

VIA NOVA CURRICULUM NEWS



Quarterly Newsletter

Compiled by Miss C Siebert

NEWSLETTER



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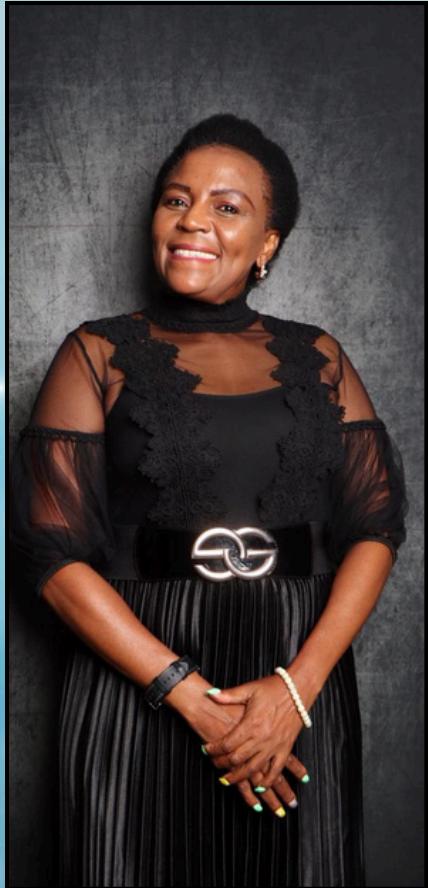
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION EVENT WITH CHURCH BREAD SPONSORS

TRAININGS TERM 4

PRIZE GIVING CEREMONIES 2025



Dear Parents and Guardians,



As we come to the close of another meaningful and memorable year, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to each of you for your continued support and trust in our school. It has been a year filled with growth, learning, and development for our learners. The staff are truly honored to walk this journey with your children.

Every achievement, whether big or small is a victory worth celebrating. Your unwavering commitment and collaboration have played an essential role. For that, we say THANK YOU!

As we enter this festive season, may your homes be filled with peace, love, and joy and may 2026 be a year of new possibilities. We look forward to welcoming our learners back refreshed and ready for another wonderful year.



FOOD DRIVE: A BIG THANK YOU!

Written by Ramona van der Spuy

What a successful Christmas Food Parcel Drive we had at Via Nova School for 2025!

This initiative aimed to teach our learners that caring for one another can happen in many different ways. Throughout the various phases of the project, staff, parents, community members, and the learners themselves all contributed generously.

We would like to extend special thanks to:

- Craig and Deirdre Taylor from Route Gaming Solutions for their extremely generous donation of food.
- The Via Nova School Care Committee for their ideas and support in shaping the initiative.
- Every staff member, community member, and learner who contributed.
- And last—but certainly not least—Leah, the Therapy Phase Assistant. Without Leah, we would have had food, but no food parcels. Her dedication and passion for supporting our learners is truly appreciated.

Thanks to this food drive, we were able to provide 53 learners and their families with food parcels for the long holiday ahead. We hope to continue building on this success in 2026.

Wishing everyone a joyful festive season.



EXIT PROGRAMME 2025 PROJECTS – CELEBRATING SKILLS, GROWTH AND REAL-WORLD READINESS

Written by Grace Pule

As we reach the end of another productive year, we proudly reflect on the incredible work completed through the Exit Programme. Each project has equipped our learners with hands-on vocational skills, independence, confidence, and real-world exposure.

The **baking classes** were a delight, allowing learners to practise accurate measuring, mixing, timing, and hygiene. They made fluffy scones, a variety of muffins, and delicious biscuits, gaining confidence in following recipes and working independently.



In **Entrepreneurship**, learners produced and sold scented candles, room diffusers, and refreshing sprays while learning about pricing, packaging, and customer service.



Pottery classes encouraged creativity as learners shaped and glazed clay into candle holders, snack bowls, and decorative plates.



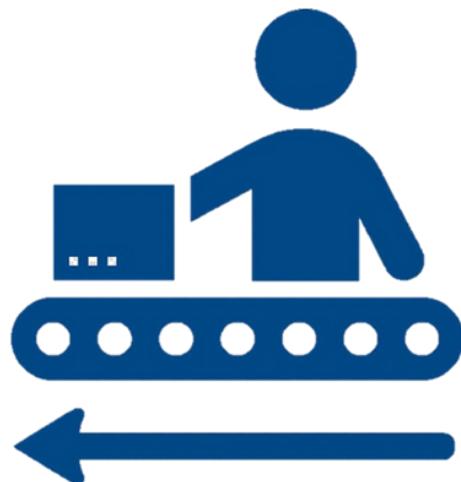
Needlework developed patience, hand-eye coordination, and pattern-following as learners made scarves and warm beanies.



The **maintenance class** offered valuable experience in painting, brick layering, and basic landscaping, preparing learners for opportunities in groundskeeping and general upkeep.



In the **production line class**, learners worked collaboratively to create handmade earrings and keyrings, learning sequencing, task distribution, quality control, and time management.



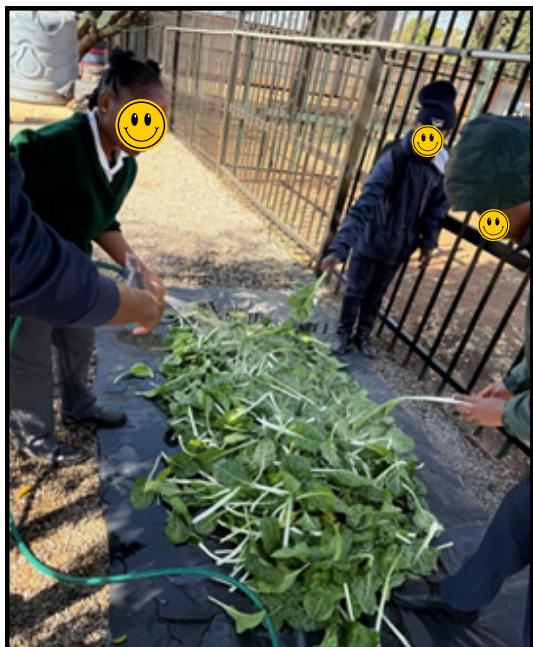
Woodwork impressed with detailed coasters, cheese plates, cutting boards, and potholders.



The **car wash programme** fostered teamwork and responsibility as learners washed the inside and outside of vehicles, charging different rates depending on size.



Agriculture thrived as learners planted, cared for, and successfully harvested spinach and beetroot while learning soil preparation, watering, and plant care.



The **nails and beauty** class developed confidence and fine motor skills through manicures, pedicures, and facials.



The **general and class assistant** internal placements gave learners real workplace exposure through classroom organisation, resource preparation, and basic administrative tasks.

A **communication subject** led by Ms Haseena Joosub taught essential workplace etiquette, greetings, body language, and professional behaviour.

A highlight of the year was the **external placement** at an old-age home, where learners assisted with tasks and engaged with residents—practising empathy, patience, and professionalism.

The Exit Programme has had a remarkable year filled with practical learning, creativity, and new experiences. Our learners have shown resilience, enthusiasm, and readiness for life beyond the classroom. We are incredibly proud of each learner and extend our gratitude to the staff who supported them throughout this journey. Here's to continued growth, opportunity, and success!



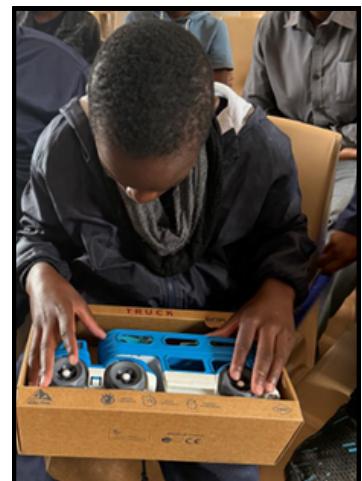
MOTSEPE FOUNDATION SPREADS JOY AT VIA NOVA SCHOOL

Written by Su-Mari Kriel

On 7 November 2025, Via Nova School received a heart-warming visit from the Motsepe Foundation, who generously donated toys to our learners.

The selection included toy trucks, soccer balls, and kitchen play sets, allowing learners to pick something that suited their interests. The smiles on their faces as they made their choices said more than words ever could. For many of our learners, these toys were not just gifts — they were moments of happiness, pride, and meaningful play.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Motsepe Foundation for their generosity and for making such a positive impact on our learners. Their support reminds us how powerful community partnerships can be in uplifting and enriching the lives of children with special needs



MOTSEPE FOUNDATION

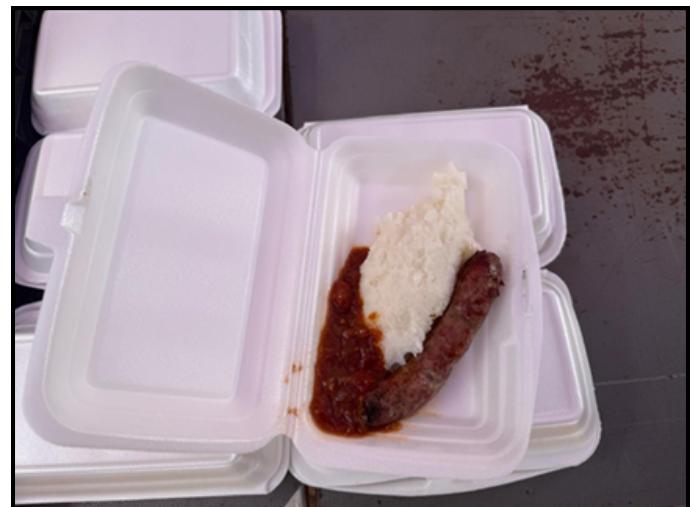
TERM 4 ENTREPRENEURS' DAYS

ASD INTERMEDIATE PHASE: PAP, WORS AND SHEBA - 5 NOVEMBER 2025

Written by Elize Scheepers

On 5 November 2025, the Autism Intermediate Phase proudly hosted its final Entrepreneurs' Day for the year. Preparations began early in the morning, with the team getting the fire ready to braai boerewors, while other teachers prepared the delicious pap and Sheba. Tickets were sold beforehand to keep the process smooth and reduce queues on the day.

The event was a great success, and the phase extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported their initiative.



ASD SENIOR & SKILLS PHASE: CHRISTMAS ENTREPRENEURS' DAY – 21 NOVEMBER 2025

Written by Liné Nieuwoudt

The ASD Senior and Skills Phases celebrated a festive and successful Christmas Entrepreneurs' Day on 21 November 2025, highlighted by a special visit from Santa Claus, who joined learners and staff in the joyful occasion. Learners proudly showcased and sold a wide range of products they designed and created in their needlework, cooking and craft classes. Items included cushions, tablecloths, cards, candles, canvasses, and an assortment of delicious eats and treats.

Santa's warm interaction with the learners — posing for photos and spreading festive cheer — added a magical touch to the day and boosted motivation and excitement among all participants.

The event offered learners a meaningful platform to develop and apply practical skills such as creativity, product planning, communication, and financial literacy. Their dedication and professionalism were evident in the quality of their products and the confidence with which they managed their stalls.

A sincere thank you is extended to all teachers, assistants, support staff, and parents whose guidance and encouragement helped ensure the smooth running of the day.

This festive initiative fostered community spirit, creativity, and joy — a memorable way to conclude the term.





TERM 4 EXCURSIONS

PID PHASE – 11 NOVEMBER 2025

Written by Calrine Nkuna

The PID phase, Profound Intellectual Disabled, visited Spur Queenswood on 11 November 2025. The outing was planned to give learners the opportunity to explore a real-life community setting, practice social skills, and enjoy a fun, sensory-rich environment outside the classroom.

For some learners, it was their first time visiting a restaurant. The highlight of the day was the delicious Spur meal prepared especially for them, and the comfort of sitting together and enjoying it. Smiles and laughter during mealtime reflected the learners' happiness and sense of belonging.

The Spur team also played an important role in making the day a success. Their patience, understanding, and willingness to accommodate our learners created a welcoming and supportive environment that respected each child's individual needs.

This special outing not only strengthened social and communication skills but also built positive memories that will stay with our learners for a long time.



ASD INTERMEDIATE PHASE – 22 OCTOBER 2025

Written by Elize Scheepers

On 22 October 2025, the ASD Intermediate Phase set off for an exciting excursion to Spur Queenswood. The day began with many happy faces — and a few learners who were uncertain but full of anticipation.

Upon arrival, the learners entered the restaurant and took their seats, displaying excellent behaviour and good manners. They were served their meals and cooldrinks, which they thoroughly enjoyed before heading to the playground — the highlight of the day!

The playground was full of laughter and excitement. Learners jumped on the trampolines, played on the jungle gyms, and took gentle rides on the mechanical big wheel. These activities encouraged physical movement, exploration, and joyful social interaction. The colourful environment created the perfect space for learners to relax and have fun together.

It was a truly memorable outing filled with happiness, play, and wonderful shared moments.



SCHOOL LEAVERS' ICE-SKATING – 4 NOVEMBER 2025

Written by Anité Marais

On 4 November, the school leavers of 2025 went on an adventurous outing to the Grove Ice Rink. There was excitement in the air. Some of the learners were a little bit scared of the cold, slippery ice but soon "warmed" up to it. It was wonderful to see how the learners enjoyed themselves and even had the courage to help their friends. In a short time, the learners had a great feeling of achievement as they had thought they would not be able to master ice skating. They were very proud of themselves, and so were the teachers and assistants accompanying them.

We thank the school management team from the bottom of our hearts for the opportunity to help the learners have such a great experience and sense of accomplishment.



2026 AGM

Written by Masego Makumbila

Our school held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 5 November in the school hall. The meeting started at 16:00, where Ms Annerie Krause, the deputy principal, opened with a motivational message and prayer.

The school took a different approach this year by “killing two birds with one stone” to relieve parents from attending multiple meetings at this hectic time of the year. Parents started by going to their children’s class teachers to meet and discuss the learners’ Individual Support Plans (ISPs) and to get to know who their children’s teachers for 2026 will be. This helped both teachers and parents have a clear road map for creating a successful academic year for our learners. Parents then proceeded to the school hall at 17:00 to attend the AGM. For the first time in a couple of years, a quorum was met and there was no need for a second meeting on a different date, as had happened in previous years.

Ms Krause welcomed everyone and highlighted the school’s achievements over the year. Ms Jeanette Sarpong, the school principal, also gave a detailed report on finances and improvements in school facilities. Regarding administration matters, Mrs Karen Davel, acting administration deputy, also presented her report. In addition, Mr Mtsweni, our acting School Governing Body chairperson, reported on matters related to learner safety and school transport.

The school would like to encourage everyone to continue working together to make things even better. We appreciate the teamwork and responsibility shown in building a strong school community.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION EVENT WITH CHURCH BREAD SPONSORS

Written by Patience Nonjiko

On the 21st of November 2025, Via Nova School held a special Christmas Celebration to honour and thank our generous church bread sponsors.

As the sun rises and the school day begins, there is one essential aspect of our morning routine that fuels our learners and sets a positive tone for the day: church bread. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, to whom we extend our sincerest gratitude. Your commitment is an invaluable part of this programme, fostering a sense of community that reflects our school's values.

The smiles you bring to our learners' faces as they start their day with wholesome sandwiches are truly priceless. To our sponsors, your kindness and generosity do not go unnoticed. You have made a lasting impact on our learners' lives by ensuring they have access to this important daily need, which is crucial for their concentration, learning, and overall well-being. We are truly thankful for your support.

As we look forward to another exciting school year, we hope to continue building on this wonderful programme, reaching even more learners who can benefit from a caring and steady start to their day. Together, we can create a nurturing environment where every child feels supported and encouraged to thrive.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support of our school. Your contributions are making a difference — one loaf at a time.



THANK YOU!
so much

TERM 4 TRAININGS

PID LEARNING PROGRAMME TRAINING

Written by Hazel Ngwanduli

On **15 November 2025**, Via Nova School hosted a training session on the **PID Learning Programme**, presented by **Ms A. Vermeulen from Lettie Fouché School** in the Free State. As an experienced special-needs educator, she shared practical insights, real classroom examples, and effective strategies from her work with the PID programme.

The training deepened educators' and therapists' understanding of the PID LP, guiding them in conducting and interpreting baseline assessments, grouping learners functionally, and planning suitable learning activities. Ms Vermeulen also demonstrated how the learner assessment recording tool supports progress monitoring and adjustments to individual support plans.

She further presented instructional strategies tailored to learners with profound intellectual disabilities, including integrated activities that build communication, language, cognitive, spatial, and life skills. The session was refreshing, practical, and equipped staff with valuable methods for creating structured, supportive, learner-centred environments.



support
plans



SUPPORTING AUTISTIC TEENS THROUGH PUBERTY AND ANXIETY

Ramona van der Spuy

On **25 October 2025**, Via Nova School welcomed **Dr MD Nonyane**, paediatric neurodevelopmental specialist, who presented an insightful training session to **26 attendees**, including parents, caregivers, teachers, therapists, and other professionals. The topic focused on **supporting autistic teens through puberty and anxiety**, with Dr Nonyane offering clear guidelines and answering meaningful questions.

A beautiful highlight of the day was seeing parents share their own stories, challenges, and successes, offering one another practical tips and encouragement.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr Nonyane for not only providing excellent medical care to our learners, but also for sharing her time and expertise with us. Thank you as well to the Resource Centre for arranging this necessary and impactful session.



CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE FOR LEARNERS WITH AUTISM

Written by Justine Mdhlovu

On 2 August 2025, Ms A. Krause delivered an impactful presentation on the importance of adopting an **autism-specific Code of Conduct** at Via Nova School. She highlighted the need for a supportive, empathetic, and informed approach to understanding the behaviour and developmental needs of autistic learners.

As the school transitions toward becoming an autism-only school, adopting such a code has become essential. Ms Krause explained that traditional disciplinary approaches often misinterpret autism-related behaviours—such as stimming, difficulty with transitions, sensory overload, and meltdowns—as defiance. Instead, these behaviours should be viewed as signs of anxiety, distress, or neurological overwhelm.

She outlined key benefits of an autism-specific code: promoting dignity and understanding, reducing emotional escalation, supporting sensory needs, encouraging predictable routines and visual schedules, and prioritising restorative discipline. The code is also rooted in the **SIAS Policy (2014)** and emphasises the essential role of the **School-Based Support Team (SBST)** in identifying barriers to learning and coordinating interventions.

Via Nova School remains committed to fostering an environment where every learner—especially autistic learners—is understood, supported, and empowered to succeed.

FUNCTIONALITY OF THE SBST

Written by Veronica Khumalo

On 15 November 2025, teachers from the Tshwane South District participated in a comprehensive training session focused on strengthening the functionality of School-Based Support Teams (SBSTs). The workshop equipped educators with knowledge, skills, and practical strategies to support learners experiencing barriers to learning and to promote inclusive education throughout the district.



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUPPORT NEEDS ASSESSMENT FORM (SNA)

SNA 1 & 2: SCHOOL LEVEL

Surname and names of learner	DOB: 20.../.../... (yy/mm/dd) ID No. LURITS/CEMIS No.
Name of school:	EMIS No.:

CONFIDENTIAL

This is a confidential document that must be kept in the Learner Profile



PRIZE-GIVING 2025 – ACADEMIC, CULTURE & SPORT

Via Nova School proudly hosted its 2025 Prize-Giving ceremonies over three special days: 19 November, 20 November, and 1 December.

19 NOVEMBER – FOUNDATION PHASE, INTERMEDIATE PHASE & PID PHASE

Written by Winnie Ntsoane

On 19 November 2025, the ASD Foundation Phase 1 and 2, Intermediate Phase, and PID Phase held their prize-giving ceremony. The learners were boozing with excitement as they received their awards, and parents ululated with joy, showing how proud they were of their children during this prestigious event.



20 NOVEMBER – SENIOR/SKILLS PHASE, ADL PHASE & EXIT PHASE

Written by Liné Nieuwoudt

On 20 November 2025, the Senior/Skills Phase, ADL Phase, and Exit Phase held their ceremony. The hall was filled with excitement as achievements in academics, leadership, and character development were acknowledged. Learners were celebrated not only for high performance but also for improvement, resilience, dedication, and a positive attitude. Educators also recognised learners who excelled in service and leadership, as well as those who consistently demonstrated the school's values throughout the year.



1 DECEMBER – CULTURE & SPORTS AWARDS

Written by Su-Mari Kriel

On 1 December 2025, Via Nova hosted the Culture and Sports Awards Ceremony, honouring learners who excelled on the field, on the stage, and in various cultural activities throughout the year. Medals, certificates, and trophies were awarded to recognise outstanding commitment, team spirit, talent, and sportsmanship.







