

SHELANTI PRIVATE SCHOOL

13 OCTOBER 2026
WEEK 1 TERM 4



ANNOUNCEMENT

- Reminder, SUMMER UNIFORM orders need to be placed at the pop up shop.
- 13 October - Term 4 Begins
- 13 October - Extra Murals Begin and summer uniform orders open
- 13 October - Teacher Rosco's Birthday
- 16 October - Aristocrats Rehearsals Milnerton Playhouse - 9-3PM
- 17 October - Aristocrats Musical Morning Show 11:00 and Matinee 1:30
- 20 October - PTA Meeting 18:00
- 22 October - Art Expo & Picnic 18:00
- 25 October - Ms Langton's Birthday
- 29 - 30 October - Help THE RURAL CHILD book sale
- 31 October - Mrs Cleghorn and Mr Calitz Birthdays
- 30 October - Mrs Kempen's Birthday
- 30 October - Last day of Shelanti Extra Murals, Paid extra murals will continue.
- 30 October - Grade 3 sleepover
- 2 November Grade 6 & 7 Exams Begin
- 4 November - School closed - Voting Day
- 6 November - Mrs Brown's Birthday
- 20 November - Grade 7 Farewell
- 26 November - Prize Giving Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:30 at the church
- 27 November - Prize Giving FP 8:45-12:00/IP 11:30 - 14:30 Coastlands Community Church
- WEEK 8 SCHOOL CLOSURE - Grade R - 12:30/FP 13:00/SP 13:30
- 30 November - Snake Show
- 1 December - Date the teacher
- 2 DECEMBER - END OF TERM 4
- 2027 SCHOOL TERM BEGINS - 13 January 2027

**TERM 4 PLANNER IS LOADED TO
THE D6**

SHELANTI ART EXHIBITION THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER 18H00

Featuring our marimba musicians, Divan's music students and the Hip Hop Crew

What to expect on the evening -

- Arrive with your packed picnic basket through the front entrance
- Pay your entrance fee of R 50.00 per adult, which gives you one sticker to purchase an art piece.
- Secure your spot on the field or wander from class to class to experience the majestic artworks of our young artists.
- Each artist should have at least three pieces on display
- Purchase a piece by placing your sold sticker on the white nametag
- More stickers will be available from the front desk to purchase further pieces
- At 19h00, there will be a magical musical and dance performance on the field.
- Feel free to continue viewing the art
- The Silent Auction in the Art Room will close at 19h45
- No purchased art may be removed until 20h00. If you are not there at this time, they will be returned to you on Friday 23rd October.
- pack up and head home with happy hearts at 20h00

REQUEST FOR PRIZES FOR THE ART EXPO REMINDER

We will be hosting a fundraising raffle, if anybody has spot prizes they would like to donate, please contact Claire on 082 554 2935.

Join us for an extraordinary evening celebrating artistic masterpieces, featuring a diverse collection of work by visionary artists, and a cultural showcase of our children's musical and dancing talents.



Full link: for Tickets -
<https://tickets.tixsa.co.za/event/aristocats-the-musical-jnr>

**LIMITED TICKETS DUE TO VENUE
SO BOOK SOON.**

Friday October 16:

8am Select Shelanti School staff arrive.

8am - 9am Set and Prop setup

9am Production Students arrive

9:30 Walkthrough of stage and backstage

10am - 1pm Run scenes + small fixtures with sound and lighting

1:30pm - 3pm Full run of show

Saturday October 17:

8am Shelanti School staff arrive.

9am Production Students arrive/Prep of costume and makeup

10am Guests arrival

11am MORNING SHOW

12pm Break

1:30pm MATINEE SHOW

2:30pm Pack up and Clean



SAVE THE DATE!



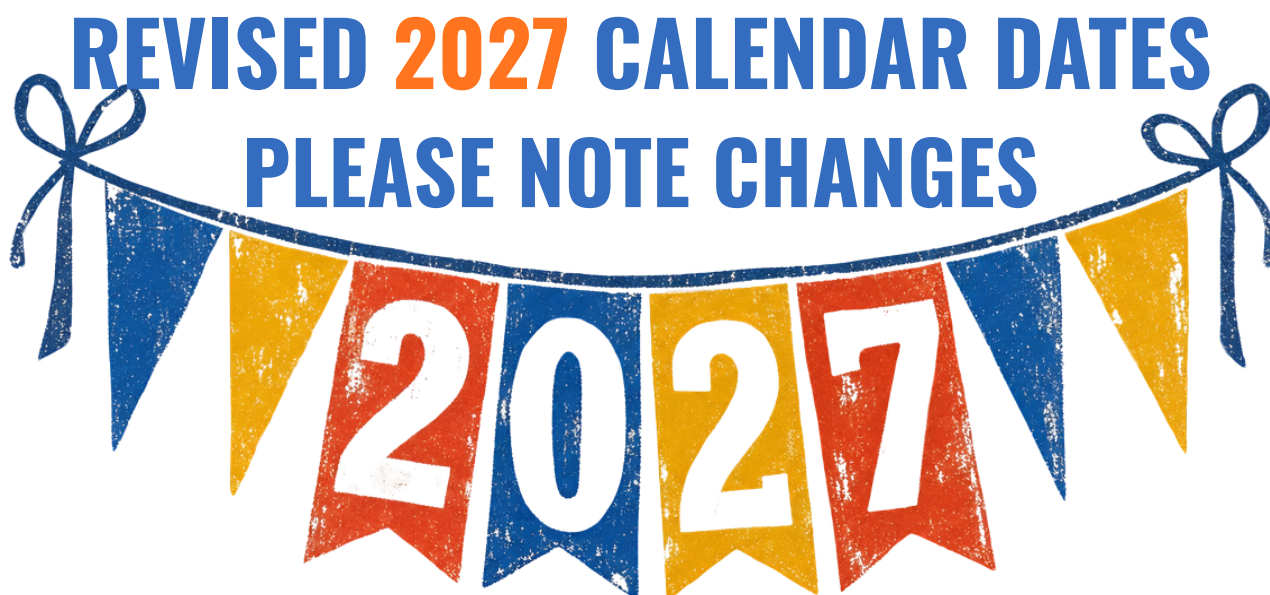
Our Production Club has been working hard behind the scenes, preparing something very special for Term 4!

Every second year, our Shelanti Production Club brings the magic of a full musical to the stage — and this year, it's time to shine!

Come and support our 21 incredibly talented Performing Arts students as they showcase their creativity, confidence and passion for the stage.

You won't want to miss it!





Term 1	
Start	Educators: Monday 11 January
	Learners: Wednesday 13 January
Close:	Friday 19 March

Term 2	
Start	Educators: Monday 12 April
	Learners: Tuesday 13 April
Close	Friday 25 June
Public and School Holidays	Monday 26 April (School Holiday) Tuesday 27 April (Freedom Day) Wednesday 16 June (Freedom Day)

Term 3	
Start	Educators: Monday 19 July
	Learners: Tuesday 20 July
Public Holiday	Monday 9 August (Women's Day)
Close	Friday: 17 September

Term 4	
Start	Educators: Monday 4 October
	Learners: Tuesday 5 October
Close	Educators: Friday 3 December
	Learners: Wednesday 1 December

HOD NEWSLETTER

Term 4, October 2026

DEAR FOUNDATION PHASE PARENTS



Welcome to Term 4!

As we begin our final term of the year, we are filled with excitement for the discoveries, growth and meaningful learning experiences that lie ahead. It is wonderful to reflect on how far our little learners have come, and we look forward to ending the year on a high note!

At Shelanti, we believe that curiosity is the beginning of meaningful learning. Through Curiosity Time, sensory play and movement-based activities, we create intentional opportunities for learners to explore, experiment, problem-solve and develop essential skills. Our lessons are thoughtfully designed to accommodate different learning styles, strengths and needs, allowing every learner to engage with learning in ways that support their individual development.

Our STEAM projects will remain a highlight this term, encouraging learners to collaborate, share ideas, think critically and approach challenges creatively. Through hands-on experiences, we nurture independence, perseverance, flexibility and confidence, helping our learners understand that mistakes are part of learning and that wonderful things can happen when we work together.

Our Term 4 Themes: **Our Home Planet** and **Trailblazing Ideas**

Our Home Planet will encourage learners to explore the remarkable world around them, develop an appreciation for our environment and discover how we can care for our planet.

Trailblazing Ideas will take us into the world of inventions and innovation, where little minds will investigate, design, build and explore creative solutions to everyday challenges.

As we approach the end of the year, we will continue to strengthen independence, emotional regulation, resilience and perseverance, celebrating not only academic progress but also the wonderful individuals our learners are becoming.

Thank you for your continued trust, encouragement and partnership. When home and school work together, we create the strongest foundation for our children to thrive.

Here's to a Term 4 filled with big questions, bright ideas, brave attempts and little minds doing extraordinary things!

Warm regards,
Raquel Pépin

Head of Department | Foundation Phase



HOD NEWSLETTER

Term 4 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 13

School starts
Extra murals start

OCTOBER 17

Shelanti Aristocrats Musical @
Milnerton Playhouse

OCTOBER 19

Summer uniform
orders close

OCTOBER 22

Art Exhibition and
Picnic @ 18:00

OCTOBER 27

New parent info
evening @ 19:00

OCTOBER 29

Help The Rural Child
Book Sale

OCTOBER 30

Grade 3 sleepover
All Shelanti Extramural activities end

OCTOBER 31

ASD meeting

NOVEMBER 4

School closed -
Voting Day

NOVEMBER 13

World Kindess Day

NOVEMBER 18

Foundation Phase books sent
home for signing

NOVEMBER 21

ASD meeting

NOVEMBER 26

Prize-Giving Rehearsal
@ Coastlands Community
Church Janssens Avenue from
09:00- 11:30

NOVEMBER 27

Prize-Giving Rehearsal
Foundation Phase @
Coastlands Community Church
Janssens Avenue from 08:45-
12:00

SCHOOL CLOSES @ 13: 00 FOR
THE REMAINDER OF TERM

NOVEMBER 30

Inting: Snake show

HOD NEWSLETTER

Term 4 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER 1

Foundation Phase reports released on portal

Grade 3: Date the Teachers

DECEMBER 2

School closes for learners



IMPORTANT TO NOTE

Please note that, as indicated in our annual planners, no formal parent meetings are scheduled for Term 4. Should you wish to discuss your child's progress or have any concerns, please arrange an appointment with your child's teacher.

2027 Stationery Drop-Off
Please take note of the allocated stationery drop-off times for 2027. Junior Phase learners will now have a designated stationery drop-off day the day before school commences. This will allow parents to organise stationery in advance and ensure a smoother, more settled start to the school year.
Thank you for your cooperation and support!

Stationery drop off:
Date: 12th January 2027

Grade R and Grade 1: 8:30-9:30
Grade 2 and Grade 3 : 9:30-10:00



HOD NEWSLETTER

Term 4 2026

Reminders for the Term:

Healthy Lunches:

Please pack a healthy, protein-rich lunch and a water bottle daily. No sugary treats, chips, cooldrinks or juice. Please refer to the Healthy Eating Policy on D6.

Punctuality:

A calm start sets children up for success. Please arrive on time. Learners collected more than 10 minutes late after school will be sent to aftercare and billed accordingly.

Communication:

Our weekly newsletter is shared every Monday on D6. Please follow our communication pathway: Class Teacher → HOD → Principal.

Golden Time:

Every Friday, learners may bring a toy or game from home to enjoy during Golden Time.

Homework:

Please sign your child's homework book daily or check Google Classroom (Grades 2 and 3). Ensure that all homework is completed, even if your child attends aftercare.

The Little Things my Learners have taught me is
To be patient with myself,
To ask for help when I need it,
To remember to play everyday,
To try again when things feel tough,
To feel and to forgive,
To slow down and be present,
or I will miss the magic and joy hiding in the ordinary and mundane,
And to celebrate every win no matter how small - with dancing!



FROM THE TEACHERS TO THEIR LEARNERS

"Little things I have learnt from my learners ..."

My little learners have taught me...
That resilience looks different for everyone, that almost anything can become a game (and that's often when the best learning happens), and that checking in on one another matters.
A little kindness goes a long way, and sometimes the smallest gestures make the biggest difference



My little learners have taught me...
That bravery isn't always loud.
Sometimes, it's simply trying something that feels a little bit scary.

That some of the biggest things are said without words: a quiet hug or a kind gesture when someone needs it most. That little minds can hold the biggest ideas, the most brilliant questions, and the most wonderfully unexpected ways of seeing the world.
That laughter is its own kind of magic, and sometimes the best lessons are the ones that leave us all giggling.



The little things my learners have taught me this year: to laugh a little louder, tackle the hard things with courage, and always choose kindness.



Contact information: HOD: raquel@shelantipriveschool.co.za
Uniform and general queries: vanessa@shelantipriveschool.co.za
Aftercare: aftercare@shelantipriveschool.co.za

Term 4 2026 Newsletter

Monday, 12 October 2026



Welcome Back

Welcome Back to Shelanti! As we begin Term 4, let us commit to finishing the academic year well. Let us continue to invest in our learners and our community, create lasting memories, and give our very best until the very end. Our goal is not only to reach the finish line, but to do so with appreciative hearts, grateful for the people around us and the experiences that have shaped us. May we look back on this year with inner joy, knowing that we have faced challenges with courage, persevered through difficult moments, and grown not only as individuals but also as a community. Let us continue to make a meaningful difference in one another's lives and contribute to our Shelanti family in the best way we can. As teachers, our focus will be on completing the curriculum thoroughly and preparing our learners for their final assessments. However, just as importantly, we want to ensure that this last phase of the year is filled with daily moments of encouragement, connection, and care – creating lasting memories that strengthen the confidence, sense of security, and self-belief of every Shelanti learner. As I bring this introduction to a close, I also find myself approaching the end of my own final term as part of the Shelanti family. This makes the term particularly meaningful to me, and I hope to finish it with the same dedication, gratitude, and love that have shaped my journey here. At the end of this letter, you will find a personal letter addressed to you as parent and learner, as I reflect on this journey and share my heartfelt farewell. Let us make every moment of this final term count!



School Hours

Start: 7:50

Closing:

Mon– Thursday: 14:30

Fridays : Grade 4–6: 13:30 Grade 7: 14:00





Feedback on each Grade in Term 3

Grade 4 - Mrs. Dippenaar

During Term 3, the Grade 4 learners developed their research skills, collaboration and critical thinking through a variety of engaging, hands-on learning activities. They were encouraged to work effectively in teams, share ideas, solve problems and apply their knowledge and skills to practical tasks. A strong emphasis was placed on building independence, taking responsibility for their learning, following instructions and completing tasks with increasing confidence. It was wonderful to see the learners grow in their ability to think for themselves, support one another and take greater ownership of their learning journey. During Term 4, our focus will be on preparing the Grade 4 learners for a confident and successful transition to Grade 5. We will continue strengthening core academic skills, with an emphasis on independent work, time management, organisation and taking greater responsibility for their learning. Learners will be encouraged to apply their knowledge across different subjects, develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, and build resilience when faced with challenges. We will also focus on teamwork, accountability and self-confidence to ensure that each learner is equipped with the skills, independence and readiness needed to embrace the increased expectations of Grade 5.

Grade 5 - Mr. Twine

Term 3 came to an end, and overall, it was busy and rewarding. One of the most encouraging developments was the noticeable growth in maturity across the class. Learners were given opportunities to express their feelings, share their concerns and talk about anything that may have been troubling them. It was wonderful to see many learners demonstrating improved emotional regulation and an increasing ability to manage themselves positively. Another important class goal for the term was to encourage learners to work more quietly and independently during lesson time. I was pleased to see more learners making progress in this area, as minimising disruptions allowed everyone to concentrate more effectively and get the most out of their learning opportunities. These positive changes contributed to a calmer, more respectful and productive classroom environment. I was proud of the progress the class made during the term, not only academically but also in their personal growth and relationships with one another. I hope to see these positive changes continue as the learners grow in maturity, independence and consideration for those around them. Thank you to all our families for your continued support, encouragement and partnership throughout the year. Working together, we continued to create an environment in which every child felt supported, valued and able to grow.

Grade 6 - Mrs. Viljoen

Term 3 was a particularly meaningful term with the Grade 6 learners. Having my own class again after two years was incredibly rewarding. Although there were challenging and emotional moments, these created opportunities to build trust and strengthen relationships. I have truly missed being part of the learners' lives and connecting with you as parents to discuss and explore ways to support each child in becoming the best version of themselves. Adjusting to a new teacher after the loss of Mrs. Terblanche was not easy, but gradually, the learners began to open up and build new connections. I am proud of the emotional growth they have shown since the beginning of the term. In Term 4, my focus will be on continuing to develop their executive functioning skills, particularly planning, organisation, and preparing effectively for their final examinations. Above all, I want to help each learner finish the year well, approaching every task, big or small, with confidence and determination. Finally, this term also marks my farewell to the Grade 6 learners as their class teacher and to the Shelanti family. Please see my personal letter at the end of this newsletter.

Grade 7 - Mrs. Cleghorn

Alongside our academic work in Term 3, we spent a lot of time focusing on critical thinking and independence, and on what it really means to be a strong leader. We had many thoughtful, in-depth conversations and mindful moments about how our thoughts shape our emotions and our words. We spoke a lot about how we speak to ourselves and to each other, and how the way we say something is often just as important as what we say. A big theme we kept coming back to was learning to think before we speak, and being more aware of how our words are perceived by others. As we head into Term 4, we will be carrying these lessons with us while also tightening up on the basics. We will continue to focus on consistent homework completion, neatness of work, and preparation for formal assessments, with a strong emphasis on critical thinking, time management and independent work – essential skills as we prepare for high school next year. We will also wrap up the term with our Grade 7 farewell, a special moment to celebrate how far the learners have come, and to honour their primary school journey.

NB: Keyboards & Earphones must be sent to school on a daily basis

Reminders



- **RESPONSIBILITY OF STATIONERY:** We have noticed a growing concern regarding learners not taking sufficient care of, or responsibility for, their belongings. While teachers will continue to guide and remind learners of what they need for class, some children are finding it challenging to develop this important habit. We kindly ask parents to support this at home by helping your child establish a daily routine. This can include setting up their timetable, checking their school bag, ensuring the correct books and stationery are packed, and keeping their belongings neat and organised.
- **IPAD CHARGE:** Please also ensure that iPads are fully charged each day, as learners will not be permitted to charge devices at school. You are welcome to send a power bank if needed.
- **ATTENDANCE:** Regular school attendance is essential for a child's ability to adapt, thrive, and flourish within a learning environment. By law, children are required to attend school, and consistent attendance also helps build grit and resilience. It is therefore the responsibility of each parent to ensure their child attends school regularly. Irregular attendance is monitored, and when concerns arise, interventions may be necessary to support the child's physical and mental health, as well as address any other factors preventing consistent attendance. At Shelanti, we are committed to supporting every parent in this journey.
- **CUTLERY:** Please pack cutlery for their child's lunch, as we will no longer be providing utensils..
- **EARLY PICK-UP:** As a reminder, if you need to pick up your child early, please inform the Class Teacher a day before for any appointments so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
- **HATS & WATER BOTTLES:** Ensure that learners bring their hats and water bottles to school to stay hydrated and protected. Learners with no hats will sit in the shade during break time.
- **ITEMS LEFT AT HOME:** Items left at home may not be brought to school, providing an opportunity for the child to learn from their mistake. Please use the Homework Schedule & Time Table given last term and put them up in your child's room. Guide them on how to use the schedule and ensure they have all the necessary resources for the following day. Our goal is not only to teach academics but also to impart valuable life lessons to our learners.
- **PUNCTUALITY MATTERS:** Being punctual is crucial for maintaining low anxiety levels in our children. Timely arrivals contribute to a smoother start to the day and positively impact their overall well-being.
- **PARENTS RESPONSE TO EMAIL:** A simple acknowledgment, even just an emoji when responding to emails helps foster a sense of connection and collaboration.
- **HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES:** Encourage the well-being of your child by packing healthy snacks (3 for nibbling during class) and 1 or 2 meals for break time. Options for foods low in sugar, with little or no preservatives and MSG, to support their energy levels and concentration throughout the day.
- **STAY INFORMED** Essential information is regularly shared through our weekly Newsletter on D6 CONNECT. Please take the time to read it, as it contains updates, announcements, and key details that contribute to a smooth school experience.
- **MEDICATION PROTOCOL:** If your child requires medication update, kindly inform your class teacher who will send you the medication link. Ensure that any medication sent to school is clearly marked and securely stored in a closed container.

Contacting Teachers

Please contact your class teacher via whatsapp or email if there are any concerns. For more serious matters contact me:

Mrs. Viljoen: hanneke@shelantiprivateschool.co.za

CONTACT TIME:

Mon-Fri 8:00-15:30

(Teachers will respond ONLY during these time periods)



BEHAVIOUR SYSTEM

Bucket filler & Dipper Approach



At Shelanti, we are a values-driven school. We intentionally focus on the positive in every child, building strong relationships and celebrating each learner's growth, strengths, and individuality.

Mrs. Dippenaar, our Head of Restorative Behaviour, has developed a system that is both just and supportive, helping learners reflect on their behaviour while involving parents in guiding their children's growth.

Here's how the system works: each learner starts the week with 10 points. Exceptional positive behaviour earns additional points, acting as a "bucket filler." Learners can also gain extra points for achievements like receiving a certificate during Monday assemblies.

For negative behaviour, we follow our school's Code of Conduct. Minor infractions (Misdemeanour 1) result in "bucket dippers" (point deductions), while more serious behaviours (Misdemeanour 2) lead to demerits. The most severe actions (Misdemeanour 3) may result in suspension or expulsion. Previously,

Please note that three Misdemeanour 1 incidents ("bucket dippers") will result in a demerit. More serious infractions will continue to be communicated via email, WhatsApp, phone call, and, in future, also through the Parent Portal.

It is important to emphasise that when we provide feedback, it is not intended to work against you as a parent. Rather, it is an opportunity for us to partner with you in guiding your child toward making better choices. Our aim is to encourage meaningful discussions at home about appropriate behaviour and the choices your child can make.

Please refer to the Code of Conduct for more details. Keep an eye out for positive feedback through a "sunshine" email or congratulations on your child's accomplishments. At the same time, you may also receive feedback on areas where improvement is needed, as we work together to support your child's growth.

LET's Get Involved

If you're a parent who would like to get more involved, we'd love your support with the following activities. However, please don't feel obligated. For more information, contact Mrs. Viljoen at : hanneke@shelantipriveschool.co.za.

- Assisting with textbook repairs
- Assisting with Art Exhibition preparation (Wednesday, 21st October 2026)
- Being part of the PTA
- Open yourself to come and speak about your profession.
- Help with End of Term STEAM projects.
- Help to arrange class parties / extra activities at the end of term.



Approach to Academics

As we enter Term 4, we will focus on completing the CAPS curriculum as outlined by the Department of Education. Time permitting, we will also revise key concepts from Terms 1 to 3 in the main subjects. This will reinforce previously taught skills, help Grades 4 & 5 master skills with greater ease during continuous assessments, and ensure Grade 6 & 7 learners are well prepared for the end-of-year Formal assessments.

Learning Support and Extra Reading lessons will continue to place an increased emphasis on reading, writing, comprehension, communication, typing & study skills. The Language teachers will also play an active role in developing these essential skills throughout the term.

Assessments

GRADE 4-5:

Just like last term, learners will undergo continuous assessments, where every task completed in class contributes to their end-of-term results.

All tasks (except orals) will be conducted on-site, and there may be occasions when teachers request recycled materials. To ensure an adequate supply of these materials, we encourage you to start gathering them at home in advance.

GRADE 6-7:

Learners in Grades 6 and 7 will complete formal assessments, as well as class tasks and projects. Concessions will be provided where required.

Assessments will take two forms:

- Afternoon exams for subjects taught over FOUR terms (with scribe-based concessions): Mathematics, English & Afrikaans. (2-hour assessments – excluding Extra Time)
- In-class assessments for the rest of the subjects (with technology-based concessions): Grade 6 & 7: Natural Science, Social Science (History & Geography written separately) and Life Skills / Life Orientation.
Grade 7: Technology, EMS, Performing Arts & Creative Arts. (1-hour assessments – excluding Extra Time)

All accommodations align with each learner's specific concessions. Learners may choose to use a scribe or type, and may access a reader in person or via voice notes.

An Assessment schedule will be shared via email and placed on Learners General class on Google Classroom. Confirmation of Concessions will be shared by Mrs. Viljoen via WhatsApp, as it may be discussed. Demarcations will be posted on the General Class on Google Classroom. All documentation will be handed out by Monday, 19th October 2026.

Learners with Concessions : If you do not have a scribe, contact Mrs. Viljoen for recommendations. Please send your child's scribe contact details to Mrs Viljoen by Monday, 26th of October 2026 for the Scribe Information Session on Thursday, 29th of October 2026.



Boys Uniform

FORMAL

- Blue short sleeve shirt
- Navy school tie
- Navy short trousers
- Navy V-neck
- Black school shoes
- Grey knee high socks
- Broad brim navy hat
- No colouring of hair
- No hair in face

PHYS-ED

- Shelanti sports shirt (long or short)
- Navy shorts
- Tracksuit top
- White socks
- Sport shoe
- Broad-brim navy hat

Girls Uniform

FORMAL

- Blue short sleeve shirt
- Navy Shelanti pinafore / Navy shorts (Woolworths Online)
- Navy V-neck jersey
- White socks
- Black school shoes
- Navy hotpants
- Broad-brim navy hat
- No make-up
- No colouring of hair
- No hair in face (use navy scrunchie or band)

PHYS-ED

- As Boys

NOTE:

GRADE 4-6

MON: Formal Summer Uniform

THURS: Phys-ed

TUES, WED & Fri: Full Formal Summer or Full Phys-ed

GRADE 7

MON-WED & FRI: Formal Summer Uniform

THURS: Phys-ed

MUST HAVE:

Broad-brimmed navy hat

Sunblock

Full water bottle



Time to say Goodbye

Dear Shelanti Family

With a heavy heart, I share that at the end of this year, I will have to say goodbye to my safe space, my home, and the family that has become such a special part of my life at Shelanti, as I prepare to embark on my next adventure. Over the past two years, my husband and I have been carefully planning our children's schooling journey. After much thought, consideration and many difficult conversations, we have made the decision for me to move to an Afrikaans-medium school, where our children will also attend school. As much as I know that this is the right decision for our family, my heart has struggled to catch up with what my mind understands. So much of me is rooted in Shelanti. Making peace with this next chapter has meant gently reminding my heart that sometimes, the right decision can still be one of the hardest goodbyes to make.

And so, here I am facing one of the hardest parts of this journey: saying goodbye and bringing my time at Shelanti to a meaningful close.

I have loved my years at Shelanti, and I leave with a heart full of gratitude. This school has taught me lessons that extend far beyond the classroom. I have learnt that families are not perfect, and neither are we. We may differ in our personalities, opinions and approaches, but we remain part of the same family, working towards a shared purpose.

I have learnt to embrace who I am, recognise my strengths and accept my weaknesses. I have learnt never to be afraid to reach out for help or support. Even within a professional environment, there is room for compassion, genuine connection and care—not only for our learners, but also for our colleagues and the families we serve.

Most importantly, I have grown tremendously as an inclusive educator. I have developed skills I never imagined I would have, thanks to an environment that encouraged me to remain open to learning. My colleagues, our learners, you as parents, and especially Deirdre, have all contributed to my growth. Deirdre has helped create an environment in which people can learn, grow and make a difference, and I believe she will continue to do so.

As we look towards the future, Deirdre, Raquel and I have had time to prepare for this transition throughout the year. I have every confidence that the process will be smooth and that Shelanti will continue to grow into an exciting new chapter. While I cannot share the details of upcoming changes just yet, I want to reassure you that my trust in Shelanti, its leadership and its future remains unwavering.

The foundations are strong. The leadership is committed, the work ethic is present, and the heart and love that make Shelanti special remain. Above all, I believe your children will continue to be safe, supported, valued and cared for. This term, I will have the opportunity to say my personal goodbyes, and I look forward to sharing my gratitude and final message with the Shelanti community at our end-of-year prize-giving ceremony.

Eight years cannot be summed up in a letter. They are found in the relationships built, the challenges overcome, the lessons learnt, the laughter shared and the lives touched along the way.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your children's journeys and your families' lives. Shelanti will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will carry the lessons and memories of these eight years with me into whatever lies ahead.

With heartfelt gratitude and love,
Hanneke Viljoen

