

Kidz Chronicle



JANUARY 2025

31

FRIDAY

Edition 2 Term 1



Dear Parents/ Guardians

The Year of the Snake is one of the 12 zodiac animals in the Chinese calendar. If your birthday falls in one of these years — 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013 or 2025 — you were born in the Year of the Snake.

People born under the Snake zodiac are often analytical, calm and thoughtful. Just like real snakes that move gracefully, kids born in the Year of the Snake often have a creative and graceful way of doing things.

Snake Kids' Personality Traits

- **Smart Problem-Solvers:** Snake kids often love puzzles and figuring things out.
 - **Creative and Imaginative:** They enjoy drawing, writing stories or building new things.
- Quiet and Thoughtful: Snakes usually like time to think before they act.
Being born in the Year of the Snake is super cool!
Snakes are wise, creative, and strong — just like you can be!



The snake is often associated with wisdom, transformation, and careful strategy. In the context of education:

Growth through Shedding (Transformation): Just as a snake sheds its skin to grow, education allows individuals to shed old ideas or limitations, allowing for personal growth and the development of new knowledge and skills.

Patience and Observation: Snakes are often patient and calculated hunters, waiting for the right moment to strike. Similarly, education requires patience—whether it's taking the time to fully understand complex concepts or waiting for the right opportunities to apply that knowledge.

Wisdom and Insight: Snakes are symbols of wisdom in many cultures. Education, like the snake's symbolic wisdom, enables individuals to gain deeper insights, make informed decisions, and view the world with a more nuanced perspective.

Adaptability: Just as snakes adapt to different environments, education teaches us to adapt to new challenges, perspectives, and situations—whether it's learning new skills or adjusting to changing times.

This analogy shows how education, much like the Year of the Snake, involves transformation, patience, strategic planning, and the wisdom gained through learning.



World Read Aloud Day comes early to CityKidz

CityKidz organized a reading session at our school to celebrate the joy

World Read Aloud Day is held annually. This year it will be held on the 5th of February 2025

World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) is an annual event that aims to highlight the power of storytelling and the importance of literacy across the globe. In 2025, this celebration will take place on February 5th, bringing people together from all walks of life to engage in one simple yet powerful activity: reading aloud.

World Read Aloud Day also highlights the significance of books in shaping our lives. Stories have the power **to transport us to different worlds, introduce us to new perspectives, and inspire change. Whether it's a beloved childhood book or a recent novel that made an impact, reading aloud allows us to experience these stories in a collective way, creating a shared experience that transcends language and cultural barriers.**

Founded by LitWorld in 2010, World Read Aloud Day emphasizes the transformative power of reading aloud to inspire a love of reading, improve literacy skills, and foster empathy among individuals of all ages. It's an event that goes beyond just reading; it focuses on the connection between the reader and the listener, building bonds through shared stories.

Reading aloud is particularly important because it engages listeners in a deeper way than silent reading. It activates multiple senses and often strengthens comprehension and retention. Moreover, it creates a **communal experience, whether it's a teacher reading to students, parents reading to children, or communities coming together to share their favourite stories.**



Salas Reading—Workout to help

‘There was once a ...’ It took only those few words for the hall to quieten and listen to Salas’ amazing journey from Guinea Bissau to Portugal to London to travelling the world.

Salas, a wonderful storyteller, kept CityKidz learners rapt with his life story. Salas took the audience from his village in Guinea Bissau to Portugal where he played professional soccer and finally to London where he got the call to return home. CityKidz learners were taken on a road trip across several countries. We listened with our hearts in our mouths when Abdul, the boy Salas was trying to help, was being bullied. Later, with a wild roar, we all cheered for Abdul when he scored his first goal.

No one wanted the story to end. But Salas had another treat in store. He high-fived each and every learner as they exited the hall. CityKidz is fortunate to have experienced the joy and commitment of Salas, Nando’s and their support teams, who help to make learners feel that dreams can come true.





Grade 4—Transition workshop

Grade 4 Transition workshop - a resounding success.

The transition from Grade 3 to Grade 4 is a significant milestone in a child's educational journey. It can be an exciting, yet challenging time. On Saturday, 25th January, CityKidz hosted an interactive workshop for Grade 4 parents. The event was a resounding success, with attendees praising the informative and engaging format.

Our Grade 4 team, led by Annalene Vorster presented an overview of the curriculum, highlighting key areas of focus and expectations for the year. The parents' workshop covered some key aspects:

Increased workload: More homework, projects and assignments that require better time management skills.

New subjects: Learners are introduced to technology classes.

More complex concepts introduced: Learners are expected to demonstrate a deeper understanding of concepts and apply critical thinking skills.

Greater independence: Learners are encouraged to take more responsibility for their learning, organisation and time management.

The workshop featured interactive sessions, where parents had the opportunity to engage with teachers and share their views. These sessions covered topics such as:

Academic expectations: Parents gained insight into the academic rigours of Grade 4, including the introduction of new subjects and the reinforcement of existing skills.

Social – emotional development: **Strategies to support learners' emotional intelligence** and well-being were highlighted. A touching moment occurred when **teachers and parents held hands, saying, 'We are a team.'**

Communication and support: Parents learned about the various channels of communication available to them, including regular progress reports, parent-teacher meetings and online portals.

Parents feedback

The feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressions of appreciation for the content and transparency of the workshop.

"I was overwhelmed and nervous about my son going to Grade 4, however, I feel much more confident, knowing what to expect and how to support him."

"I'm impressed by the school's commitment to supporting not only our children but also us as parents."

Compiled by: Constance Mpofu

CityKidz
Grade 4
CityKidz Pre & Primary School
**PARENT
TEACHER**
Meeting



New Parent's Fairytale Tea Party

We are still buzzing from the magical Fairytale Themed Tea Party held for our new parents on Saturday morning. It was a spellbinding morning filled with magic, merriment and marvellous company.

A special thank you to all the parents who joined the royal court and made sure their little princesses and princes were dressed fit for a fairytale. Our incredible decor team, led by Mrs Nelson, waved their magic wands and transformed the Funky Factory into a fairytale wonderland. We would also like to thank our talented Grade Rs dance group for their energetic Hokey Pokey performance. That was incredible. The Grade 1s showcased fantastic listening skills by mimicking every move in their action song. Grade 3s displayed good leadership qualities with their confident speeches and wonderful dance which kept everyone entertained.

We hope that parents enjoyed the insightful talk on cyberbullying and the informative speeches from our Heads of Department who shared the rich history and vision of our school.

A proud parent of a former learner, Karabo, told us that she is now studying medicine.

Thank you again to everyone who made this a royal success!



New Parent's Fairytale Tea Party





CityTotz - ECD

Early Childhood Development (ECD) is a crucial phase in a child's life, laying the foundation for their cognitive, emotional, and social growth. ECD centres play a pivotal role in providing children with a safe and nurturing environment during their formative years, typically from birth to age 6. These centres not only support the developmental needs of children but also offer a wide range of benefits for families, communities, and society as a whole.

Here are some of the key benefits of having our CityTotz centre:

1. Promotes Cognitive Development

During the early years, a child's brain is incredibly receptive to learning and development. CityTotz offers structured programs that stimulate a child's cognitive abilities through activities like play, storytelling, music, and problem-solving tasks. These experiences help children develop critical thinking skills, improve language abilities, and boost their memory and concentration. Research has shown that early experiences significantly shape a child's brain development. Access to quality early childhood education equips children with the tools to excel in later stages of schooling and life. This is exactly what CityTotz provides.

2. Supports Social and Emotional Development

In ECD centres, children learn important social skills, such as sharing, cooperation, and conflict resolution. They interact with peers, forming friendships, and learning how to communicate effectively with others. This socialization is vital for developing emotional intelligence, as children learn to understand and manage their emotions, express themselves appropriately, and empathize with others.

Furthermore, CityTotz provides a safe space for children to explore their individuality while learning about group dynamics. This environment fosters self-confidence, self-regulation, and emotional resilience, which are essential for long-term well-being.

3. Enhances School Readiness

Early childhood education plays a critical role in preparing children for primary school. CityTotz introduces children to the basic concepts of literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving. They also help children develop fine motor skills (e.g., holding a pencil) and gross motor skills (e.g., jumping or running).

Children who attend the quality CityTotz centre are often better prepared for the academic and social demands of primary school. They tend to have better language skills, improved attention spans, and are more likely to perform well in school.

4. Supports Parental Employment and Well-being

Having access to CityTotz allows parents, especially mothers, to pursue employment or further education. For many families, knowing that their child is in a safe, supportive environment gives them the freedom to work or **study without the added stress of childcare. This can contribute to the family's financial stability and overall well-being.**

The benefits of having CityTotz extends far beyond the individual child. Our ECD centre is crucial for fostering cognitive, social, and emotional development, supporting school readiness, and promoting long-term educational success. CityTotz also offers significant advantages for parents and our community.

By prioritizing and investing in early childhood education, we ensure that all children, regardless of background, have the opportunity to reach their full potential. In doing so, we lay the foundation for a brighter, more equitable future for everyone.

Investec Breakfast ECD

Breakfast at Investec Sandton.

At a breakfast hosted by Investec, CityKidz Principal, Mrs Reynolds, Mrs T Jiyane and Ms D King had the honour of meeting with the Minister of Education, Siviwe Gwarube. The event provided a valuable platform for discussing initiatives for Early Childhood Development. The Minister's insights and support underscore the importance of collaboration between educational organisations, government and the private sector, in fostering a brighter future for all children. We are excited to share key points and the potential avenues for partnership that emerged from this inspiring conversation. In her speech, the Minister highlighted the following strategies that will be prioritised before 2030 to achieve universal access to quality Early Childhood Development.

Access - Every child will have access to flexible packages of age-appropriate and affordable Early Childhood Development.

Resources - Sufficient government funding and targeted resources.

Workforce – A well-equipped Early Childhood Development workforce that is able to deliver curriculum effectively.

Quality - Programme delivery (policies) will be enhanced through appropriate support and monitoring.

Early Childhood Development teachers were encouraged to start investing in Literacy and Numeracy from Grade RR. CityKidz looks forward to playing a role in the proposed collaborative strategies which will help to improve educational outcomes in South Africa.



Sports Day

Our Annual Sports Day will take place on Saturday 22nd February 2025 at [Holy Family College](#), 40 Oxford Road, Parktown, Johannesburg.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you plan and get accurate directions to the venue prior to the sports day at Holy Family College. The school will communicate and keep constant reminders via WhatsApp messages, letters, our school official website, Facebook and newsletters. Please diarise the date and reserve it for this exciting event.

Once again, a huge thank you to Holy Family College for allowing us to utilise their premises and sports facilities for our sports day. This is amicably a grateful gesture. As CityKidz family we value and cherish the healthy relationship we have established with Holy Family College. It is our priority to take cognisance of this and always respect the premises and keep the venue clean and litter free. We have full confidence in our staff, children, and parents to respect and leave the venue in good shape and spotless.

Children will be divided into teams according to their school houses. All learners must wear their PET uniform with the colour of his /her school house. The house colours are as follows:

Eland – Yellow

Impala – Green

Roan – Red

Events will commence promptly at 8:30 am and will last through the morning to mid-afternoon. Please ensure that your child is at the venue by 7:30 am. If your child misses his/her race, we cannot run the race again- so please be punctual!

We are hoping for some beautiful sunshine, according to the weather it will be a rain free day. Should it rain, we have a back-up plan to hold the event on another Saturday. (We will communicate the alternative date with you.)

As always, our awesome Tuck-shop and other registered service providers will be selling delicious food and refreshments. There will be a variety of food and drinks available to cater for all your needs.

We anticipate that the event will be finished by 15h30. It is imperative that children must be supervised all the time and we therefore appeal to parents to help in this regard, as teachers will be delegated a variety of duties,


Parents will be given an opportunity to participate in their own races, so please do come in your comfortable sports regalia and be prepared should you wish to take part. I hope you will support us in making this yet another exceptional, enjoyable and successful SPORTS DAY!



PRE & PRIMARY SCHOOL
CityKidz
Strive to Achieve

CityKidz Sports Day

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY



FANTASTIC FAMILY FUN BE PART OF IT!

VENUE: HOLY FAMILY COLLEGE 40 OXFORD, PARKTOWN, JOHANNESBURG

EVENTS START PROMPTLY @ 8:30AM

SICK CHILDREN

Special points of interest:

- Sports Day-School Sports Day Saturday 22nd February Holy Family College

It's important to keep sick children at home to prevent the spread of illness and ensure they get the rest they need to recover. Sending sick children to school can not only put their health at risk but also affect the well-being of other students and teachers, potentially leading to outbreaks of illness.

By staying home when sick, children contribute to a healthier school environment overall. It helps maintain a safe and productive space for everyone.

What to Do Instead: Rest and Hydration: Make sure the child gets plenty of rest and drinks fluids to help speed up their recovery.

Consult a Doctor if Necessary: If symptoms persist or worsen, it's important to consult a healthcare professional.

AFTERCARE FRIDAY ACTIVITIES



**FRIDAYS
Grade R – 7
ARE DISMISSED
AT 13:00**

**What's
Happening**

over the next
two weeks?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
03/02	04/02	05/02	06/02	07/02
CASS FP and IP Sports Practice RR-1	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 2&3	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 4&5	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 6&7	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10/02	11/02	12/02	13/02	14/02
CASS FP and IP Sports Practice RR-1	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 2&3	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 4&5	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 6&7	Valentine's Day Civvies

AFTERCARE FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

Aftercare 2025 got off to an energetic start with a Tai Chi and Meditation session on the first Fun Friday. The hall was packed with Aftercare learners and staff who learned to breathe deeply, focus their energies and visualise themselves in nature. With one foot in the air, fists poised, slowly, slowly learners executed the tiger finding its inner strength, painted a rainbow, shot arrows and found their energy. Tai Chi and meditation controls anger, helps concentration, is non-competitive and improves balance and flexibility. The session ended with a visualisation leaving learners calmer and more focussed.

On the second Fun Friday, learners used their creativity and motor skills to create picture enlargements. The workshop helped learners to enlarge small images or drawings onto a larger surface, such as a poster board or canvas, using simple techniques like grids or freehand sketching. By using simple materials like coloured paper, learners created unique, eye-catching works of art. Beyond the fun, picture-making offers educational benefits. It develops fine motor skills, enhances problem-solving abilities and boosts self-confidence as learners see their ideas come to life. Aftercare learners can feel proud of their unique creations.



SPELLING BEE



antics
anxiety
apartheid
aperture
apocalypse
apostrophe
apparatus

appendix
atrocitiy
attire
attorney
attribute
auction
audacious

Quote for the Week

*To know what you know
and what you do not
know, that is true
knowledge. Confucius*



basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Registration number
2007/014450/08

General
Knowledge
Question for
the week.

Which is the
largest plateau
in the world?

Answer to the
question in our
last newsletter.
of 2024

What's the
response to
"see you later, alliga-
tor?"

After A While,
Crocodile!



ISASA
Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa
Quality Values Diversity



CityKidz Pre & Primary School
is Accredited by Umalusi,
Council for Quality Assurance
in General and Further
Education and Training-
Accreditation number
18 SCHO1 00576



Warm Regards

Mrs S Reynolds

PRINCIPAL

Most Merits for Week Ending 31 January. Term 1: Year 2025

Grade	Name	Surname	Grade	Name	Surname
Grade RRa	Vele	Mulayo	Grade RRb	Vutlhari	Ntimane
Grade RRC	Zahavi	Khumalo	Grade Ra	Onalerona	Fakathe
Grade Rb	Uminathi	Zuma	Grade Rc	Makanaka	Muchenje
Grade 1A	Kotloano	Khiba	Grade 1B	Kagoentle	Molelang
Grade 1C	Khanya	Motsilili	Grade 1D	Manqoba	Nkomazana
Grade 2A	Warona	Sekhibidu	Grade 2B	Noleen	Moyo
Grade 2C	Chantal	Bvute	Grade 2D	Esihle	Makhanda
Grade 3A	Bonolo	Petlele	Grade 3B	Keamogetswe	April
Grade 3C	Tshegofatso	Moepi	Grade 3D	Cebisa	Jumba
Grade 4A	Iviwe	Goba	Grade 4B	Reatlegile	Ramaila
Grade 4C	Kelebogile	Dikgale	Grade 4D	Rinavho	Netselo
Grade 5A	Owethu	Ndlovu	Grade 5B	Nathynyen	Mebratu
Grade 5C	Mpho	Ndawo	Grade 5D	Mercy	Shiba
Grade 6A	Asanda	Khupe	Grade 6B	Zanenhle	Ncube
Grade 6C	Asante	Vunguvungu	Grade 6D	Deane	Mlotshwa
Grade 7A	Reatile	Kgatlhe	Grade 7B	Onyechi	Mhlambe
Grade 7C	Kyle	Ndlovu			