



KOPANO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK:

“Children are not things to be moulded, but people to be unfolded.” – Jess Lair

As we begin this new term, I would like to pause and reflect on something that came to light at the end of last term. A number of parents were contacting teachers to ensure that their children's books could be collected for holiday study. This in itself is not unusual – many parents want to support their children's learning outside of school. But what was striking is that, in most cases, these were children who had already achieved very strong results (70% and above).

Yet, some parents expressed disappointment, even telling their children that “70% is a fail in our family.” What message does this send? That no matter how hard a child works, they are not good enough unless they reach a specific number. That love and approval are tied to performance, rather than effort and growth.

I would like to share a short reflection with you:

Encouraging Your Child in Their Schoolwork: Focusing on Growth, Not Just Grades

As parents, it is natural to want the best for your children. You want them to succeed, to do well in school, and to have every opportunity open to them in the future. But sometimes, in aiming for the very best, we place expectations on children that can feel overwhelming, and even impossible, for them to achieve.

High Expectations vs. Realistic Support

Many parents set high standards, often expecting their child to score 80% or higher in every test or assignment. While aiming high can be motivating, it is important to remember that every child learns at their own pace and has different strengths and challenges. Not achieving 80% or being “top of the class” does not mean your child is failing. It simply means they are on their own learning journey.

When children constantly feel pressure to meet very high standards, they may begin to believe that they are “not good enough” if they do not achieve them. This can lead to stress, loss of confidence, and even a dislike of learning.



Why Encouragement Matters

Children thrive in environments where they feel supported, valued, and encouraged. When parents recognise effort rather than only results, children learn that perseverance, resilience, and steady improvement are what truly matter. A child who feels encouraged is more likely to:

- Stay motivated to learn, even when the work is challenging.
- Build healthy self-esteem.
- Develop a love for learning that lasts beyond the classroom.
- Feel confident to try again when they make mistakes.



The Importance of Holidays

It is also worth remembering why schools have holidays in the first place. Breaks are not simply “time off”; they serve an essential purpose in a child’s growth. Holidays give children the chance to:

- Rest and recharge mentally and physically.
- Spend time with family, strengthening relationships beyond academics.
- Explore creativity, hobbies, and interests outside of the classroom.
- Learn life skills through play, exploration, and responsibility at home.
- Return to school refreshed, motivated, and ready to learn.



When children are deprived of this balance, learning can become a chore rather than a joy. Just as adults need time to rest and reset, so too do children. A rested mind is a sharper mind.



How Parents Can Encourage Positively

Here are a few simple but powerful ways to support your child in their schoolwork:

1. Praise effort, not just results.
2. Celebrate small improvements – growth is progress.
3. Avoid comparisons – every child is unique.
4. Focus on strengths while gently supporting challenges.
5. Encourage balance – children need play, rest, and creativity as much as study.
6. Work with teachers to set realistic, healthy expectations.

Parent Tip: 5 Encouraging Phrases to Use with Your Child

Instead of focusing on the mark, try saying:

- “I’m proud of how hard you worked on this.”
- “I can see you are improving – keep going!”
- “Mistakes help us learn; what did this one teach you?”
- “You kept trying even when it was difficult – well done.”
- “I love how curious you are about learning.”



A Final Thought

Success in life is not determined by always being top of the class. It is shaped by qualities such as confidence, resilience, kindness, problem-solving, and the ability to keep going when things are tough. As parents, our role is not to break our children down with unrealistic expectations but to lift them up with encouragement and love. Your child may not always bring home the highest marks, but with your support, they can grow into a capable, confident, and motivated learner.



Welcome Back to the Third Term

We have already been back for three weeks now, and it has been a very busy and productive start to the term. I would like to thank all the parents who attended the recent parent/teacher consultations. These meetings are an important part of your child's educational journey. When parents take an active interest in their child's schooling, it not only strengthens the home-school partnership but also shows children that their learning matters. A child who sees their parents engaged in their education is far more likely to stay motivated and committed.

Our Primary and Pre-School staff also had the privilege of participating in an English Workshop run by Sara Noble from SmartChalk Consulting. This was an extremely successful session, equipping teachers with new strategies and resources to strengthen the teaching of reading. Reading remains one of the most critical foundations for all learning, and the tools gained from this workshop will help our staff continue to foster both skill and enjoyment in this vital area.

Last week, our Form 2 and Form 4 classes wrote their mock examinations in preparation for the upcoming Lower Secondary Checkpoint and IGCSE examinations. These mock exams were very successful in preparing students for the structure, timing, and expectations of their external assessments. We look forward with anticipation to their performance in the official examinations.

On that note, our Form 4 students began their IGCSE examinations last week. This is a proud and historic milestone for Kopano, as they are the very first cohort to sit these internationally recognised qualifications. Their journey represents not only years of learning but also the growth of our school into a place that prepares young people for success beyond our gates. We are confident that their hard work, along with the dedication of their teachers and support of their families, will carry them through. We wish them courage, focus, and every success as they step into this new chapter.

Outside the classroom, our extracurricular programme has also started strongly. The softball season got underway with our U11 and U13 teams playing against Mophato. Our children performed admirably, drawing three matches and narrowly losing one — a very encouraging start to the season. In the cultural sphere, our Junior Marimba Band had the honour of attending a Marimba Workshop hosted by Mophato on Saturday, 20 September. The children not only learnt a great deal but also shone in the closing evening concert, where they were the first to perform. They set a remarkably high standard for the rest of the programme — well done to all involved.



Our high school students have also been active in their summer extracurriculars, with volleyball fixtures against Morula and participation in a Public Speaking Tournament at Flamingo. Congratulations to Joanna Chingwara for her excellent performance in securing 3rd place in the Junior category.



We are also proud to inform you that Kopano School will be launching a new and updated website. This site is designed to keep our community informed and connected, with access to newsletters, photos, and all the essential information about our school. We will inform everyone as soon as the website becomes available.



As this busy term unfolds, let us remember that whether in academics, sports, or cultural activities, the true measure of success is not only in the results achieved but in the growth, confidence, and resilience our children build along the way.

Warm regards,
Steve Phillips
Headmaster



Cricket Pitch Donation Hand-over

Kopano School was honoured to welcome Mr. Wimpie Cronje (Dealer Principal) and Mr. Sudath Wickrama (Financial Controller) from Bamangwato Motors for the official hand-over of our brand-new cricket pitch, generously donated by their company. We are extremely grateful for this wonderful sponsorship and for their continued support of our school. The new pitch will play a vital role in encouraging and assisting with the development of cricket at Kopano, providing our learners with improved opportunities to train, compete, and grow their skills in the sport.

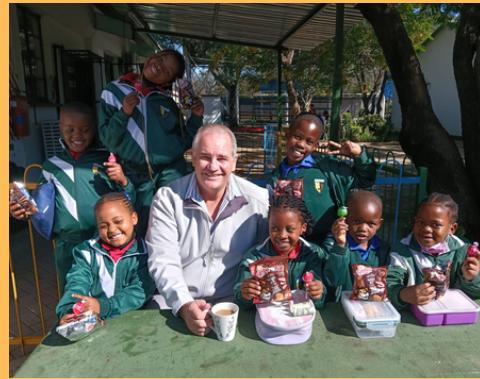


THANK YOU!



Headmaster's Treats

Each month, one child from every Junior Primary class is specially chosen to join the Headmaster for “Headmaster’s Treats.” Their names are proudly announced in assembly, and they are invited to enjoy a special tea-time treat together. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate effort, good character, and positive contributions in the classroom. Well done to this month’s recipients!



OTHER IMPORTANT INFO



The Importance of Continuous Assessments

Many parents grew up in a school system where the final examination was seen as the ultimate measure of success. While final assessments are still an important part of schooling today, they form only a portion of a child’s overall mark.

At Kopano, a significant percentage of each student’s result comes from Continuous Assessment (CA). This includes tests, assignments, projects, class participation, and other ongoing work done throughout the term. The purpose of Continuous Assessment is to give a more balanced and accurate picture of your child’s learning – not just what they can produce on one day under exam conditions.

Continuous Assessment is therefore vital. It means that:

- Students are rewarded for consistent effort and growth.
- A child’s final mark reflects both knowledge and the skills they are developing along the way.
- Learning is viewed as an ongoing journey, not a once-off event.

It is important for parents to help children understand that their daily work and effort matter just as much – if not more – than the final assessments at the end of term. Maximum effort should be given throughout the term, not only during Assessment Week.

By valuing Continuous Assessment alongside Final Assessments, we can ensure that children build the habits of discipline, responsibility, and perseverance that will serve them well throughout their education and beyond.

KWENA SWIMMING CLUB

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

Times: Monday to Friday, 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Ages: 3 years to 18 years

Cost: P300 per child per month

Contact: Mr. Tombo at 72376180

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



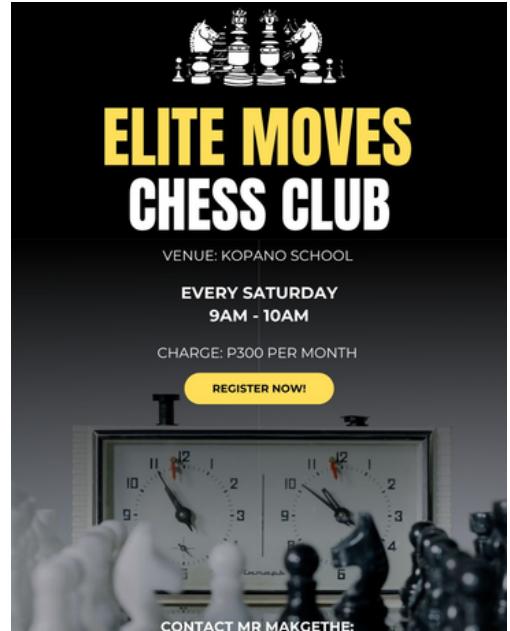
ELITE MOVES CHESS CLUB

Mr Makgethe, our new chess coach, is offering private lessons. Please note that Kopano does offer chess as part of the Extra-curricular programme. What Mr Makgethe is offering is private and not part of the school's activities. Please contact him directly should you wish your child to take extra chess lessons.

Venue: Kopano School

Time: Every Saturday from 9am - 10am

Contact: Mr. Makgethe at 72995194 / 77839845



School Fees Payment Reminder



Dear Parents, as the term draws to a close, let us ensure that all outstanding fees are settled promptly.

Payment Options Available :

Monthly: Fees are paid over 11 months. Monthly fees are payable in advance or before the 1st of each other month.

Termly: Fees are either paid in full for the whole term or three equal instalments of the total invoiced amount

Please note that if fees are not paid according to the above, end of term reports and transfer cards will be withheld.

For any inquiries or queries please contact the school bursar.

Send POP to:

Email - accounts@kopanoschool.ac.bw

WhatsApp - 75745734



KNOW YOUR TEACHER Q&A

Mr. Ponde

1.Why teaching: Inspired by my clear and engaging Chemistry/Physics teacher, Mr. Gideon Ranganai.

2.Experience & Why Kopano School: 28 years; joined Kopano to launch the High School.

3.Favorite Subject: Chemistry & Math. I love simplifying complex ideas and building student confidence.

4.Best part of teaching: Seeing students overcome challenges and become motivated to achieve their best.

5.Memorable moment: My first 1998 exam class achieved a 100% credit pass rate with limited resources.

6.Hobbies: Learning new things, helping people, reading Christian novels, and listening to gospel music.

7.Dream Travel: Japan, for its unique blend of technology and culture.

8.Fun Fact: I think best and get my best ideas when I'm under pressure.

9.Favorite Teacher: Mr. Gideon Ranganai—his lessons were always interesting.

10.If not a teacher: I'd likely be in politics; I love making an impact.



Mrs. Gaafifiwe

1.Why teaching: Love of learning and a passion for igniting curiosity in students. Education is a powerful tool for change.

2.Experience & Why Kopano School: 9 years in education. Selibe-Phikwe is home; I'm here to give back my expertise to the community.

3.Favorite Subject: Global Perspectives. It builds critical thinking and helps create responsible global citizens.

4.Best part of teaching: Building relationships and seeing the moment a concept "clicks" for a student.

5.Memorable moment: A shy student finally shared her thoughts, proving her voice mattered. Her confidence soared.

6.Hobbies: I enjoy reading and cooking for the people I care about.

7.Dream Travel: Dubai, to admire its technological advancements and futuristic developments.

8.Fun Fact: I love deeply and am a bit of a crybaby! I embrace my sensitivity.

9.Favorite Teacher: Mr. Seduledi (Form 3). He believed in my potential and never saw failure in me.

10.If not a teacher: A lawyer. Both careers are about making a positive impact and helping others.



HELLO OCTOBER

IMPORTANT DATES

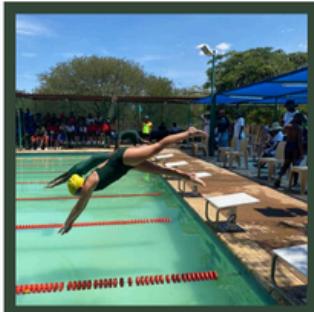
- 4th - Kopano U11 Softball Festival
- 7th - Checkpoint (Gr 7 and Form 2) – English 1
- 8th - Checkpoint (Gr 7 and Form 2) - English 2
U11 Softball vs Kgaswe
- 9th - Checkpoint (Gr 7 and Form 2) - Science1
Gr 3 – 6 Science Assessment
- 10th - Quiz – Round 2 for Grade 2 – 4
- 11th - Individual and Team Chess selection – Kgaswe
HS Volleyball @ JMS
- 13th - Grade 3 - 5 GP Assessment
Gr 6 SS and Agric
- 14th - Checkpoint (Gr 7 and Form 2) – Science 2
- 15th - Checkpoint (Gr 7 and Form 2) – Maths 1
U11 Softball vs Mophato @ KPS
- 16th - Checkpoint (Gr 7 and Form 2) – Maths 2
Gr 3 – 6 Maths Assessment
- 17th - Grade 5 Outing to Kwa Nokeng
- 18th - U13 Softball Tournament and Trials – JMS and Clifton
- 20th - Gr 7 SS and Agric
- 22nd - U11 & U13 Softball vs Clifton (home and away)
HS Girls Soccer vs Morula
- 23rd - Grade 3 – 7 English Assessment
HS Soccer vs Morula
- 24th - Final round of Quiz: Gr 2 – 4
Public Speaking selection: Grade 5 – 7
- 28th - Grade 3 – 7 Science Assessment.
Grade 6 Outing to Khama Rhino Sanctuary
- 29th - U13 Softball @ Kgaswe
- 30th - Grade 4 – 7 Cake Sale
School Closes at 13:00 – Mid-Term break.
- 31st - NO School – Mid-Term Break



KOPANO SCHOOL

**OPEN FOR
ADMISSIONS
FOR 2026**

**REGISTER NOW!!!
FROM 3 YEARS**



SCHOOL SUPERIORITY :

- CAMBRIDGE CURRICULUM
- AFTERCARE PROGRAM
- EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
- PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY, AND HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL FACILITIES :

- SPORT FIELDS AND COURTS
- SCIENCE LABORATORIES
- COMPUTER LABORATORIES
- LIBRARY
- SWIMMING POOL

MORE INFO :

📞 267 2610552

✉️ admin@kopanoschool.ac.bw

📍 PLOT 1107, KOPANO RD, SELEBI- PHIKWE