

Kidz Chronicle

13 February 2026 CityKidz Pre & Primary School

Dear Parents/ Guardians

Edition 03 Term 1

Reflecting on a Special Valentine's Day at Our School

Today our school came together to celebrate Valentine's Day in a meaningful and joyful way, with a special focus on friendship, kindness and love. The day reminded us that Valentine's Day is not only about romance, but also about caring for others, strengthening friendships and showing compassion through our everyday words and actions. As the saying goes, *"Love grows when it is shared,"* and this spirit was felt throughout the school from the very start of the day.

Valentine's Day has a long and interesting history. It is believed to have originated many centuries ago and is named after Saint Valentine, who was known for acts of kindness and helping others. Over time, the day became associated with expressing love, appreciation and care — values that go far beyond romantic relationships. Today, Valentine's Day is celebrated around the world as a reminder that *"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."*

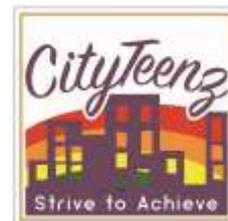
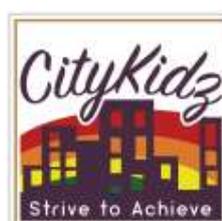
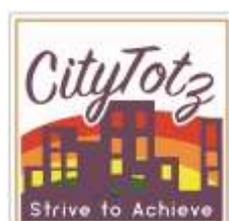
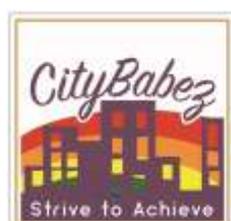
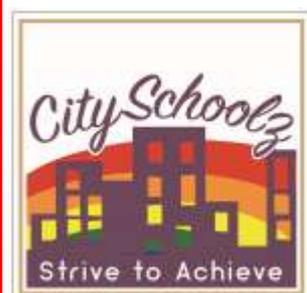
From early morning, there was a sense of excitement in the air as learners arrived dressed in red, white and pink, instantly creating a bright and festive atmosphere across the school. The Valentine's Day goodies on sale added to the celebration, offering a variety of items that allowed learners to choose thoughtful gifts for friends, classmates and loved ones. These small tokens of appreciation encouraged generosity and reminded learners that even the simplest gesture can make someone's day.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs Vorster, whose incredible handmade gifts were a true highlight of the celebration. Each item was created with care and thoughtfulness, perfectly capturing the message that *"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."* Her contribution added a special and personal touch to the day and was deeply appreciated by learners and staff alike.

Another much-anticipated moment was the lucky draw, with both FP and IP learners eagerly taking part. The excitement of hearing names called and prizes won brought smiles and laughter, adding to the fun-filled atmosphere and strengthening the sense of togetherness within our school community.

Beyond the activities and celebrations, the true heart of the day was found in the simple moments — a kind word between friends, a shared smile, or a small act of generosity. These moments reflected the values we aim to nurture in our learners and reminded us that *"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."*

This Valentine's Day was a beautiful celebration of connection, generosity and love. It brought our school community together in a meaningful and memorable way and left us with a lasting reminder that friendship, compassion and kindness are worth celebrating every day.





Valentine's visuals



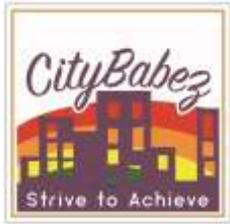




Valentine's visuals







Grade R News

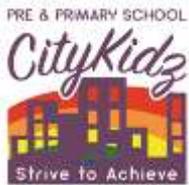
In Grade R, colour-coding activities using balls and baskets help young learners develop important early learning skills. Children are given balls of different colours and asked to sort and place them into matching coloured baskets. This hands-on activity is playful and engaging, while also being highly educational.

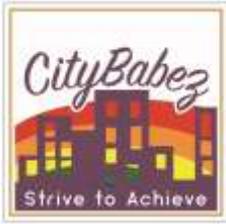
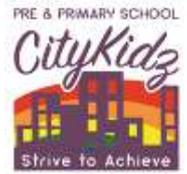
Educational purpose:

- **Colour recognition:** Helps learners identify, name, and differentiate between colours.
- **Cognitive development:** Encourages thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making as children match items correctly.
- **Fine motor skills:** Strengthens hand-eye coordination and finger control while picking up and placing the balls.
- **Concentration and listening skills:** Learners must focus and follow instructions to complete the task.
- **Early math's skills:** Introduces basic concepts such as sorting, grouping, and categorising.
- **Confidence and independence:** Successfully completing the activity builds self-esteem and a sense of achievement.

Overall, colour-coding ball activities support holistic development through learning by play, which is central to Grade R education.







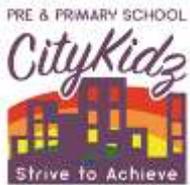
Grade R News

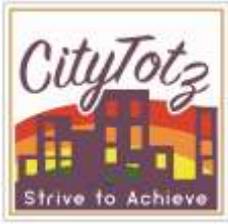
The first five weeks of Grade R in 2026 have been filled with growth, joy, and beautiful moments of discovery. Our learners have settled in wonderfully, showing courage and confidence as they explore their new environment. Inside the classroom, curious hands are busy sorting, counting, building and creating from: colourful blocks that strengthen early Maths skills to shaping numbers with playdough, proudly showing off their achievements. These moments reflect focus, independence and a growing love for learning.

Beyond the classroom, our Grade R stars shine just as brightly. On the playground, they climb, balance and explore with confidence, developing their physical strength, coordination and bravery. Friendships are forming naturally as they play together, take turns and support one another. Each smile, every attempt and every small success tells a story of resilience and determination.

We are incredibly proud of how far our Grade R learners have come in these early weeks. They are truly thriving socially, emotionally, physically and academically and cruising beautifully on their learning journey. Thank you to our wonderful parents for your trust and support as we nurture confident, happy and courageous little learners together. GradeR Team







CityTotz

The past month has been bursting with circle moments. From spotting the circle shape, to finding it hiding between other shapes, to practicing our very first pre-skill writing as Totz—circles have been everywhere!

We even spun learning into play with Ring Around the Rosie, when the Totz suddenly realized they had made a big circle all by themselves. What a moment!

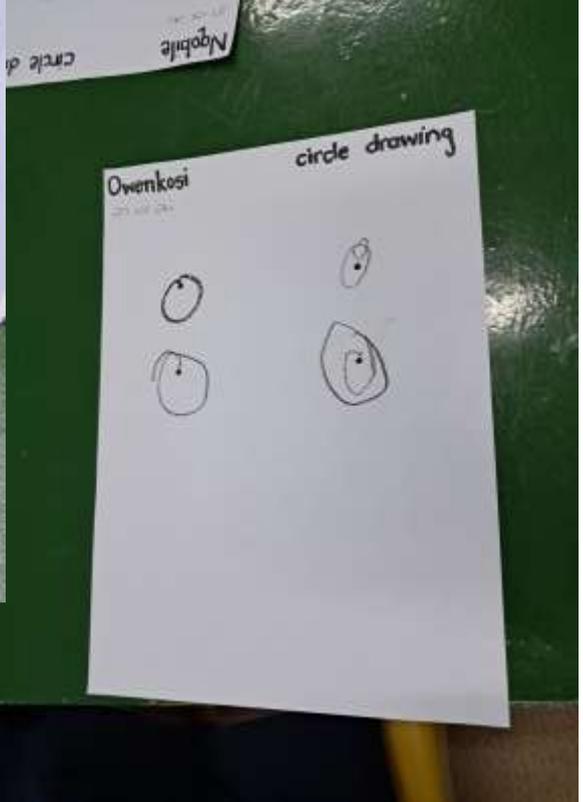
Using black crayons, the Totz proudly completed their circles, and when I asked what colour I was holding, Michelle didn't miss a beat: **"Black like your nails, Mamma King."** Our little ones are so observant—it's always amazing to see just how much they notice.

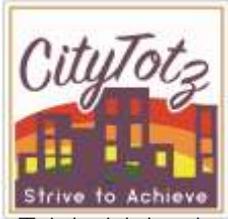
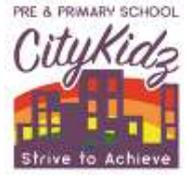
And the list just keeps growing as we Learn through Play, building important skills and having loads of fun while preparing for Grade R 2027. Thank you for trusting the CityTotz team with these precious little minds. CityTotz Team 2026

Other skills that were developed this past week:

- Jump with 2 feet together
- Body Image
- Crayon/pencil grip
- Throw and catch a ball
- Days of the week
- Months of the Year
- Weather chart
- Working in a group
- Puzzle building







Triskaidekaphobia

Triskaidekaphobia is the intense, irrational fear of the number 13. Why Do Some People Think Friday the 13th Is Unlucky?

Have you ever heard someone say, “Uh-oh, it’s Friday the 13th!”? In many Western countries, Friday the 13th is known as a *superstitious* day—that means some people believe it brings bad luck. But where did **this idea come from, and should we really be worried? Let’s explore!**



The Mystery of the Number 13

The number 13 has been seen as unlucky for hundreds of years. One reason is that it comes right after 12, **which many people think of as a “perfect” number**—like 12 months in a year or 12 zodiac signs. Thirteen feels like it messes things up!

- ◆ There are also old stories behind it:
- ◆ In Christian stories, there were 13 people at the Last Supper, and the 13th guest, Judas, betrayed Jesus.
- ◆ In Norse mythology, the trickster god Loki showed up as the 13th guest at a party and caused terrible trouble.

What’s So Bad About Friday?

Friday has also been linked to unlucky events in history and stories. For example:

- ◆ Jesus was crucified on a Friday.
- ◆ Some old legends say big disasters, like floods or mistakes by Adam and Eve, happened on Fridays.
- ◆ Long ago, Friday was connected to pagan goddesses, which some people later viewed with suspicion.
- ◆ When you put Friday and 13 **together... people thought it doubled the bad luck!**

A Spooky Reputation Grows

In the Middle Ages, fears about Friday the 13th became more popular. One famous story says many Knights Templar were arrested on Friday, October 13, 1307, which made the date seem even scarier.

In modern times, horror movies—especially the *Friday the 13th* film series—made the day famous for spooky fun and creepy stories.

Is It Really Unlucky?

Not everyone thinks so! Some people see Friday the 13th as just another normal day. Others even think 13 is lucky—pop star Taylor Swift, for example, loves the number 13 and says it brings her good luck!

So, What Should You Think?

Friday the 13th is a mix of old stories, history, movies, and imagination. **Whether you think it’s spooky, silly, or special, it’s really up to you. One thing’s for sure—it’s a great day for learning fun facts and enjoying a little mystery!**

Happy Friday the 13th! Happy Valentine’s Day tomorrow.

PS. Learn to spell Triskaidekaphobia !





February Facts...did you know??

February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means to cleanse. It was named after Februalia, the Roman festival of purification, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year. While February is the second month in our Gregorian calendar today, it was originally the very last month added to the Roman calendar (c. 713 BC)!

Originally, the calendar was 10 months because winter was considered a dormant, month-less period. January and February were added by the Roman king Numa Pompilius to better align the calendar with the lunar year. Eventually (c. 450 BC), February was moved to its place as the second month.

How Many Days Are in February?

It depends! February is the only month to have a length of fewer than 30 days! **It's usually 28 days, though February is 29 days long in leap years.** Our next leap year will be 2028.

February

But why 28 days? The Roman King Numa had originally made all months 29 days, as Romans believed that even numbers were unlucky. However, the sum of all the months was an even number. So February, a month for honoring the dead, was chosen as the unlucky month to consist of 28 days.

Of course, the calendar went through many more changes, but the 28 days for February have stuck.

Historical , Cultural, Scientific & Quirky Facts

Missing Moon: February is the only month that can go an entire month without a full moon.

Rare Birthdays: The odds of being born on Leap Day (Feb. 29) are 1 in 1,461.

Misspelled Word: February is consistently one of the most commonly misspelled words in the English language.

Birthstones: The birthstones are Amethyst (representing royalty/calm) and Bloodstone.



Birth Flowers: The flowers for the month are the violet and the primrose.

Animal Superstition: Groundhog Day (Feb. 2) is based on a German tradition that originally used a badger to predict the weather.

Bachelor's Day: In some traditions, February 29th is known as "Bachelor's Day," when women are traditionally allowed to propose to men.

Astronomical Timing: In non-leap years, February is the only month to have exactly four 7-day weeks.

[Google.com/search?q=more+fun+facts+about+february](https://www.google.com/search?q=more+fun+facts+about+february)



Grade 5 Friendship

At CityKidz, we encourage learners to be the kind of friend they would like to have—someone who shows kindness, honesty, and care every day. Small actions, such as a smile, a helping hand, or an encouraging word, can make a big difference. Friendship plays a special role in our school community and helps shape who our children become.

Friends help us feel safe, happy, and confident, and they make our school days brighter and more meaningful.

Being a good friend doesn't mean being perfect; it means being kind, respectful, and willing to listen. Good friends include others, take turns, share, and offer help when someone is struggling. They use kind words, forgive mistakes, and stand up for one another when it matters most.



We were recently reminded of the power of friendship through a beautiful moment on campus. A lovely Grade 7 girl noticed a new boy sitting alone while eating. Without hesitation, she went over to him and said, ***“At CityKidz, we don't sit on our own. Come, let me introduce you to some children so you can have friends.”*** Such a simple yet powerful gesture—one that perfectly reflects the values we strive to instill in our learners.

Friendship also teaches important life skills. Through friendships, children learn empathy, cooperation, and problem-solving. They discover that everyone is different and that differences should be celebrated rather than judged. By choosing kindness and understanding, we continue to build a school environment where every child feels valued, supported, and truly belongs.







Grade 7 : Jozi, my Jozi Poems

Inspired by Mongane Wally Serote's City Johannesburg, the Grade 7 poems show a powerful understanding of how poetry can give voice to struggle and emotion. Like Serote, the learners wrote about places that shape people's lives, capturing feelings of anger, fear, and sadness with honesty and imagination. What is especially impressive is how confidently they used vivid images and strong emotions to reflect injustice and hardship. Their poems show maturity beyond their years, proving that young voices can speak boldly and meaningfully about serious issues.

Joburg Kayla Mavura 7C
 Joburg City spins on a dime, surely full of
 crime,
 injustice, awful economy, how terrifying Joburg
 can be.
 Bright lights. Dawn strikes. The danger of be-
 ing out at night.
 Will I be next? Always in my head.

Joburg City, ja its mooi but some parts,
 you need a remote to press pause.
 Joburg City, – is it worth living here? Time flies
 Still the same.

Yeah, the city of gold grows old
 Generations asks, can we mend ubuntu?
 Sew it back because we lack, we lack.

Welome to Jozi
 Nkosingphile Masuku 7A

Jozi, a place where everyone is welcome
 Joburg, Jozi, better known as Egoli, city of
 gold.

Some say there's no order, for others, Jozi
 restores order in their lives

Tall buildings, taxis hooting, Jozi's alive with
 street art on every wall.

A city of promises where your possessions
 Might belong to someone else in less than a
 second.

With all the chaos, Jozi, you remain beautiful.



Joburg City - Voices of Today

Enzo Ntshulana 7A

Joburg City shines at night
 dreams of wrongs made right
 Here, life moves fast
 some pains are meant to last.

Joburg City hears a silent cry,
 of girls afraid, just walking by.
 rape is wrong, it breaks the soul
 Joburg city, take control.

Joburg City calls on men to stand
 Use their strength to help, not harm.
 Real men choose respect and care,
 Joburg City needs them there.

Joburg City wants its streets made safe
 Where fear is gone, where hope has space.
 In modern times, we learn and see
 Joburg City fights for dignity.

Jozi, my Jozi Khwezi Khumalo 7B

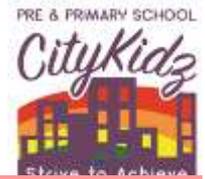
Let me tell you what I see
 When I look through my window
 a city, a better life, hope
 The streets keep turning from Joburg to
 Jozi, eGautini.
 Eating my kota, watching hustlers at the
 car wash
 I can't forget the city of many names
 City of Gold, Egoli, Johannesburg.

Wake up, Joburg David Onkonkwo 7B

Joburg wakes before the sun
 Gold dust still clinging to its name
 Taxis hum prayers through traffic
 Joburg is not gentle but it is honest.
 It shows the cost up front, then dares
 you to stay.

Johannesburg Hope Mathobela 7C

You breathe, inhale dust and dreams.
 Gold buried underneath
 Your feet and hopeful eyes
 Streets hum with pain and courage
 Sirens singing besides laughter that refuses to die
 The city of gold that still holds stories untold.



First Collection Date 27th February!!



A Feel-Good Story with a Big Heart

We are proud to be part of the **Feel Good Stories**, and we'd love to share one that truly touched our hearts from PawsRehoming.

On **20 December**, Thuli, from the Angelo informal settlement, approached us with a heartfelt request. He was travelling home for the festive season and pleaded for help to care for his beloved dog, **Blackie**. Thuli didn't trust anyone else to look after him — that's how deep their bond is.

We agreed to make arrangements to care for Blackie until Thuli's return on **12 January**. During this time, Thuli also agreed to have Blackie **sterilised**, and as a special bonus, Blackie received some much-needed grooming. His coat was long and matted, and he could barely see through the hair covering his face.

Fast forward to today:

Blackie went home — clean, healthy, and happy — and the reunion between dog and owner was filled with pure joy. Blackie also received **Christmas box lunch packs** left over from the festive season to enjoy later.

Stories like Blackie's remind us that small acts of kindness make a big difference. By donating pet food, our children can help create more happy endings like this one — and truly be part of a Feel Good Story.

Let's give with love and make tails wag!

Collection Date: 27th February!!





Sport 's Day—Term 2



Sports Day Practice Is Underway!

As we look ahead to Sports Day next term, the excitement is already building at CityKidz! This special event is a favourite on our calendar, bringing together movement, teamwork, and plenty of smiles as our learners take part in a day full of fun and energy.

We encourage learners and families to start practicing at home by enjoying simple activities such as running, skipping, throwing, and jumping. These activities help develop coordination, confidence, and readiness, while also getting everyone into the Sports Day spirit. This year, learners will proudly represent their houses in a spirit of healthy competition:

Eland – Yellow ; Impala – Green ; Roan – Red

Sports Day is not about winning alone, but about participation, effort, and supporting one another. We celebrate learners for trying their best, cheering on their teammates, and enjoying friendly competition in a positive and encouraging environment.

We can't wait to see our learners practicing, improving, and showing their house pride as they prepare to shine. Let's work together to make Sports Day next term a joyful celebration of movement, teamwork, and CityKidz spirit!



Aftercare Fun Fridays

Fun Friday fever hit CityKidz Aftercare once again, and the excitement was buzzing before the fun even began! Curious learners gathered as Mam Rotshi appeared with a burst of colour—bright cones, bouncing balls and BIG smiles all around. On a warm afternoon, there's only one way to kick things off... out came the hosepipe! Squeals of delight, laughter and splashing set the tone for an unforgettable Fun Friday filled with energy and joy. Soon the playground transformed into a world of colour and movement. Learners weaved in and out of vibrant cones, raced, played games and challenged themselves in fun and creative ways. Every activity was designed to keep little bodies moving and young minds engaged.

Fun Fridays aren't just about fun (although we have lots of that!). Through play, children develop colour recognition, teamwork and listening skills—essential building blocks for learning and confidence. Colours spark emotions and creativity, while teamwork and careful listening encourage imagination, cooperation and new ways of thinking.

By the end of the afternoon, happy faces said it all... and yes, there were even a few sleepy heads who had given Fun Friday their all!

Want your child to be part of the fun?

Fun Fridays are just one of the many exciting reasons to join CityKidz Aftercare. Spaces fill up quickly—register now and let your child learn, grow and play in a safe, joyful environment.



We can't wait to share all the fun from our next exciting Fun Friday... and we hope to see your child there!





CityKidz Pre & Primary School 2026 School Calendar (subject to change) 2026 ISASA CALENDAR		
Term 1		
Open	Monday 12 th Teachers Start	New Staff Induction/Staff meetings
	Tuesday 13 th January	Tentative opening CityBabez
Open	Wednesday 14 th January	All learners return
	Compulsory Saturday Attendance (24 th January)	Grade RR, R &1- Grade 4 & Grade 7 Info Days
	Compulsory Saturday Attendance (28 th March)	Parents/Teacher's Day
Close	Thursday 27 th March	End of Term 1- Close at 11h00
	Total School Days	53 DAYS – 10 WEEKS - 2 Saturdays= 55
Term 2		
Open	Tuesday 14 th April	Teachers and learners return
Close	Friday 26 th June	End of Term 2- Close at 11h00
	Compulsory Saturday Attendance – Interhouse Athletics	Interhouse Athletics– 25 th April
	Compulsory Saturday Attendance – T2 Reports Parents	Parents/Teacher's Day-27 th June
	Total School Days	47 DAYS – 10 WEEKS -2 Saturdays=49
Public Holidays/Long Weekends		
Monday 27 th April (Freedom Day) 28 – 30 April (School Holidays- Mid-term Break) Friday 1 May (Workers' Day) Monday 15 th June (School Holiday) 16 th June (Youth Day)		
Term 3		
Open	Tuesday 21 st July	Teachers and learners return
Close	Wednesday 23 rd September	End of Term 3 - Close at 11h00
	Compulsory Saturday Attendance – Spring Bring and Braai	All School Competition- 06 th September
	Compulsory Saturday Attendance – T3 Reports Parents	Parents/Teacher's Day-19 th September
	Total School Days	46 DAYS –10 WEEKS- 2 Saturdays = 48
Public Holiday		
Sunday 9 th August Monday 10 th Woman's Day Observed		
Term 4		
Open	Tuesday 13 th October	Teachers and learners return
	Compulsory Saturday Attendance - Graduation Day	Grade RR, R and 1 / 28 th November
	Monday 30 th November Prize Giving Grade 2-3 /Grade 4-5	Gr 2-3- 8h30-10h30/ Gr 4-5 11h00-13h00
	Tuesday 1 st December Valediction Grade 6 & 7	Prize Giving and Valediction
Close	Children's last Day 2 nd December	End of Term 4 - Close at 11h00
	New Parent Meeting for 2026 Friday 04 th December	New Parent Meeting for 2026
	Collection of reports Monday 07 th December	Collection of reports from 06h30-12h00
	Teachers Close 11 th December	Last Day for teachers Friday 12 th
	Total School Days	38 DAYS – 10 WEEKS- 1 Saturday = 39
	TOTAL SCHOOL DAYS FOR 2026 ISASA CALENDAR	Total 191 days and 8 Saturdays days 199 DAYS





Behaviour Bank Awards

Most Merits for Term 1: Weekending 13th February : Year 2026

Grade	Name	Surname	Grade	Name	Surname
Grade RR	Evioghene	Mabaso	Grade Ra	Rorisang	Baloi
Grade Rb	Michaela	Chaparapata	Grade Rc	Juliana	Elendu
Grade 1A	Tshegofatso	Pitso	Grade 1B	Mphoentle	Ramonetha
Grade 1C	Nkosana	Hleza	Grade 1D	Jediah	Murenha
Grade 2A	Wandile	Ngutyane	Grade 2B	Thuto	Molefe
Grade 2C	Reabetswe	Mashapu	Grade 2D	Buhlebenkosi	Shoba
Grade 3A	Relebogile	Matlou	Grade 3B	Manatsa	Murairwa
Grade 3C	Hleloluhle	Dhlamini	Grade 3D	Megah	Motlanthe
Grade 4A	Hannah	Ratemo	Grade 4B	Zion	Mossi
Grade 4C	Emmanuella	Nwosu	Grade 4D	Keamogetswe	April
Grade 5A	Kelebogile	Dikgale	Grade 5B	Nkanyezi	Maluleke
Grade 5C	Iviwe	Goba	Grade 5D	Lwandle	Sidu
Grade 6A	Fezile	Mankay	Grade 6B	Siphiwokuhle	Magubane
Grade 6C	Nahome	Temale	Grade 6D	Nyasha	Karingo
Grade 7A	Tumelo	Mathabatha	Grade 7B	Samantha	Mujeri
Grade 7C	Success	Ugochukwu	CityBabez		



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
16/02	17/02	18/02	19/02	20/02
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
23/02	24/02	25/02	26/02	27/02
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	Food/Items Collection for PawsRehoming



General Knowledge Question

Name the two seas surrounding India.

Answer to the question in our last newsletter.

What's the term for animals that maintain a constant body temperature? **endothermic**



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Registration number
2007/014450/08

Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get — only with what you are expecting to give — which is everything. Katharine Hepburn



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

SPELLING BEE

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| stated | struggle |
| stationary | studying |
| steeple | sturdy |
| stethoscope | stylist |
| straggler | subdue |
| strenuous | subjugate |
| stretch | submarine |
| stretcher | subtract |
| stricken | superb |
| structure | surveillance |



Warm Regards

Ms S Reynolds

PRINCIPAL

