zest, garlic, herbs, and oil.
2. Marinate chicken for 30 mins.
3. Grill or pan-fry until golden and cooked through.

Written by: Juwayria Dawood
Designed by: Ilhaam Hajat

EVERYTHING IS IN THE REMEMBRANCE OF *Allah*

Written by:
Ayesha Omar
Designed by:
Ilhaam Hajat

Have you ever stopped to think that the entire universe around you is alive in worship?
The Qur'an reminds us:

***"The seven heavens and the earth and all that is in them glorify Him. There is nothing except that it exalts Allah by His praise, but you do not understand their glorification."* (Al-Isra 17:44)**

This means that every bird in the sky, every wave in the ocean, every leaf that stirs in the wind, all of them are engaged in tasbeeh (glorification of Allah).

How does everything glorify Allah?

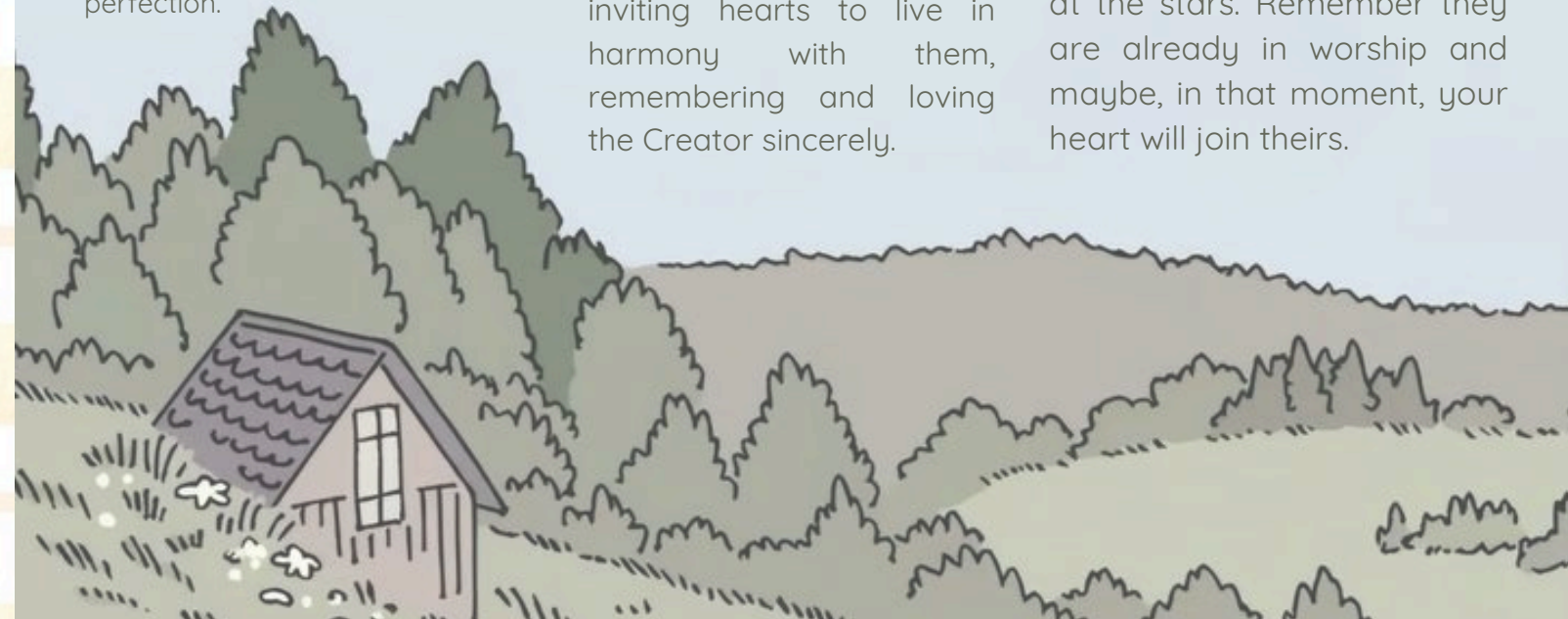
Conscious tasbeeh occurs where beings like humans, jinn and angels praise Allah knowingly, with words and intention. However natural tasbeeh occurs in everything else. Thus trees, animals, stones, oceans and even atoms glorify Allah by obeying the laws He placed in them. A tree grows upward, rain falls, planets orbit, the sun rises and sets, all exactly as Allah commands. Their obedience is their worship. Tasbeeh is not limited to words we say on our tongue. The very existence of creation, it's order, it's rhythm, it's obedience to Allah, is a constant praise of Him. Every heartbeat, every particle in motion, every star in its orbit all declare His perfection.

What does this mean for us?

This awareness changes how we see the world. While the skies, the trees and the birds are all remembering Him without pause, human beings are invited to join that same chorus of praise. When you gaze at the stars in the night sky, you witness countless points of light each in perfect submission, orbiting and shining exactly as Allah commands, silently glorifying their Creator. The breeze, the mountains and the animals are already whispering His Name, inviting hearts to live in harmony with them, remembering and loving the Creator sincerely.

The Qur'an says: "Do you not see that to Allah prostrates whoever is in the heavens and whoever is on the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, the mountains, the trees, the moving creatures and many of the people?" (Al-Hajj 22:18)

Everything bows in its own way, willingly or unwillingly. To realise this is to see the world not as silent or empty, but spiritually alive in constant glorification of the Creator. So the next time you step outside, pause. Look at the sky. Listen to the birds. Watch the leaves sway. Gaze at the stars. Remember they are already in worship and maybe, in that moment, your heart will join theirs.



Book Recommendations

The Nature of Jade by Deb Caletti

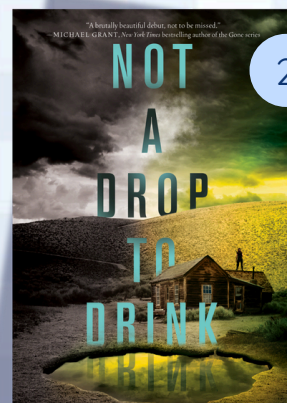
1



Jade DeLuna has always lived with a shadow over her—panic attacks that make her feel like life is closing in. To cope, she finds herself watching the elephants on the zoo's live webcam, soothed by their steady presence. That's where she notices him: a boy who visits often, always with a baby by his side. Curiosity pulls her out of her comfort zone and into a story that's bigger than she ever imagined. Through Jade's journey, readers are reminded of the healing power of nature, the importance of human connection, and the courage it takes to step into the unknown. This is a thoughtful, heartwarming read for anyone who's ever felt trapped by fear and found freedom in unexpected places.

Not a Drop to Drink by Mindy McGinnis

In a future where clean water is scarce, survival has become the only goal—and trust is a dangerous luxury. Lynn has grown up learning to defend her home and her pond at all costs. With her rifle always at hand, she knows that strangers could mean danger, and compassion could mean death. But when new challenges force her to consider whether living only to survive is enough, Lynn begins to question what kind of world is worth fighting for. Raw, gritty, and beautifully written, this novel pulls readers into a chilling yet strangely hopeful vision of the future. It asks the question: when resources run out, will we cling to fear—or find strength in each other?



2

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

For more than a century, this beloved classic has enchanted readers with its magical message of renewal. At its heart is Mary Lennox, a girl used to loneliness and neglect, who finds herself in a sprawling, mysterious estate in England. There she stumbles upon a hidden garden, locked away and forgotten, waiting to be brought back to life. As the garden blooms under her care, so too does Mary's heart, as she discovers friendship, courage, and the joy of nurturing something fragile. Perfect for springtime reading, this timeless story reminds us that even in the darkest seasons, life and love can grow again when given a chance.



Written by: Rubab Zaidi
Designed by: Ilhaam Hajat

MOVIE RECS

Written by:
Wafeeqa Mahomed
Designed by:
Ilhaam Hajat



WHIPLASH 2014

running time 106 MINUTES
directed by DAMIEN CHAZELLE
produced by JASON BLUM HELEN ESTABROOK DAVID LANCASTER
MICHAEL LITVAK
starring MILES TELLER J.K. SIMMONS MELISSA BENJOIST

Whiplash (2014)

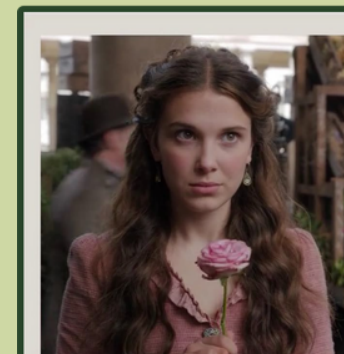
★★★★☆

An electrifying drama about a young drummer, **Andrew Neiman** (played by Miles Teller), who enters a prestigious music school—and faces an intense teacher, **Terence Fletcher** (played by J.K. Simmons), who will push him to the edge. This film dives into themes of ambition, discipline, and the fine line between motivation and madness. For those with ears for fine tuning, director **Chazelle** is well known for creating intense, immersive scenes—and this movie was exactly that. A must-watch for anyone chasing a dream.

When her mother disappears, **Enola Holmes** (played by Millie Bobby Brown), the younger sister of the famous **Sherlock Holmes** (played by Henry Cavill), sets off on her own mystery-solving adventure. A smart, fun, and empowering story that blends action, wit, and self-discovery. Also featuring Helena Bonham Carter as their mother, **Eudoria**, this movie is perfect for fans of strong female leads and clever twists. This movie will keep you guessing and rooting for **Enola**.

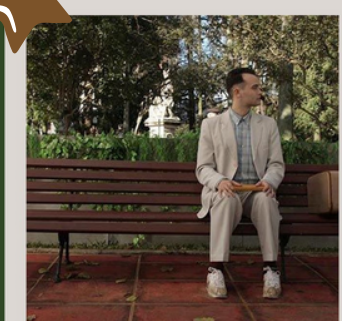
Enola Holmes (2020)

★★★★☆



ENOLA HOLMES 2020

running time 2hr 1min
directed by HARRY BRADBEER
produced by HARRY BRADBEER ALEX GARCIA ALI MENDES
starring MILLIE BOBBY BROWN LOUIS PARTRIDGE HENRY CAVILL



FORREST GUMP 1994

runtime 142 MINUTES
directed by ROBERT ZEMECKIS
produced by WENDY FINERMAN STEVE TISCH
CHARLES NEWIRTH STEVE STARKEY
starring TOM HANKS REBECCA WILLIAMS SALLY FIELD

Forrest Gump (1994)

★★★★★

This beloved classic tells the life story of **Forrest Gump** (played by Tom Hanks), a man diagnosed with a lower IQ but a heart full of kindness. From accidentally becoming a football star, serving in Vietnam, starting a shrimp business, and unknowingly influencing major events in American history, **Forrest's** journey is both humorous and touching. What drives the story, though, is his unwavering love for his childhood friend **Jenny** (played by Robin Wright) and his pure and childlike view of the world – lessons to be learnt for all.

A universal thread

In the heart of **Kyoto**, cherry blossoms dance with the wind, scattering petals like blessings. Women adorn themselves in delicate pastel kimonos, each one a masterpiece stitched with a promise of renewal, grace, and rebirth. The kimono, once everyday wear in Japan, becomes a ceremonial garment in spring, its patterns depicting cranes, blossoms, and flowing rivers. Each fold and sash whispers of ancient customs and nature's quiet return.

In the heart of **Morocco**, the desert pumps life into the once barren land. Wildflowers sing about the sun and the spirit of spring. Here, women wear flowing djellabas; hooded robes dyed in saffron, indigo, and rose. The fabric breathes under the desert sun, decorated with intricate embroidery, passed down through generations. These garments speak not only of beauty but of protection, modesty, and centuries of Berber and Arab tradition woven together.

In **Sweden**, where the sun lingers longer, flowers weave themselves into crowns to welcome the Midsommar days. Girls and women wear simple, crisp white dresses - the reminiscent of old peasant garments paired with floral wreaths made of fresh wildflowers. The attire connects to pre-Christian rituals of fertility and light, when white symbolized purity and a connection to nature's rebirth.

In the depths of the **Amazon**, spring isn't marked by a calendar, but rather it's summoned around fires that leap and twist like spirits. Feathers, beads, and handwoven cloth wrap around bodies in sacred rhythm. Clothing here is not merely worn, it's spoken through. Tribes like the Kayapo and Yawanawa use body paint, beadwork, and feathered adornments to celebrate life, ancestry, and seasonal change. Each pattern is a prayer, each garment a guardian.

Across lands and languages, the garments of spring speak of more than just the weather. They speak of who we are, what we cherish, and what awakens in us when the earth turns green again. In Islam, too, there is beauty in modesty, intention in dress, and joy in seasons of renewal. We are taught that every thread we wear should reflect gratitude, dignity, and consciousness of the Creator.

Just as flowers bloom in many colors but share the same sun, so do people express spring in many garments but share the same soul, same desire, the same deep yearning for renewal, peace, and light. And in that, there is unity. Where there is spring, there is Islam ... there is Taqwa.



GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY



Written by: Ilhaam Hajat

Grab your passports! We're setting off on an adventure around the globe to see how ingenuity is helping us take care of our home: Planet Earth.

Our first stop is the **Netherlands**. Here, highways aren't just for cars. Grassy bridges, known as "ecoducts," stretch across busy roads, reconnecting habitats and enabling animals to cross safely into otherwise dangerous areas.



Next, we head to **Sweden**, where people have made running sustainable. "Plogging" combines jogging and litter collection. Every step leaves the streets cleaner, and every jogger becomes a tiny hero for their community.

Flying south to **Spain**, sunny Seville shows us that with a bit of creativity, nothing is wasted. Leftover oranges from the city's famous **Citrus aurantium** trees are turned into electricity, which then helps power water treatment plants.



After crossing oceans, we arrive in **New Zealand**, where we're greeted with an ingenious reminder. Messages etched in the sandy shores appear only when the tide recedes, showing us the looming consequences of climate change.

Landing in **Germany**, we visit playgrounds that have evolved beyond simple play areas. Playground equipment has been cleverly converted into mini power stations, producing electricity for nearby streetlights while children enjoy themselves.

At long last, we return home to **South Africa**, where we visit the **Sonskip Living Museum**. This off-grid **Earthship** is built entirely from natural materials and is powered by renewable resources.

As our tour comes to an end, we can see that creativity knows no borders. Perhaps a little spark from these places will inspire all of us to care a little more for our home.

Designed by: Rimsha Zulfiqar



SAVE
OUR
PLANET!



ENDANGERED ANIMALS

The silent screams of a vanishing world

Picture walking through a forest and not being able to hear the Majestic roar of a tiger, not seeing the giant yet gentle elephants roaming free in the Savannah, their trunks entwined while their large ears flap gently in the breeze. Being able to catch a glimpse of a rhino's ancient armour plated hide,their prehistoric presence a testament to the beauty and diversity of our planet.

Imagine no pandas munching on bamboo, their playful nature and adorable faces bringing joy to all who see them. No majestic lions lazing in the sun, their golden manes shining brightly. No birds singing, sweet melodies, no monkeys swinging through the trees.

It's a world that's slowly becoming our reality , the thought of losing these incredible creatures is heartbreaking.

These magnificent creatures are not just symbols of the wild — they are vital threads in the intricate web of life. Each one plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance of our ecosystems, from pollination and seed dispersal to controlling prey populations. Their disappearance would not only silence the forests and empty the plains, but also unravel the delicate harmony of nature that supports all life on Earth — including our own. We are not separate from nature; we are a part of it. Saving them is, in many ways, saving ourselves.

These are some animals going into extinction: The axolotl, a smiling amphibian, can regrow body parts. The pangolin, covered in scales, is the most trafficked mammal in the world. The vaquita, a tiny porpoise, has fewer than 10 left. The kakapo, a flightless parrot, is critically endangered. The red wolf, native to the U.S., has fewer than 20 in the wild. Fun fact — the kakapo is the world's heaviest parrot and is active only at night.

Tears of the tiger

Tigers are more than just majestic creatures; they're a symbol of strength and beauty. But their numbers are dwindling. We're talking about fewer than 4,000 left in the wild too many its heartbreaking These powerful animals once roamed across Asia, from the snowy forests of Siberia to the tropical jungles of Indonesia. Today, they're found in only a handful of places, trapped in shrinking patches of forest. Poaching, habitat loss, and human conflict are pushing them closer to the edge every day. Each tiger lost isn't just a number — it's a life, a story, a step closer to silence in the wild.

The Lonely cries of the Panda

The giant panda's gentle eyes plead for help as they wander alone, their habitats fragmented and scarce. Their lonely cries echoes through the bamboo forests, a haunting reminder of our failure to protect them. Can we hear their cry and respond, or will we stand by as they disappear forever? Every moment counts, and their fate hangs in the balance.

Written by: Wafeeqa Mohammed
Designed by: Rimsha Zulfiqar

Once found across much of China, pandas now survive in only a few mountain ranges, their forests cleared for farming and development. With bamboo making up 99% of their diet, any damage to their habitat is life-threatening. Fewer than 1,900 remain in the wild. Though conservation efforts have helped, their survival still depends on us — on protecting their forests, stopping climate change, and keeping their voices from being lost in silence.

The Last Call of the Rhino

Rhinos are another species on the brink of extinction. Hunted for their horns — wrongly believed to have medicinal value — these majestic animals are vanishing fast. Today, fewer than 30,000 rhinos remain in the wild, spread across Africa and parts of Asia. There are five species of rhino: the White, Black, Indian, Javan, and Sumatran — and three of them are critically endangered. The Javan and Sumatran rhinos, for instance, have fewer than 100 individuals left in the wild.

Poaching and habitat loss are the biggest threats they face. Rhino horns can sell for up to \$60,000 per kilogram on the black market, making them more valuable than gold — and a prime target for illegal wildlife trafficking.

These incredible creatures deserve our protection and respect. Losing them wouldn't just be a tragedy for wildlife, but a devastating blow to our planet's biodiversity — and a painful reminder of what happens when we fail to act in time. We're the Last Hope

Act Now - Before It's Too Late

The thought of losing these incredible animals is unbearable. But it's **not too late** to make a difference. We can be the generation that saves them. We can be the ones who say: **"Enough is enough."**

We can support conservation efforts, reduce our impact on the environment, and spread awareness about the importance of protecting these species.

Ways we can help

- **Support wildlife conservation organizations** through donations or volunteering.
- **Adopt an endangered animal symbolically** through trusted programs (like WWF or wildlife foundations).
- **Raise awareness** by sharing facts, stories, and campaigns on social media.
- **Reduce, reuse, recycle** to cut down on waste and pollution affecting habitats.
- **Avoid products that harm wildlife** (like items made from ivory, palm oil, or exotic pets).
- **Choose sustainable seafood** to help protect ocean life.
- **Cut down your carbon footprint** – use less plastic, conserve energy, and travel responsibly.
- **Plant native trees and gardens** that support local biodiversity.
- **Educate others**, especially younger generations, about endangered species and conservation.
- **Shop eco-friendly and cruelty-free** brands that support environmental sustainability.
- **Support responsible ecotourism** that respects animal welfare and habitats.
- **Stay informed** about environmental issues and advocate for policy c

NATURAL WONDERS

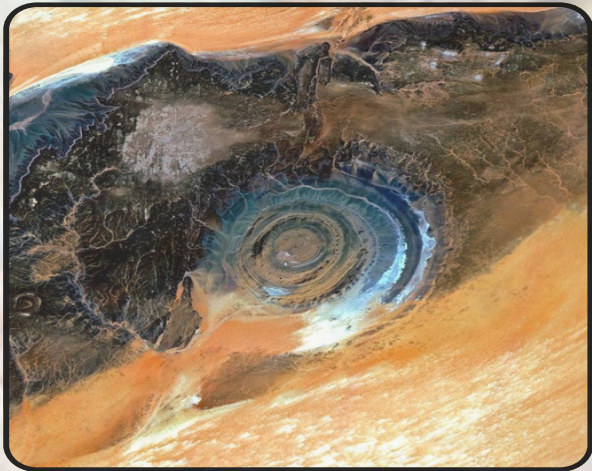
Written by: Ayesha Omar
and Gülnur Jorayeva

Carved through endless time, shaped by the elements and perfected without a trace of human touch, these natural wonders silently testify to Earth’s purest beauty, untouched, unaltered yet unmatched. Each one tells a story written not in ink, but in stone, water, light and wind. It is as though nature quietly expresses the secrets of it’s creation to those who stop long enough to listen.

Jeita Grotto – Lebanon
Tucked into the lush Nahr al-Kalb Valley, just north of Beirut, Jeita Grotto is a spectacular network of limestone caves stretching for over 9 kilometres. It is divided into an upper gallery, accessible by foot and a lower cave, navigated by boat along an underground river. Over millions of years, rainwater mixed with carbon dioxide seeped through the ground, dissolving the limestone and carving out vast chambers filled with stalactites and stalagmites. Mineral-rich water continues to shape the grotto today, slowly building formations that glisten under soft lights. It is thus, a source of Lebanon’s freshwater supply, making it as vital as it is beautiful.

Pamukkale – Türkiye
In Türkiye’s Denizli Province, the slopes of Pamukkale (Cotton Castle) in Turkish, resembles a hillside draped in snow. This landscape is formed by natural thermal springs, rich in dissolved calcium carbonate. As the water flows down the hillside, the minerals solidify into travertine terraces, creating layers of white stone filled with shallow, turquoise pools. This miraculous process has been ongoing for thousands of years thus Pamukkale has drawn visitors since ancient times, including the Romans, who built the nearby city of Hierapolis to take advantage of the therapeutic waters. Today, it is both a natural spa and a living link to the past.

Eye of the Sahara – Mauritania
In the middle of the Mauritanian desert, there stands a colossal marvel called the Eye of the Sahara or the Richat structure. From space, it resembles a giant bullseye staring up at the sky. Being approximately 40 kilometres wide, its made up of rock layers which have been worn down unevenly over millions of years by wind and water. Scientists initially believed it to be an asteroid crater, however it’s a geological dome which has been eroded into these perfect rings. Its hues of brown, blue, and gold against the desert sand makes it feel truly magical.



Natural



Wonders

Salar De Uyuni – Bolivia
Located high up in the Bolivian Andes, where the land and the skies meet at nearly 3700 metres, stretches a vast expanse of salt called the Salar De Uyuni. In the drier months, it is a white infinity of hexagons which results from the salt crystallisation under the scorching temperature of the sun. But then comes the rain, a thin layer of water transforms the flats into the largest mirror on our Earth. Here, the sky no longer ends above, but continues underneath your very own feet, so that walking feels as if drifting between two heavens. This 10 000-square-kilometer salt flat, which was formed through the evaporation of ancient lakes, holds within itself both the beauty and bounty of our Earth: beneath its crust lies one of the world’s largest reserves of lithium, a metal that powers our modern age. At sunrise or under the night skies, Salar de Uyuni becomes less a place on a map and more a dream spilling across the horizon.

Wulingyuan Mountains – China
Rising in between the mists of the Hunan province of China is a forest not of trees, but of stone. Thousands of towering quartz-sandstone pillars stand each sculpted over hundreds of millions of years by natural causes like wind, rain and forest. Some pierce their way through the clouds at more than 200 metres high, with their cliffs draped by vines and clinging pines, and when the morning fog drapes over the valleys, a sense of daydreaming is formed as the peaks seem to float. It was also here that filmmakers found their real world muse for Avatar’s Hallelujah Mountains. Standing on the glass-made bridges between these giants can make almost anyone believe in floating worlds. Wulingyuan Mountains is less a destination and more a living myth, where stone remembers the shape of time.

As our journey through silent caves, desert’s bull’s eyes and floating peaks draws to a close, we carry with us a sense of wonder and a quiet resolve. These wonders carved over the millions of years stand as a true testament to Earth’s patient artistry. It is now our responsibility to honour them by protecting the delicate balance that shaped these places. In giving back to the planet that has given us everything, we ensure that its purest beauty remains untamed for all who follow.

Designed by:
Juwairiah Salim

In the waking of spring

the frost has loosened its thousand white fingers from the throat of the earth,
and now the soil breathes,
slowly exhaling the old perfume of minerals,
the damp sweetness of forgotten rain kept beneath stone.

roots stretch like the arms of someone waking from a fever,
slow, touching the cold water
that's been hiding all winter in the dark.
seeds split their small, fragile ribs to let green lungs breathe for the first time.

the rivers awaken as if startled from their long hibernation,
their silver skins breaking beneath the sun,
dragging the thawed memories of mountains into valleys,
turning the stones smooth in their cold mouths,
teaching them the language of time
drop by slow drop.

the trees, still heavy with sleep,
hold out their hands of bark,
and from their smallest fingertips,
buds swell like small lamps of green glass
opening to the unfastening air,
carrying fruit still months away from sweetness.

above it all,
the sky unrolls its azure curtain over the returning earth,
dragging slow-moving shadows of clouds across the hills,
pulling night forward behind it,
effortlessly folding light into the long, blue spine of day
like a breath entering and leaving a sleeping chest.

i think of how i stayed through the winter,
clenched like a fist.
now, light drips from the edges of branches,
pools in the hollows of my palms.

everything in me wants to open,
to take the sun the way the soil takes rain;
fully, and without question.
knowing that to bloom
is simply to remember what you were always becoming.

Written by: Ilhaam Hajat
Designed by: Nayab Noor



ARTWORK BY: JUWAYRIA DAWOOD

Word Search

H	A	R	M	O	N	Y	E	I	F	N	R	N	C
L	U	M	I	N	E	S	C	E	N	T	A	L	V
N	F	R	O	A	N	S	O	L	U	C	E	I	O
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SUNSHINE
ECOLOGICAL
FIRE
BIODIVERSITY
PETALS
FLORAL
ECOFRIENDLY
TERRESTRIAL
BEAUTY
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LUMINESCENT
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