Hurlynews

Date: September 2026

HURLYVALE READS!

Hurly was privileged enough to be selected for the international PIRLS study. PIRLS stands for Progress in International Reading Literacy Study. This study is managed by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), and this study evaluates how well children read. It involves 64 participating educational systems. 53 schools were selected from Gauteng alone. It is conducted every 5 years, and the data obtained provides valuable insight into our children's ability to read with understanding and to draw critical comparisons across different provinces, socio-economic contexts, and official languages. On that note, we also participated in a national competition for the Reading Riot challenge. Our school placed second overall in Gauteng, with one of our own learners, Isabella Joubert, placing ninth in the province. We hope to participate again next year and look forward to more exceptional results.

MARKET DAY

Neither rain nor wind nor unexpectedly chilly weather could deter our children from spending their money with gusto! And nothing could deter the Grade 7s from letting them! Our Market Day was a huge success with an array of enticing stalls to tempt our learners into parting with their pocket money. From games and activities to toys and sweets, the entrepreneurs in our school catered to every taste. Perhaps the biggest spenders were again the teachers, hunting down the samosa stalls before anyone else could! At the end of the fest, the children diligently cleaned up after themselves as they sang the clean-up song. The Grade 7s left with bulging pockets and the customers with overfull tummies and lots of stories!

HURLY ON THE MOVE

Hurlyvale has been out and about! Our Grade 5s departed for tour, while our Grade 3s visited Pioneer House in Pretoria, where they got to make their own bread over an outdoor fire and experience life from the "olden days." Meanwhile, our Grade 4s visited the Peoples Theatre for a wonderful stage experience and the Lion and Safari Park. All in all, it goes to show that learning beyond the classroom walls is both enriching and effective!

OUR HEART

Please remember to collect and save all your plastic bottle caps for our wire heart on the sports field! Once our heart is completely full, the caps are collected by The Sweethearts Foundation, who recycle them to fund wheelchairs for individuals in need.
It takes approximately 450 kg of plastic bottle caps to provide one wheelchair, so every single cap counts toward changing a life! Let's work together as a school community to keep plastic out of landfills and bring mobility to those who need it most. Keep capping!

CONCERT

With the concert behind us and normality restored, we can take a moment to appreciate the immense time and effort it took to put on the extravaganza that is a Hurlyvale concert! Our shows have a long-established reputation of excellence, and this year's production certainly did not disappoint.
Thank you to everyone who had a hand in ensuring our children got their moment to shine on stage. A heartfelt thanks goes to our class teachers, whose choreography and costume design brought out the very best in our learners. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the Fundraising Committee, who once again showed up in full force to keep all our tummies filled with delicious treats, and to Mamba Security for ensuring our evenings were safe, secure, and incident-free.

GRADE 1'S

Not only have our littlest members of the family been spoiled with a refurbished play area, but they also got to enjoy a morning of messy play! Our Grade 1s had an absolute blast diving into hands-on sensory fun with PlayLabs. From blowing giant bubble towers to painting on bubble wrap, mixing vibrant colours, and exploring gooey textures, the smiles said it all. Messy play is where the real learning and creativity happen. A huge thanks to PlayLabs for hosting such a colourful, unforgettable experience for our kids!

HURLY STEPS OUT

If there's one thing our Hurly kids love, it's a reason to dress up! In the space of just one week, we celebrated both our Grade 7 Careers Day and Heritage Day. It goes without saying that our learners stepped out in their absolute finest, showcasing vibrant traditional attire and inspiring future professions. For a look at all the fantastic outfits, head over to our official Facebook page to see the photos!

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW

As the upcoming school holidays approach, finding ways to keep energetic young minds engaged without breaking the bank—or requiring your constant oversight—can feel like a balancing act. Fortunately, inspiring creativity and fun at home doesn't need to involve costly outings or elaborate planning. Simple, low-cost activities are often the best way to foster independence, resourcefulness, and imaginative play in children.
A brilliant place to start is with a classic "boredom buster" station. Set up a designated craft and building area stocked with everyday household items like cardboard boxes, paper towel tubes, masking tape, old magazines, and scrap paper. Turning these simple materials into a "maker space" empowers kids to construct custom forts, design intricate marble runs, or draft their own comic books independently. For active indoor or backyard play, try designing a self-directed scavenger hunt. A simple checklist asking them to find "something fuzzy, something round, three different types of leaves, and a red object" can keep children happily occupied for hours as they explore their immediate environment.
Encouraging collaborative, quiet projects is another fantastic way to maintain a calm household. Set up a reading nook with pillows and a fresh stack of library books, or challenge them to write and rehearse a short play or dance routine to perform for you at the end of the day. You can also turn daily chores into interactive challenges; giving kids a bucket of soapy water and sponges to "wash" their outdoor toys or bicycles feels more like outdoor water play than work. By providing these open-ended frameworks and basic supplies, you give your children the freedom to direct their own adventures, ensuring a restful, budget-friendly holiday for the whole family!

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER!

- **6 October- Start of term 4**
- **9 October - CANSA shaveathon**
- **22 October - Sip and View.**
- **28 October- AGM**