

Monthly Newsletter

OLD UNIONITE ASSOCIATION

October 2024



A Word from the Chairman

With the year speeding by at a dizzying pace, it seems that the seasons have been thrown into turmoil, with learners ending off the 3rd term in winter uniform at 35 degrees and kicking off the 4th term in summer garb, at a high of 12 degrees!

No doubt that takes you all back, in a heartbeat, to the unpredictability of the Karoo weather!

In the last few months, the OUA has been largely focused on understanding the most pressing needs of the school, and establishing a way forward, in order to be able to offer the most effective and beneficial support.

Our vision, like many other successful past pupil organisations, is to become financially strong enough to make a profound impact on the school, and ultimately transform lives.

The purpose of our hard work is to encourage all past pupils to give back to the institution that helped shape their lives.

These improvements will not only benefit our current learners but will also honour the legacy of those who walked these halls before us, and will also allow us to be more active in terms of organising get-togethers in cities across the country, ultimately creating a stronger network of Old Unionites.

We understand that everyone is incredibly busy, with every moment already assigned a task, and so we have created a very simple and secure platform for donations, where literally, with the click of a few buttons, you are able to contribute, either once –off or monthly. No donation is too small; every gift will help us move closer to our goal.

DONATE



In closing, I would like to encourage every Old Unionite to make a difference to your old school by clicking on the **DONATE** button.

Rhett Newton

News from the school

It has been a bustling couple of months at our beloved alma mater, with numerous developments and achievements that are worth celebrating. From academic milestones to community events, there's a lot to catch up on.

To stay informed about all the latest happenings, don't miss out on reading the latest Headmaster's Newsletter. This comprehensive update covers everything from recent initiatives and learner accomplishments to upcoming events and important announcements. It's a fantastic way to reconnect with the school community and stay engaged with the vibrant life at our alma mater.

Be sure to take a moment to delve into the newsletter and discover all the exciting news that reflects the spirit and progress of our school.

READ MORE



Union High School

Headmaster's Newsletter

Term 3 | September 2024



After much planning and anticipation, the Grade 10s set off on the 9th Annual Odyssey on Friday, 13 September. The objective of Odyssey is to place the Grade 10s for 5 days and 4 nights in true wilderness, where they have the opportunity to push themselves physically, learn more about themselves emotionally and engage with their peers socially in a challenging environment without the distractions of electronics or the pressures of everyday life.

Dear Parents

The third term is always busy and productive for our learners who engage in a wide variety of school activities.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of the children and to appeal to all parents to meet their financial obligations to our school.

We cannot operate without school fees.

New School Bus

The School was recently blessed with the acquisition of a new 23-seater VW Crafter school bus. We extend our gratitude to the trustees of the UHS Development Trust for this purchase.

This valuable addition to our school transportation fleet will greatly enhance the commuting experience for our learners, staff and community alike.

Staff Matters

We recently had the privilege of paying tribute to long-serving staff members, **Mr Gavin Marlow**, **Mr Trevor Zali** and **Mr David (Neil) Meyer**, each of whom has dedicated a decade of his life to the school. Additionally, much-loved junior school educator, **Mrs Louise Vorster**, and our diligent estate manager, **Mr Donald Kingwill**, were recognized for their exceptional commitment, having served the school for an impressive 25 years.

Mr André Human has joined the staff as our new Director of Rugby. Mr Human has dedicated the past 17 years to the sport of rugby, working as a professional full-time coach at various levels, both nationally and internationally.

We also welcome **Mr Albert Smit** who brings with him 19 years of experience teaching Mathematics. His extensive background and dedication to education have already begun to inspire and engage our junior learners, making maths an exciting and enjoyable subject.

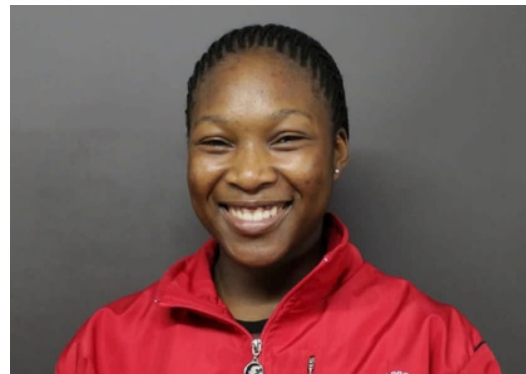
Stay connected

The Old Unionite Association is dedicated to fostering greater connectivity and celebration among past learners of the school.

To stay connected, we encourage you to visit our website at www.oua.co.za, follow our Facebook platform or sign up as an AlumNet member.

It's as simple as 1, 2, 3. Just click on this link <https://unionschools.alumnet.co.za> to register.

And the best part is, it's absolutely free of charge!



WE ARE PROUD OF:

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Old Unionite **Ngomusa Zweni** (Class of 2023) on being selected for the 2024 Eastern Province (EP) Senior Ladies Hockey Team. She proudly represented EP at the recent Senior Interprovincial Tournament.



Become an Old Unionite Association donour and secure Union's future! Signing up for a monthly debit order or once-off payment is easy!

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Old Unionites give back



A new server for Union's Media Centre

We are incredibly privileged to have had the opportunity to assist in enhancing our alma mater's **MEDIA CENTRE** with a new server.

This enhancement will significantly enrich the educational experience for the school's current learners, providing them with access to advanced technology and resources that are essential in today's digital age.

We encourage all Old Unionites to contribute to initiatives like this by donating to our newly established **DISCRETIONARY DEVELOPMENT FUND**.

This fund is dedicated solely to supporting our school in meaningful ways, ensuring that every learner has access to the resources they need to thrive.

To learn more about the Discretionary Development Fund or to make a donation, please visit the following link: <https://oua.co.za/campaigns/old-unionite-discretionary-development-fund/>



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Grade 12s inducted into OUA

In a memorable ceremony, held on Monday afternoon, 7 October, Union High School's Class of 2024 embarked on a new chapter of their journey as they were officially inducted into the Old Unionite Association (OUA).

The highly anticipated annual event commenced with the distribution of OUA membership cards and a gift to the Grade 12 learners, symbolizing their entry into the Union High School alumni community.

This occasion provided a bittersweet moment for the matrics, as it signalled the end of their high school careers.

Headmaster Mr William Pringle extended a warm welcome to the Grade 12s, setting the tone for an evening filled with pride and reflection, after which guest speaker Mr Rhett Newton, Chairman of the OUA committee, seized the opportunity to share invaluable words of wisdom with the young learners.

The memorable event came to a close with the Class of 2024 coming together to enjoy a delightful lunch, fostering camaraderie and nostalgia among the matriculating learners.



A legacy written on the wall



The signage for Union High School's new **LEGACY PROJECT** is now proudly on display, and soon, the first plaques will adorn the walls.

This project serves as a continuation of the school's 'Legacy Plaque' project featured on the perimeter wall of our school and will provide additional opportunity for alumni, staff, learners and families to make their long-lasting mark and to become part of Union history, at the same time boosting support for Union's fundraising endeavours.

At a cost of R500 per plaque, your personalised metal plaque (sized 15cmx15cm) can record you or your child's time at the school; celebrate your reunion; carry an inspirational message to future learners; contain a fun quote, or a dedication to the person(s) who most inspired you here or elsewhere.

As Old Unionites, parents, extended family and friends of the school, you are the foundation upon which the Union Schools thrive. Now you can support the school whilst making a lasting mark on our beautiful campus, leaving a timeless message for future generations of learners, educators and and leaders.

Please click on the following link to purchase your plaque: <https://www.quicket.co.za/events/284936-the-legacy-project/>

Alternatively, you can make an EFT payment to the following account (please send a POP and inscription through to uhsmarketing@unionschools.co.za)

BANK DETAILS FOR EFT:

U.H.S. Clearing Account
Standard Bank, Graaff-Reinet
Acc no. 082528330
Branch code 050116
REF: Name & Legacy

So, remember friends and loved ones, say thank you, or simply share a memory or leave a message - by doing so you will be helping to support future generations of learners at Union.

Old Unionites in the news...



Well done Stegmann!

The Union community is buzzing with pride as we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Old Unionite, **Stegmann van Zyl** (Class of 2009)!

Stegmann triumphed in the Tri The Karoo triathlon's Olympic Distance event, **securing an impressive third place with an overall time of 02:44:18.**

In the 1.5km swim, he completed the course with a stellar time of 00:31:41. Transitioning seamlessly from swimming to cycling, he navigated the challenging 40km route in an impressive 01:26:08. It was during the final leg of the race, however, the 10km run, where Mr van Zyl truly stole the spotlight. With a phenomenal run time of 00:46:27, he not only finished strong but also recorded the fastest run time among all competitors on the day.

Well done, Stegmann!



In a moment that resonates with pride and joy for the literary community, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Old Unionite Isobel Dixon on her book, *A Whistling of Birds*, being longlisted for the prestigious South African Literary Awards' **Poetry Award**.

This recognition is a testament to her talent and dedication as a poet and writer.

The South African Literary Awards (SALA) has been a beacon of literary excellence since its establishment in 2005. This esteemed event honours both established and emerging writers who contribute to the rich tapestry of South African literature.

As we look forward to the 19th edition of the South African Literary Awards, set to be held on November 7, 2024, at the Ditsong National Museum of Cultural History in Pretoria, the anticipation builds.

The judging process for this year's awards is currently in full swing, conducted by a distinguished panel of over 30 members. As they sift through the wealth of talent and creativity, the announcement of the nominees promises to be a highlight in South Africa's literary calendar.

We wish her all the best in her literary journey.



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Sports Matters at our Alma Mater



Union hockey on the rise

As members of the Old Unionite Association, we take immense pride in reflecting on the remarkable achievements of our alma mater's hockey programme during the 2024 season.

The spirit of excellence and teamwork has truly shone through as our talented girls have gone from strength to strength, showcasing their skills and dedication on the field.

With pre-season training already kicking off for the upcoming year, it's the perfect time to celebrate the impressive accomplishments of our hockey girls who represented our province with distinction. **This year saw one of the largest contingents of provincial representatives from Union, a testament to the hard work and commitment of our athletes.**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated coaches and to Mr. Calvin Beck, Union's Head of Hockey, whose leadership and guidance have been instrumental in nurturing these young athletes. Their efforts have not only cultivated talent but have also fostered a sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship that we, as Old Unionites, cherish deeply.

A special congratulations goes out to the outstanding players who have made us incredibly proud:

Misha Newton, Chavene Lamont, Caytah-Leigh Koeberg, Sade May, Aaminah Steele, Mia Botha, Onika Jantjies, Unabantu Maneli, Nadine Murray, Abonani Matushe, Logan Marais, and Maribel April. Their dedication and passion for the game are truly inspiring.

Looking ahead, the girls have been hard at work fundraising for their tours next year, eager to continue their journey in the sport they love.

As Old Unionites, we have a wonderful opportunity to support these young sportswomen. Contributions can be made via the Old Unionite Association's new Sports Assistance Fund payment portal, dedicated to helping our school's talented athletes reach their goals. **Click on the below link to read more:**

DONATE



Let's come together to ensure their success and celebrate the future of hockey at our beloved alma mater!