



Our Mission Statement

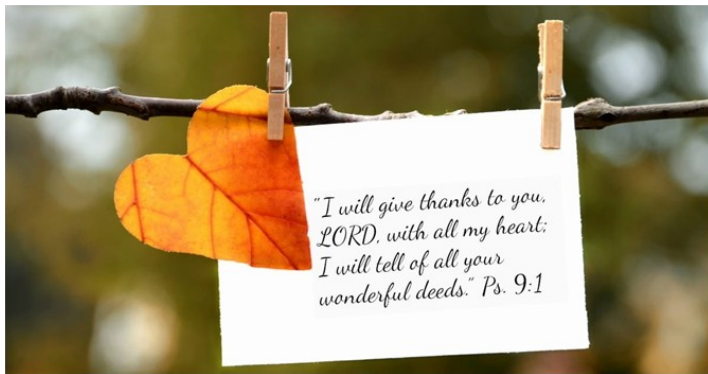
Nurturing children to become happy, well-balanced, resilient and academically sound individuals, empowered to make a difference.

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a brand-new year. The staff have been like busy bees around the campus for more than a week now, getting ready to welcome the children back.

Our theme for 2025 is...

Gratitude is Gold



At our first staff meeting on Monday, we focused on the power of gratitude. In the webinar we watched there was evidence based on research that shows that gratitude can lead to increased happiness, improved health and stronger relationships. Job satisfaction can also be increased by regular gratitude practices. The Bible speaks of gratitude as a pathway to experiencing God’s peace that surpasses all understanding. Gratitude in this light is more than just a virtue. I was excited to present our theme **Gratitude is Gold** at our first assembly for the year.

We welcome three new members Mrs Michelle Comyn, Mr Robert Miles and Mr Dylan Fetting to our Council. I look forward to working with the Council this year and know that all the members are committed to seeing Yellowwoods thrive. I am grateful for each and every member who give up their valuable time for our school. Our one and only Mrs Kerry Yates has given the thumbs up to a third year as Chairlady of our PTA. When we were all going on holiday in December Kerry was at school busy organizing the new floor for the Dinky Dinos (Grade 000) class. Kerry all I can say is we love you and thank you for everything you do for the school with the support of your cool husband Rob!

We welcome the following new members to our staff...

- ✎ Candice Fortuin who will be the new face in the nursery on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Candice will be taking over the isiXhosa in the JP classes and also doing Grade R art classes and

Grade 1 Afrikaans.

- ✎ Casey Bush who is a past pupil will be the Grade 4 & 5 teacher while Mrs Schneider is away on maternity leave this term.
- ✎ Mr James York is the new Grade 6 & 7 class teacher. He will also be working closely with Mr Emile Bernardt to continue improving and building our sports program.
- ✎ Miss Sumari Pretorius, is heading up our horse riding. Sumari will be working with Kirstin Thomas who is now based in Grahamstown. Together they will continue to develop our equestrian center.

We wish all these new staff members wonderful experiences and we are very happy that they have joined our Yellowwoods family.

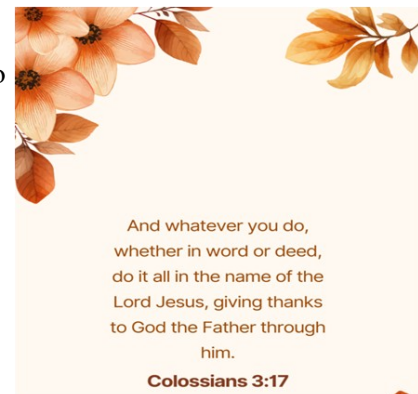
My philosophy in life is that sometimes doors close and then reopen for a reason. As you know we closed our boarding house at the end of last year due to lack of numbers which no longer made it financially viable to run. In the last two days I have had three parents contact me regarding boarding. If you are interested, please message me directly. This is a door we are willing to reopen again if we have enough children to make it viable so that we can employ a suitable person to run this area of the school.

You will be receiving the first term calendar today. Please diarize the following two dates and make every effort to attend. Parent Teacher Information evening next Tuesday 21 January and Parent Cyber Safety Workshop the following Thursday 30 January. Working hand in hand benefits your children in so many positive ways.

Thank you for entrusting your precious children into our care this year. We are committed to making a success of every opportunity we have ensuring that your child has the most wonderful school experience.

God Bless

Mrs Julie Sparks
Headmistress





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Horse riding for 2025

It is with much excitement that I welcome all parents and children back into the Horse-Riding program for 2025.

I started up the Yellowwoods Equestrian centre in 2022, and after 3 years of running the riding school myself, I have branched off to Grahamstown to open a new branch.

However, do not be alarmed, horse riding at Yellowwoods will continue this year and I leave you in great, enthusiastic hands, Miss Sumari Pretorius will run the Yellowwoods Equestrian Centre branch.

Sumari has from Port Elizabeth and is very excited to meet all the children and teach them all about horses. Even though children will be seeing a lot less of me, I will still be coming back to give clinics.

Many thanks

Miss Kirstin Thomas

HORSE Riding

Calling All Yellowwood Students! Join Our Riding Program!

Get ready to saddle up and discover the joy of horse riding right here at school! Whether you're new to riding or want to improve your skills, we've got something for everyone.

Available Options:

- Pony Rides (15 minutes): R100.00
- Group Lessons (30 minutes): R150.00
- Private Lessons (30 minutes): R200.00

Learn and enjoy the thrill of riding while making unforgettable memories with your friends!

Spaces are limited—sign up now!

Contact Sumari
071 859 4913 / sumari.pretorius@icloud.com

Important Dates

- Wednesday, 15 January 2025 - School starts.
- Friday, 17 January - Assembly and school closes at 13h00.
- Tuesday, 21 January - Parent Teacher Information Evening in the school hall starting at 17h30.
- Wednesday, 22 January - School closes at 13h30.
- Friday, 24 January-Assembly and school closes at 13h00.
- Thursday, 30 January - Parents Cyber Safety Workshop starting at 17h30.



phillipmartin.info



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