

06 June 2025



# The King's Ken



*guidance*  
THROUGH THE  
WORLD OF AI



The  
King's  
School

WEST RAND

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# From the Vice Principal's Desk

## GUIDING OUR STUDENTS THROUGH THE WORLD OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a distant concept - it is part of our students' everyday experience. Whether they are scrolling on TikTok, asking questions to a smart device, or using learning apps, AI is shaping the way they interact with the world. At The King's School West Rand, we recognise both the benefits and the challenges this technology brings, and we are committed to helping our students engage with it wisely and responsibly.

AI has the power to enhance education, offering quick access to information, personalised learning experiences, and even help with study skills. However, it also raises important concerns: Are students becoming too reliant on it? Will their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills suffer if AI can produce answers so easily? What impact do algorithmic biases and misinformation have on young minds still forming their understanding of truth and identity?

As a Christian school, we are especially mindful of how emerging technologies influence character development. Proverbs 4:7 reminds us, *"The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."* It is not enough for our children to gain knowledge - they need discernment. Our role is to help them evaluate information critically, filter it through a Biblical lens, and use technology in a way that honours God and serves others.

Young children, especially those in the Foundation Phase, often view technology as something human-like. They may believe AI-powered tools "know" things or have feelings. Just as we teach them that cartoon characters aren't real, we need to reinforce that AI is a tool created by people - it is not alive, and it does not possess wisdom. We

also need to be alert to the advertising and content embedded in the platforms they use, guiding their media exposure carefully and prayerfully.

This does not mean we shield our children from technology. Rather, we aim to introduce it in a safe and age-appropriate way. For example, some teachers may use smart assistants in class for quick definitions or spelling or to find teaching resources to include in their lesson plans, while still focusing on hands-on, sensory-based learning - especially vital for younger students. *Technology can support education, but it should never replace the deep learning that happens through discussion, discovery, and real-world interaction.*

As our students grow older, particularly in the high school phase, they become more sophisticated users of AI tools such as ChatGPT. These tools can be helpful when used well, but we also recognise the temptation they bring: to shortcut learning, copy assignments, or disengage from the process of thinking deeply. Our task as educators is not simply to monitor or restrict, but to teach. We want our students to understand AI's limitations - its potential for bias, its lack of context or emotional understanding, and its tendency to present confident but incorrect answers.

Teenagers, though naturally sceptical, often place undue trust in technology. Part of our teaching is to remind them that not everything generated by AI is reliable. We encourage them to ask questions like, "Is this true?", "Is this fair?", and "Does this align with God's Word?" Just as 1 Thessalonians 5:21 instructs us to *"test everything; hold fast what is good,"* we want our students to apply this mindset to their use of AI.

We also cannot ignore the risks of misuse. As teens explore identity, relationships, and boundaries, they may lack the maturity to fully grasp the consequences of their actions. Generative AI can be used to create harmful or inappropriate content, such as fake images or cyberbullying materials, with devastating consequences. We must therefore continue to set firm guardrails, provide Biblical guidance, and engage in open conversations about ethical behaviour and personal responsibility.

At The King's School West Rand, we see AI as a tool - one that should be used thoughtfully, never to replace the wisdom and relationship that come from human interaction, and ultimately, from God. We continue to strengthen our digital literacy education, integrate critical-thinking strategies into our curriculum, and support our students as they navigate this changing world.

We do not yet know exactly what the future will look like. But what we do know is this: our children will need hearts grounded in truth, minds trained to think deeply, and character formed by God's Word. These are the qualities that will equip them, not just to use AI wisely, but to be a light in the world.

Let us continue to walk this journey together - staff and parents - as we prepare our children for a future filled with both promise and responsibility.

- Mrs Vivienne Schoonwinkel, Vice Principal

## GRADE 3 READING BUDDIES:

### A JOURNEY OF RESPONSIBILITY AND IMAGINATION

Our Grade 3 teacher Monica's students have embarked on a delightful adventure by taking home a special reading buddy—a cuddly teddy bear from the classroom. This initiative not only encourages them to read aloud but also teaches them the importance of responsibility as they care for their new furry friend. Reading aloud to their buddy helps students build confidence, improve pronunciation, and develop a love for storytelling. It transforms reading from a task into a fun and engaging activity, fostering a deeper connection with books.

Tips to Promote Reading at Home:

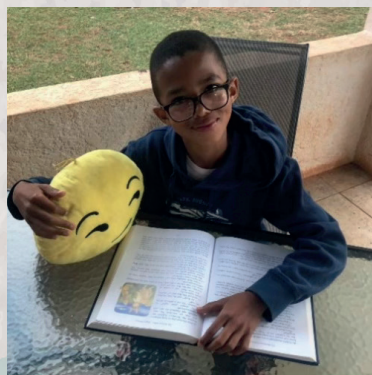
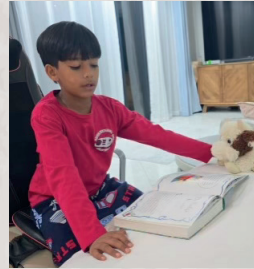
- **Create a Cozy Reading Corner:** Designate a quiet, comfortable space with good lighting where your child can read without distractions.
- **Read Together:** Set aside time each day to read together. This shared experience strengthens bonds and makes reading enjoyable.
- **Let Them Choose:** Allow your child to pick books that interest them. Whether it's comics, fairy tales, or adventure stories, choice empowers them to explore reading at their own pace.
- **Be a Reading Role Model:** Children are more likely to read if they see adults enjoying books. Let them catch you reading!
- **Make It Fun:** Turn reading into a game by setting challenges or acting out stories. This adds excitement and encourages regular reading habits.



**Please Note:** In case of absenteeism a doctor's note must be provided for all summative assessments (tests, orals, practical assessments etc) missed.



- By nurturing these habits, we can help our young readers develop a lifelong love for reading.
- Be sure to watch out for some of teachers, Mr. Theron and Teacher Vivienne take a reading buddy for the school holidays!!!!



**Friendly Reminder:** School fees must be paid in advance, before the 7th of each month, 12 Months of the year.



**JUNIORS  
10-13YRS**

**SENIORS  
14-16YRS**

**SOUTH AFRICAN  
SPELLING BEE**

**GAUTENG  
OPEN**

**2025**

**JOHANNESBURG**

**SATURDAY 2 AUGUST**

**IIE MSA CAMPUS**

**ABAF  
A BETTER AFRICA FOUNDATION**

[WWW.AFRICANSPELLINGBEE.COM/SOUTHAFRICA](http://WWW.AFRICANSPELLINGBEE.COM/SOUTHAFRICA)

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# Netball Netball Netball Netball

U/11 Girls SACSSA Winners and U/13's bringing home a bronze medal!!!



## FOUNDATION PHASE MISSION FOCUS

### Reminder

We have 3 weeks left  
Please donate

"A strand of thread, a strand  
of warmth & happiness!"

We are currently seeking  
donations of wool for our  
Winter blanket drive.

### Knitting Wool Drive

WE WILL ACCEPT DONATIONS UNTIL  
20TH JUNE 2025

## MISSION FOCUS 2025

### GRADE 4

11 FEBRUARY - 29 AUGUST

#### HOW IT WORKS

It will be a friendly competition between LW, LVN & AT as to which class brings the most bottle caps and / bread tags.

#### WHO DO WE SEND THE CAPS & TAGS TO

Your register teachers will keep them in a jar in your register class.

#### WHAT IS THIS FOR

By recycling plastic tops and tags, not only are you helping someone who needs a wheelchair, but you are playing your part in preserving the future of our beautiful green planet while supporting the circular economy.

<https://www.sweetheartfoundation.org/>



### Giving the Gift of Mobility

Please help us give the gift of mobility to the poor and marginalised of our society by supporting us financially or by collecting tops and tags which we sell to recyclers.

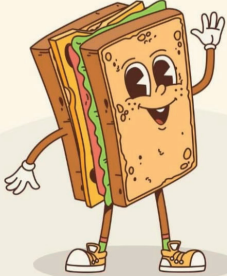


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★ GRADE 6 MISSION FOCUS

# SANDWICH DRIVE



**GRADE 6 LEARNERS**

WE ARE SUPPORTING THE ETHANDWENI FEEDING PROJECT, WHICH PROVIDES MEALS TO 106 CHILDREN LIVING ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF KAGISO. TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT, WE ARE ASKING ALL GRADE 6 LEARNERS TO BRING AN EXTRA SANDWICH TO SCHOOL EVERY FRIDAY.

**REMEMBER TO BRING A SANDWICH THIS FRIDAY!** ★

## OUR ART CLASS

NEEDS YOUR OLD CLEAR PUMP BOTTLES



PLEASE DROP THEM OFF AT THE RECEPTION

### Please Note: Lost Property

Please can we ask that ALL parents label ALL items of clothing and other items brought to school.

We are not able to give a learner a piece of clothing if their name is not on it as we have no evidence that it is theirs.

Please note that we have a two week turn around time so as soon as your child loses something, send them to look for it.



## Labels & Embroidery

Label Pal	083 789 1228
DDK Marketing	082 335 4516
Point Of View Marketing	072 652 5873
Hellodolly	079 875 4892

## REMINDER

Grade 4 – 7 Project Week 17-20 June.

## TAKE NOTE

Last day of school closing times:

Grade1 – 3:	11:30
Grade 4-7:	11:45
Grade 8-12:	12:00

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# HOLIDAY CLUB 2025

DISCOVERING THE BIGNESS OF GOD IN THE SMALLEST THINGS

**7-11 JULY**

Grade 1-7  
Tuckshop  
8am-1pm

**MAGNIFIED**

Call Lisa: 082 461 0207  
register@honeyridge.co.za

Honeyridge Baptist Church  
Cnr Beyers Naude & Knoppiesdoring



## KIDS BIBLE CLUB

AN ANCIENT ADVENTURE



**30 JUNE - 4 JULY**  
**WILROPARK**  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**  
(Umfolozhi Road)

**Grades R- 7**  
**NO COST + FREE SNACKS**

For extra info please contact  
Elke MacKenzie: elke.hinsberger98@gmail.com  
Whatsapp Number: 083 843 6506

**8am - 1pm**

(Please can  
Parents or Guardians  
come early on Monday  
morning to register)

OR Register here:



## Staff News

*Congratulations to Teacher  
Bianca Morrison & family.*



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# Knit with Dignity



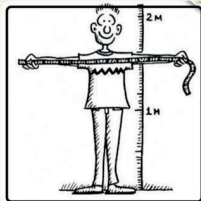
*Not everyone has heat or shelter but we can share a little warmth. Knit a scarf, make a difference and give people some dignity this winter! We are blessed to be a blessing!*

1 scarf = 2 community service hours

**When knitting/crocheting your scarf ensure you have:**

- 48 - 50 stitches on needle
- size 3 or 4 needle

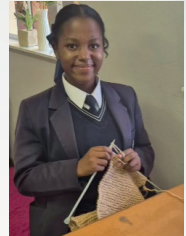
**King's Cup points are up for grabs!**



The length of your scarf should be measured from middle finger to middle finger (horizontally across your torso).

Feel free to ask Mrs Thurman any clarifying questions to make sure you're on the right track!

*All scarves must be handed in to Mrs Thurman class by the 20<sup>th</sup> of June!*



We are offering all our students **FREE ACCESS** to Studdywise, a mobile learning platform that helps students prepare for the upcoming exams in all subjects. This gives extra support for your child in academics.

The platform helps your child:

- Revise for tests and exams
- Get help with homework
- Receive instant step-by-step explanations in every subject

Create a free account here: <https://studdywise.com/en/free/parent>

How does our platform work

- Students can use it to study for exams and term tests.
- It supports all subjects (for example maths, science and much more)
- Made for CAPS and IEB curriculum

It's like having a private tutor in their pocket — for free

We'd love to give **FREE ACCESS** to all your students — no cost.

Watch our short demo video to see how it works:

[https://www.youtube.com/shorts/o1\\_4GGQqP98](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/o1_4GGQqP98)

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JUNE 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 GR12 Assessments start	3	4	5	6	7 SACSSA Jnr Soccer
8 Pentecost	9	10	11	12	13 GR4-7 Exams End	14
15 Father's Day	16 Youth Day	17 GR4-7 project week starts	18	19	20 School Closes GR8-11 Exams end GR12 Assessments end PS Reports out	21
22	23 GR12 Winter school	24 GR12 Winter school	25 GR12 Winter school	26 GR12 Winter school All marks finalized HS Final comments due for moderation	27	28 Waterstone Soccer Tournament
29 Waterstone Soccer Tournament	30 Waterstone Soccer Tournament					

JULY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 School starts Term 3	16 Extra Murals start	17	18 Mandela Day	19 PS Hockey festival
20	21 Reports released	22	23	24 Lus vir Lees 5:4pm Parents evening	25 GR11 Prefect Applicant camp	26 GR11 Prefect Applicant camp
27 GR11 Prefect Applicant camp	28	29 LRC Training	30 Book sale	31 Book sale		

AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 King's Got Talent ISSA Volleyball Festival	2 GR12 Math workshop GR11-12 Hike ISSA Volleyball Festival
3	4 JP Blue Certificate Assembly	5	6 Blood Drive	7 GR10 Elevate study skills workshop	8 JP Inter-house quiz	9 National Women's Day
10	11	12	13	14 GR12 Prayer morning	15 Staff meeting	16
17	18 HS Prefect Reorganisation	19	20 GR12 Study Day	21 Palmas start	22 HS Prefect training	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 FP Grandparents day	30 HS Spring Ball
31						

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