

EBENEZER

Newsletter

March/April 2026



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Rhenish Family

As we reflect on the first weeks of the term, it already feels like a long time since we officially opened with a meaningful Opening Assembly, where expectations and goals for the term were outlined.

As anticipated, the Extra-Mural Programme did not commence during the first week, allowing learners time to settle into their academic routines and classroom environments, as well as to accommodate our first teacher-parent engagements of the year during a shortened opening week. We hosted the Grade 4 to 7 Report Feedback Meetings, which were well attended in our new hall-based format, introduced to assist with both time and venue constraints. These engagements provided valuable opportunities for constructive discussions between teachers and parents regarding learner progress and areas for development.

Our younger boys and girls enjoyed a highlight during that first week with our annual Grade 1 to 3 "Hooked on Books" session. This initiative once again fostered a love of reading and enthusiastic participation among our Foundation Phase learners. The week concluded with an active Saturday of sport, with our netball and rugby teams (U7 to U13) travelling to Laerskool Stellenbosch for their fixtures. Although early in the season, with limited preparation time, it was wonderful to see such a broad spread of teams competing across all age groups, supported by a strong and present school community.

Our cross-country runners also participated in the first league event of the season, with encouraging levels of participation and enthusiasm across all codes.

Our Grade 4 to 7 children participated in a Study Skills session earlier in the term, while our Intersen parents attended a 'compulsory' and well-supported engagement on social media safety. We are grateful for the high attendance and the willingness of our community to work together in addressing the challenges our children face in an increasingly complex digital world. This brought to mind the well-known African proverb, *"It takes a village to raise a child."* We are indeed fortunate at Rhenish Primary to be part of such a supportive and caring "village."

School spirit was clearly on display during the PTA Fun Civvies Day, with both learners and staff enthusiastically "breaking the rules." The following weekend proved particularly active, with a home chess fixture against Devonvallei and the annual Rhenish Primary Chess Tournament, which saw well over a hundred enthusiastic participants.

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In addition, several of our rugby teams (U7 to U13) travelled to Rondebosch for fixtures in the Southern Suburbs. While these were challenging encounters, it was once again a proud moment to witness the strong support from our school community, with the U13A match providing an especially exciting contest.

Academic focus has remained a priority, with Grade 4 to 7 boys and girls attending a further Study Skills session.

On the sports front, the netball courts came alive as our U9A, U11A, and U12A teams hosted Vlotenburg. Culturally, World Book Day was a standout occasion, with our boys and girls and our "101 Dalmatian" staff embracing the spirit of the day by dressing as their favourite literary characters. Our U7 to U13 hockey teams also travelled to Somerset House for fixtures, culminating in an exciting final match under floodlights, where impressive skills and growing confidence were on display.

This past weekend saw a strong focus on tours and outdoor activities. The U13A and B netball teams travelled to Knysna for their tour, where, by all accounts, the girls represented the school with pride—both in their performances and in the manner in which they upheld our core values. Their conduct was noted and commended by many. Meanwhile, the U11 and U13 rugby players attended the inaugural Fynbos Rondebosch Rugby Festival. Despite cold and wet conditions, both teams performed admirably over three days of competitive play against strong opposition from across the region and country. The Environmental Club also enjoyed a Friday outing, while our cross-country runners continued their league participation on Saturday.

Looking ahead, the coming week is a shorter but significant one, marked by important school traditions and public holidays. Academically, our Grade 4 to 7 boys and girls will focus on their Afrikaans Transactional Writing Assessment on Tuesday. We also look forward to celebrating Founders' Day on Thursday, a day that promises great energy, featuring Inter-house Cross Country, a variety of grade-based activities, and the much-anticipated treats and singing of Happy Birthday. **Please note that school will close at 13:00 today, Thursday, 30 April**, ahead of the Workers' Day public holiday on Friday.

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Sadly, we bid farewell to Mrs Lezanne Augustin. She is concluding her time at Rhenish Primary on 30 April after almost five years of service to the school. We wish her every success in her new position. Lezanne joined Rhenish in January 2022 and has served the school with great loyalty and dedication, initially as our receptionist and, from August 2023, as Personal Assistant to the Principal.

Her friendly, cheerful, and approachable nature will be sorely missed by our staff, children and the broader school community.

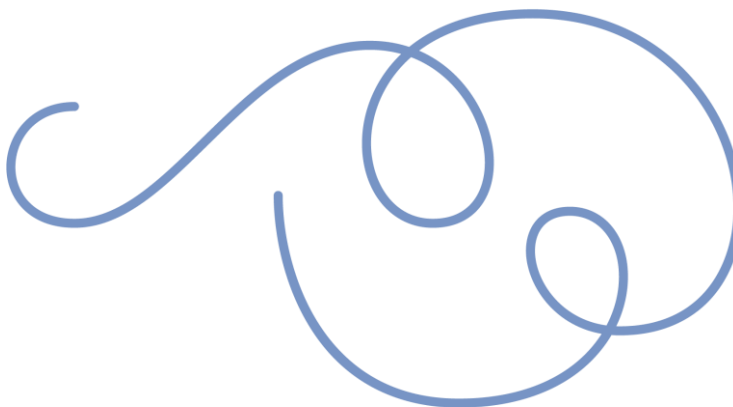
We are also excited about the imminent launch of our new school website and social media platforms. Further communication in this regard will be shared shortly in a separate message to the school community.

It has certainly been a busy and fulfilling start to the second term, and while it is always challenging to capture everything in a single update, we hope this summary provides a meaningful glimpse into daily life at our special school. We remain deeply grateful to our dedicated staff for their continued commitment and energy, and to our parents and guardians for your ongoing support.

We wish you all a well-earned long weekend.

Kind regards,

Alex





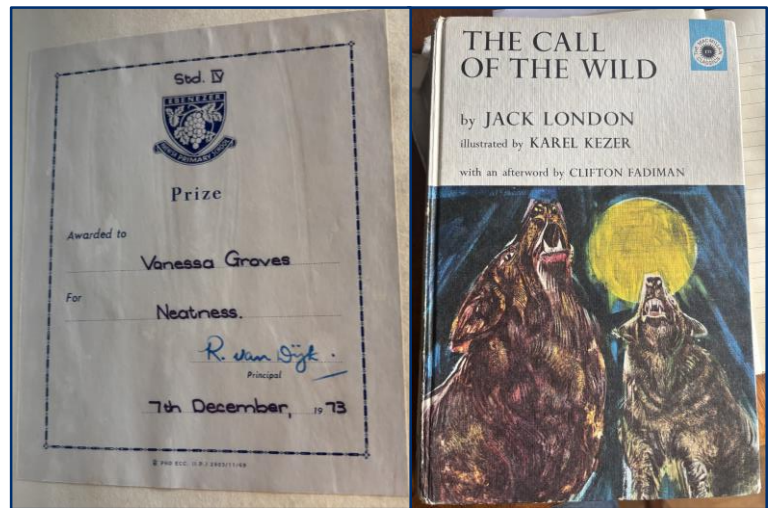
Newsvine

'The Call of the Wild', discovered in a French bookshop.

A rather special email made its way into the school mailbox this week, carrying with it a story that spans both time and distance.

"Good afternoon, I found this in a bookshop in France, I thought you might enjoy."

Attached were photographs of a well-loved copy of *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. Inside the cover was something far more meaningful, a book prize from our own school, awarded for Neatness on 7 December 1973.



The 1973 book prize awarded to Vanessa Groves, preserved inside the book.

What makes this discovery even more poignant is the signature of Ms van Dijk (Principal from 1966 to 1984), written in her blue fountain pen. A small but powerful reminder of the people who shaped the school's history.

At the time, there was only one class per standard on the Braak, except for the Foundation Phase, making this a small but significant glimpse into daily school life in 1973.

A bookshop find has reconnected us with a piece of our past, reminding us that the stories of our school continue long after the classroom doors have closed.

If anyone has information about Vanessa Groves or this book's journey, we would love to hear from you.





What's happening in the Foundation Phase?

Rhenishers Love to Read

On World Book Day we all arrived dressed as our favourite book characters. It was wonderful to see how creative the children were, with so many imaginative costumes on display. Even the teachers joined in the fun, dressing up as 101 Dalmatians, complete with our very own Cruella De Vil!





What's happening in the Foundation Phase?



This special day will hopefully inspire a genuine love of reading and encourage children to become fully immersed in the world of books. We would also like to encourage parents to continue fostering this enthusiasm at home by exploring books together and sharing in the joy of reading.

PLEASE REMEMBER, our school library is open from 14:00 to 15:30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Parents are always welcome to join their child, browse the shelves and enjoy reading a book together.





What's happening in the Foundation Phase?

Our Pre-Reception children hosted their parents for a reading morning at school drop-off time. Stories and cuddles were shared as the children were transported through a world of imagination and fun.



Did you know ...

Reading to children builds language, vocabulary and general knowledge.



Reading together creates a connection between parent and child, and the physical contact actually boosts the brain's receptivity to learning.



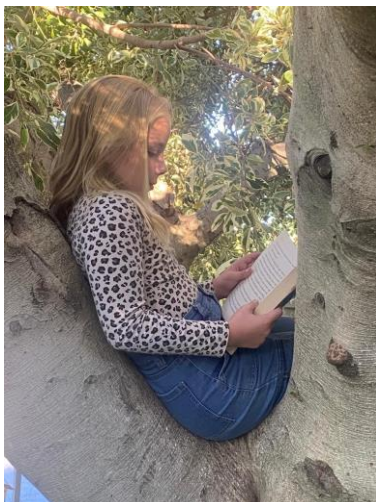


What's happening in the Foundation Phase?

Books help children to develop empathy and emotional regulation by providing opportunities to discuss feelings and coping strategies.



Some of our Grade 3s were found reading in some strange places!





What's happening in the Foundation Phase?

We were very happy to have a visit from Colgate on the 23rd of April. The team presented a session on the importance of brushing our teeth correctly. We also learnt about which foods are good or bad for our teeth. Each child from Grade R to 3 was lucky enough to receive both a toothbrush and a tube of toothpaste. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Colgate for taking the time to visit our school and for sharing such important lessons with our children.



Our Grade 3 boys and girls have started working with bigger numbers this term. Learning about place value and how numbers are made up. We then spent time using Lego to build these numbers.





What's happening in the Intermediate and Senior Phase?

The past four weeks have been busy and much fun is being had in NST with many different investigations and practical activities taking place across the phase.

Grade 4s have been focusing on structures, where they explored how different materials and designs affect the strength and stability of structures. Through hands-on activities, they investigated how structures are built to support loads and withstand forces, developing both their creativity and problem-solving skills.

Our grade 5s have been exploring conductivity, investigating how different materials conduct heat and electricity. Through practical experiments, they tested and compared materials, helping them understand how these concepts apply in everyday contexts.

In grade 6, the focus has been on investigating mixtures and solutions, with a strong emphasis on practical work. They explored how substances combine and tested the solubility of solids in liquids, learning to identify soluble and insoluble materials. These experiments have strengthened their ability to observe, record and draw conclusions from their findings.

The grade 7s have been conducting experiments on insulators and conductors, gaining a deeper understanding of how electricity flows through different materials. Their investigations have helped them identify which materials allow or prevent the flow of electrical energy, laying an important foundation for future learning.

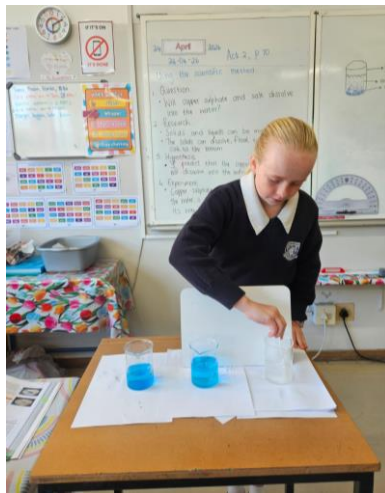
Across the phase, we are pleased to report two successful study skills sessions for Grades 4 to 7. During these sessions, we explored effective planning, different learning styles and the importance of developing a growth mindset rather than a fixed mindset. The children were also guided on how to prepare an effective study space and introduced to practical study methods. We encourage parents to engage with their children's study guides and support them in implementing these strategies at home. Your involvement will greatly assist in building consistency and confidence.

Lastly, we would like to encourage the development of healthy habits. Daily revision, balanced nutrition, sufficient sleep and regular exercise are all essential for effective learning and exam preparation. These habits support not only academic success but also overall well-being and balance in our children's lives.

We are proud of the enthusiasm shown by the learners and look forward to the continued growth in the weeks ahead.



What's happening in the Intermediate and Senior Phase?





Sports Desk

Term 2 Begins!

It is hard to believe how quickly Term 1 flew by. It was a wonderfully full and energetic start to the year, and I am incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm and support shown by our boys and girls, staff, and parents.

As we move into Term 2, I am excited to experience my first winter season at Rhenish Primary. With hockey, netball, rugby, cross country, and chess all underway, there is already a fantastic sense of energy and momentum across the sporting programme. It has been especially pleasing to see such strong levels of participation, with so many children embracing opportunities, enjoying their sport, and continuing to grow in confidence and ability.

Hockey

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting start to the hockey season for both our U13 boys' and girls' teams. The U13A teams recently attended the annual Maties Hockey Festival, followed by their much-anticipated tour to Knysna.

At the Maties Festival, both teams enjoyed a great deal of success, but more importantly, showed significant development and improvement throughout. A standout highlight was the U13 girls reaching the final of their competition, where they narrowly lost on shuffles to a strong Gene Louw side.

The Knysna Tour provided a truly special experience for our players. Tours offer far more than hockey alone - they build independence, strengthen friendships, and create lasting memories. Over the four days, our players were outstanding, representing Rhenish Primary with pride both on and off the field. As staff, we received numerous positive comments about the conduct, attitude, and spirit of our children, which made us incredibly proud. It was also a moment that truly highlighted the strength and character of the Rhenish community.





Sports Desk

Across both events, the combined results were exceptional: 24 games played, 18 wins, 2 draws, and 4 losses. Notably, the girls remained unbeaten throughout, winning 11 matches and drawing 1 - a fantastic achievement.

A sincere thank you to all our hockey staff, especially Miss de Kock, Mr Leech, Miss C Stubbs, and Miss Erasmus, for their commitment and care on tour. A special mention must go to Miss de Kock, whose organisation, passion, and leadership of hockey at Rhenish Primary continue to be outstanding.

We also congratulate Sage Abrahams, Christian Crowther, and Zuri Weimers, who were selected to represent regional hockey teams in their respective age groups. They will compete at the regional tournament from 28 June to 1 July in Paarl.

In addition, a huge congratulations to Sophia Boustred, Alexander Hendricks, and Hamish Morgan, who were selected for the IPT hockey teams for 2026. This group represents the top 16 players in the province and will compete at the Inter-Provincial Tournament from 27 June to 1 July in Johannesburg. This is a remarkable achievement, and we are extremely proud of them. Well done!

Netball

The netball season has just begun, with our girls facing a challenging opening fixture against Laerskool Stellenbosch. Despite this, it was fantastic to see so many teams in action and so many girls involved across the weekend.

There were positives to take away, and most importantly, it was clear that the girls were enjoying themselves and embracing the opportunity to compete. I particularly enjoyed watching the mini netball fixtures - a big thank you to the staff involved for their care, guidance, and nurturing approach. These early experiences are invaluable, and the girls are in excellent hands as they develop their skills and love for the game.

Under the expert guidance of Miss White, Mrs Jack, and Miss Pietersen, our U13 girls departed for their annual tour to Knysna. They had an amazing experience and embraced the opportunity to continue to grow both as players and as a team.





Sports Desk

Rugby

Rugby has made a strong start to the term, with fixtures against Laerskool Stellenbosch, Vredendal, and Rondebosch showcasing real passion, resilience, and determination across all age groups.

There have been some excellent performances, and it is clear that rugby at Rhenish Primary is in a very positive place. It is particularly encouraging that, for the first time, we have been able to field such a large number of teams across the age groups - a clear sign of the growth and enthusiasm for the sport within the school.

This was highlighted in the recent fixtures against Rondebosch, where the U13A team performed exceptionally well and secured a convincing 41–7 victory. To put this into context, Rondebosch field eight rugby teams across the U12 and U13 age groups compared to Rhenish's two U13 teams - making this result even more impressive.

A big thank you to Mr Geraghty and Mr Probert for their leadership, expertise, and continued commitment to the programme.

Our U11 and U13 boys headed to Rondebosch for their festival tour. While close to home, this four-day experience provided invaluable opportunities for growth, team bonding, and development. The teams returned with great results and exceptional growth.

It has also been extremely enjoyable watching our U7 and U8 players take to tag rugby, which, as you will know, has been introduced by SA Rugby this year. This format offers a fantastic foundation for the game, allowing young players to develop core skills such as evasion, spatial awareness, passing, and decision-making in a safe, non-contact environment. By removing the physical element at this stage, children are able to build confidence and game understanding more freely, which will undoubtedly benefit their long-term rugby development as they progress into the contact versions of the game.

Cross Country

The Cross Country league season is now underway. Early morning sessions have seen strong attendance, with a focus on building fitness, resilience, and a positive mindset - all key components of success in this demanding sport. It has been fantastic to see so many boys and girls getting involved.

We look forward to the upcoming league meets, where our runners will have the opportunity to challenge themselves and proudly represent the school.

Of course, boys and girls will also celebrate Founders' Day while representing their houses in the annual Inter-house Cross Country event. A massive good luck to everyone - most importantly, enjoy the experience.



Sports Desk

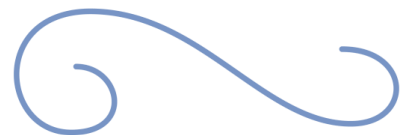
Chess

Chess continues to thrive at Rhenish Primary, with numerous fixtures and events taking place behind the scenes. It is wonderful to be able to offer such a valuable and intellectually stimulating activity to our boys and girls.

We were proud to host the annual Rhenish Primary Chess Tournament, which saw a large number of boys and girls participate in a full day of competitive and engaging chess.

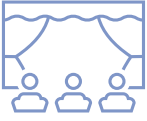
A sincere thank you to Miss van Zyl for her dedication, time, and passion in developing chess at the school and supporting our players so effectively.

As always, thank you to our staff, coaches, parents, and boys and girls for your continued commitment and support. Sport at Rhenish Primary continues to grow and thrive because of this collective effort.



We look forward to an exciting and action-packed Term 2 ahead.

Harry Thomas
Head of Sport



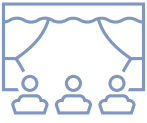
Culture Corner

Music Department Renovation

We were extremely privileged to complete a renovation and makeover of our Music Department! With new carpets, ceilings, lighting, fans, and a fresh coat of paint, we now have a beautiful space that inspires creativity and music-making in the Performing Arts Department.

A sincere thank you to the PTA for their dedication and hard work in raising funds to make this project possible. The music team and children are very grateful!





Culture Corner

Orchestra Outing



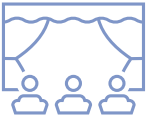
On Thursday, 19 March, our orchestra enjoyed an outing to the Endler Hall, where they attended a performance by the Stellenbosch Wind Orchestra.



The programme featured well-known movie music, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our children left feeling inspired and motivated, with many dreaming of one day becoming professional musicians and performing in an orchestra.





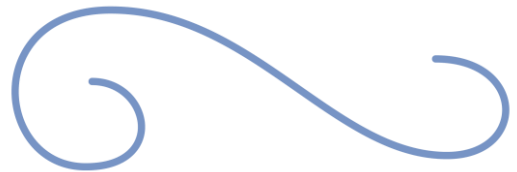
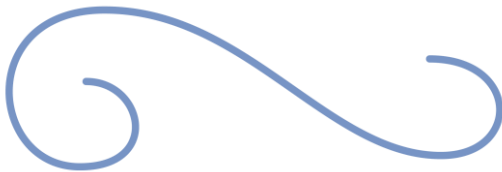
Culture Corner

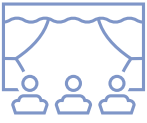
Music Soirée

On Thursday evening, 26 March, we held our first Music Soirée for the year. A heartfelt thank you to the Foundation Phase Orff Ensemble and our individual soloists for a truly beautiful evening of music.

We also extend our thanks to Mrs Beaumont for the lovely art display, which added to the atmosphere of the event.

"Music can change the world because it can change people" - Bono

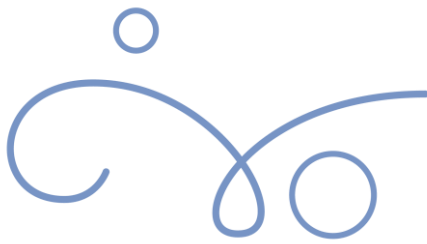




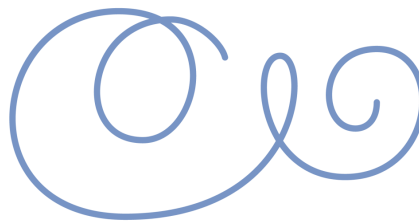
Art Room

Senior Phase Art Club

Our Senior Art Club explored the art of using mixed media creating some amazing Pet Collages.



GRADE 6 FRIDA KAHLO portraits.





Heart of the Community

The Rhenish Primary academic and admin staff treated the Dorothea staff to a restorative afternoon of cake, drinks, colour, and connection. A fitting tribute to the tireless work they do in supporting individuals who face difficulties across many dimensions of life.



A heartfelt thank you to the Rhenish family for their generous donations of peanut butter and jam — contributions that will keep children nourished throughout the entire year at the Legacy Centre in Kayamandi. The Grade 7 Community Care portfolio learners had the privilege of delivering the donations and experiencing a guided tour of the centre.





Environmental Club

The Environmental Club went on their first outing of the year to Strand Beach to do a beach clean up. Armed with gloves and refuse bags, we picked up 14 bags of rubbish in just under an hour. The children were amazed by the strange things that they found! It seems as though there are regular groups helping to keep the beach clean as we did not pick up as much rubbish as we thought we would, especially compared to our clean up of the Eerste River last year.



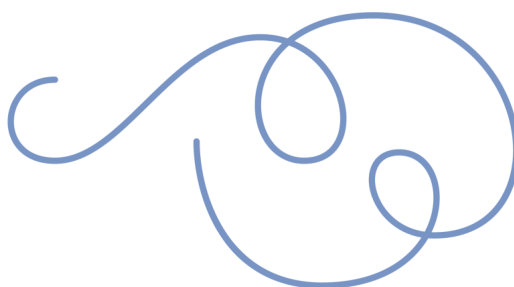


From the PTA

Welcoming our staff and children with a marshmallow egg after the Easter break.



Fun was had on our 'Break-the-Rules' Dress up day!





From the PTA



PTA EVENTS 2026 SAVE THESE DATES



**MONDAY 22 JUNE
RAFFLE DRAW**



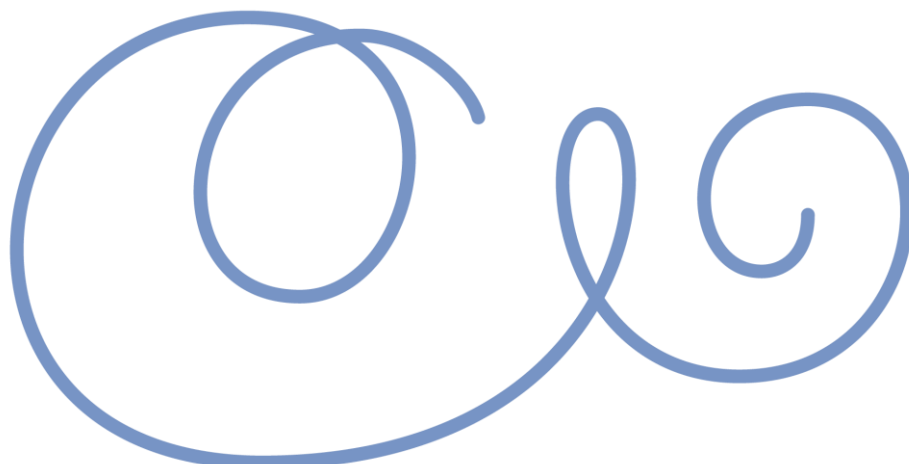
**FRIDAY 24 JULY
QUIZ NIGHT**

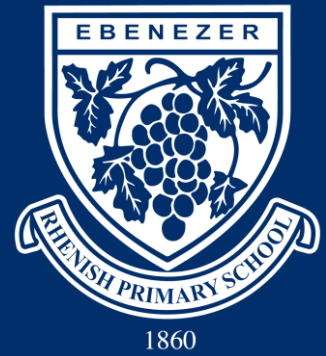


**FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER
GOLF & BOULES DAY**



**FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER
MOVIE / SOCIAL NIGHT**





**Rooted in tradition,
thriving for tomorrow.**

