



DSK NEWSFLASH

Newsletter of the German International School Cape Town



Principal's Message

Dear DSK Community

As the second term comes to an end, we have already reached the halfway mark of the school year, and the well deserved winter break has just started.

The past few months have been filled with exciting projects, events and important developments. Together, we have brought new ideas to life and continued to drive our school's development forward. In this edition of the NewsFlash, I will share a summary of the key topics and milestones presented at our 2026 Annual General Meeting.

One of the highlights waiting for us at the start of the new term is the launch of the first episode of our new podcast, Klar DSK. Titled "Learning Between Two Worlds – Germany and South Africa: Balancing Cultures, Opportunities and Challenges in a Bicultural School", the episode explores a topic that shapes and enriches our school community every day.

Until then, I hope you and your families enjoy a relaxing winter break, create many happy memories and return refreshed for the term ahead.

I look forward to welcoming you all back to DSK in the third term, healthy, refreshed and ready for everything that lies ahead.

Warm regards
Sabrina Gellermann

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FOCUS TOPIC

STRATEGY 2030

Building Tomorrow, Together

In light of the recent AGM, I would like to look back on the achievements of 2025 and provide an update on the strategic direction and milestones already accomplished in 2026.

917

Learners

48

Classes

31New
staff members

With 917 learners (February 2025 data) across 48 classes and 31 new staff members joining the DSK family, the school continues to grow in a healthy and sustainable way. The year also brought something particularly special: the BLI Certificate of Excellence, recognising the school's outstanding work in digitalization and German language education. An achievement that reflects the sustained commitment of every teacher, learner, and parent in our community.

Community life flourished too. The Sportolympiade brought the entire school together in the spirit of healthy competition and team pride, while teaching and learning innovations continued to be embedded across grade levels. The DSK is not just a school - it is a living, growing community.

EIGHT STRATEGIC GOALS: A SHARED COMPASS TOWARDS 2030

At the heart of the DSK's strategic direction lies a clear and purposeful framework: eight strategic development goals divided between the Board and the pedagogical leadership. Four goals are set by the Board, focusing on the school's sustainability, identity, and foundations. Four pedagogical goals, led by the Principal and her team, focus on the people and practice at the core of what we do every day - teaching, learning, and growing.

Together, these eight goals form a shared compass. Not a checklist to be ticked off, but a living commitment to continuous development.

BOARD GOALS

- 1 Marketing the school externally
- 2 Communication
- 3 Value Proposition
- 4 Business development and funding of the DSK

PEDAGOGICAL GOALS

- 5 Staff development, motivation & retention
- 6 Learning environment and methodology
- 7 Humanity Project
- 8 Time tabling and daily rhythm



Looking Forward: What 2026 Holds

The Action Plan for 2026 is ambitious – and intentionally so. Much of the groundwork laid in 2024 now finds expression in concrete programmes, new structures, and renewed community engagement. Importantly, the DSK acknowledges that transformation is rarely a sprint; many of the most meaningful initiatives are ongoing journeys.

COMMUNICATION & CONNECTIVITY

New communication platforms are being investigated to replace the Skooler system, a significant upgrade that will improve how staff, learners, and families connect day to day. Alongside this, Communication Workshops and a structured review of internal and external communication processes will ensure that the DSK speaks clearly, consistently, and confidently to all its stakeholders.

"WE DON'T JUST SET GOALS AND MOVE ON. WE REVISIT THEM, WE CHALLENGE THEM, AND WE HOLD OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE TO THEM – AS A TEAM. SOME THINGS ARE DONE; MANY THINGS ARE ONGOING. THAT'S THE NATURE OF REAL SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT."

SABRINA GELLERMANN

A NEW KIND OF OPEN DAY

The DSK is reimagining how it presents itself to the world. A revamped Open Day concept has been designed and introduced, creating a more engaging and authentic experience of school life.

Looking further ahead, preparations are already underway for Didacta 2027, where the DSK aims to have its own booth, a milestone in the school's growing profile as a thought leader in education.

VISION, VALUES, AND THE SCHOOL PROGRAMME

One exciting initiative in 2026 is the "All Our Ideas" survey. It brings together the voices of our learners and parents, feeding directly into a renewed mission statement and guiding principles, and an updated school programme. The survey will also be extended to include administrative staff. This is democracy in action, and it is one of the things that makes the DSK distinctly, proudly itself.

PEOPLE, WELLNESS, AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Behind every great school is a great team. 2026 brings a comprehensive People Operations drive: HR policy reviews, updated contracts, and - crucially - a dedicated focus on staff wellness. The Senior Management Team continues its work on six school development goals.



Building the Future: Infrastructure & Learning Environment

Under Goal 6 – Learning Environment & Methodology – infrastructure plays a starring role. In 2025, the DSK completed a major expansion of its physical and digital environment, and 2026 picks up that momentum with purpose.

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED IN 2025

The rollout of Clevertouch interactive displays is now complete, transforming classrooms across the school into modern, dynamic learning spaces. Classroom modernisation was completed for Grades 5 to 8, and every learner and teacher now has iPad access, cementing the DSK's commitment to meaningful, integrated digitalization. The stunning new Amphitheatre at the STEM Centre was also completed – a space that will host learning, performance, and community gatherings for generations to come.

WHAT'S COMING NEXT

The campus continues to evolve. Plans are in motion to relocate the Star Centre and Admin offices to purpose-built facilities. Play and recreation areas across campus will be upgraded to better serve learner wellbeing.

Most excitingly, a comprehensive Buildings & Development Plan stretching to 2032 is currently being finalised – a testament to the long-term vision that guides every decision at the DSK.

Digitalization, too, is an ongoing project. The cell phone-free campus policy embeds digital wellbeing into everyday school life. German as a school language continues to deepen – connecting learners to culture, identity, and opportunity.

A School in Motion

The DSK in 2026 is a school in motion – anchored by clear values, energised by its community, and pointed purposefully towards a future that is bold, inclusive, and full of possibility. Some goals have been met; others are still in progress. And that is exactly as it should be. Growth, after all, is not a destination. It is a direction.

**"WE ARE BUILDING SOMETHING SPECIAL
HERE – NOT JUST CLASSROOMS OR
CURRICULA, BUT A COMMUNITY WITH
CHARACTER. I AM INCREDIBLY PROUD OF
WHERE WE ARE, AND EVEN MORE EXCITED
ABOUT WHERE WE ARE GOING."**

SABRINA GELLERMANN



School Management Board



As part of the 2026 Annual General Meeting, the scheduled Board elections took place. Three new members were elected to serve on the Board.

We are pleased to share the current composition of the School Management Board, together with the responsibilities for the various committees and portfolios.

POSITIONS AND PORTFOLIOS

Chairperson

Sven Welzel

Deputy Chair

Tali Anderssen

Deputy Chair

Hendrik Malan

Treasurer

Isabell Anders

Secretary

Heike Gerntholtz

Finance

Peter Allerstorfer, Isabell Anders, Hendrik Malan, Sven Welzel

Personnel

Isabell Anders, Tali Anderssen, Sven Welzel

Strategy

Peter Allerstorfer, Richard Mills, Marc Steinlin, Sven Welzel

Communication & Marketing

Richard Mills

Building Matters

Matthias Lindow, Jason Krause (kooptiert)

Primary School and Kindergarten

Heike Gerntholtz, Marc Steinlin

Legal and Risk Management

Tali Anderssen

Digitalization & IT

Marc Steinlin

Academics

Isabell Anders, Sven Welzel

Steering Committee

Heike Gerntholtz

Transformation, Diversity, Inclusion

Richard Mills, Marc Steinlin

STEM

Georgia Schaefer (kooptiert)

Pastoral Care

Miriam Küllmer



Shaping the Future with STEM

THE DSK APPLIES FOR THE “STEM-FRIENDLY SCHOOL” AWARD

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) are key skills for the future – and an important part of learning at DSK.

As part of the initiative “MINT Zukunft schaffen!” (“STEM: Creating the Future”), the DSK has applied for the recognition as a “STEM-friendly school” this year. The initiative aims to honour schools that sustainably strengthen STEM education and provide learners with diverse opportunities in these fields.

The application process is extensive and requires a great deal of commitment. It includes curriculum development, projects, competitions, career guidance, partnerships, and the integration of STEM throughout school life.

A special thank you goes to Astrid Schreier, whose commitment and energy have been instrumental in preparing and driving this application forward.

We are looking forward to the results, which are expected at the end of July.

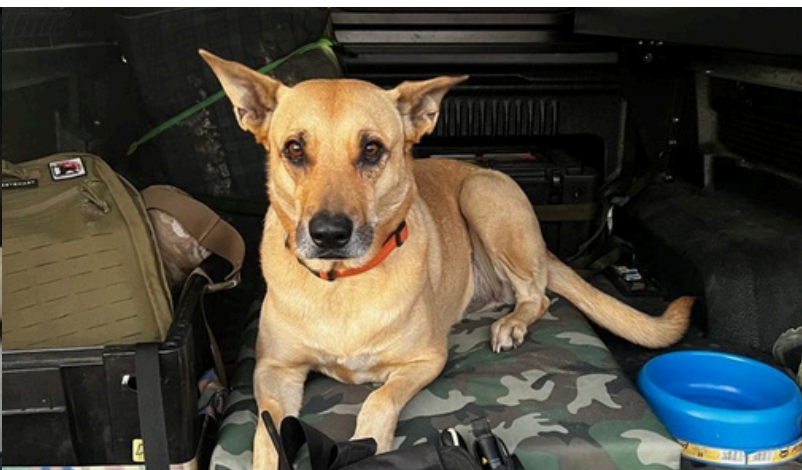
More about the initiative:

<https://mintzukunftschaffen.de/>

DSK SCIENCE EXPO

From 8 June until the end of the term, the STEM Centre will once again be buzzing with innovation and creativity. Under the theme “Learning Today, Shaping Tomorrow: STEM for the Future”, all Grade 9 learners are developing their own research and technology projects in teams as part of their STEM subjects.

The project presentations will take place on 31 July in the von Holten Hall, where a panel of judges will recognise the best projects and presentations. Outstanding projects may also receive support to continue their work and participate in the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists 2027.



Jedi will be back on patrol

Since joining us in end of 2024, our trusty detection dog, Jedi, has quickly become a beloved member of our school community – and what can we say? He has settled in beautifully and is now a campus expert.

VAPING UNDER WATCH: JEDI ON THE SCENT.

Trained to sniff out vaping products, Jedi was actively on duty the week before our break, particularly in the bathrooms.

Vaping is a growing concern, with many young people encountering e-cigarettes early on, often unaware of the health risks. Our mission is to inform, encourage reflection, and guide our learners to make the right choices.

Our school community should be a place where everyone feels comfortable and safe. With Jedi, we are setting an example for respectful and mindful engagement with challenging topics. His presence demonstrates our commitment to exploring new ways to protect and empower our learners. Jedi supports us in a unique way.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

A heartfelt thank you to our learners and you, the parents, for your support and trust in our approach. Together with Jedi, we aim to continue making DSK a place where everyone feels safe, recognised, and empowered.

DOG TRAINER JAMES





When Music Touches the Soul

The DSK Sound Busters and the Winter Concert provided a wonderful musical finale to the term.

DSK Sound Busters

What a special evening!

For the second year running, our Grade 6 and 7 learners took to the stage as the DSK Sound Busters and delivered a truly memorable performance. Whether performing in bands, marimba groups, vocal ensembles or brass sections, the young musicians impressed the audience with a rich variety of styles ranging from classical pieces to rock and pop.

Our ensemble classes are an integral part of the music programme and give every learner in Grades 6 and 7 the opportunity to learn an instrument, make music together and gain valuable stage experience. Throughout the evening, the joy of performing and the spirit of collaboration were unmistakable and quickly spread from the stage to the audience.

Winter Concert

Energy, talent and unforgettable performances!

Our school bands delivered an evening packed with energy and outstanding musical performances.

Around 50 young musicians took to the stage and created an unforgettable experience. The Dynamites (Grade 5) wowed the audience with their original song as well as a selection of crowd-pleasing classics. The Groovy Tides (Grades 5 to 8) brought smooth grooves, exceptional guitar work and outstanding vocal performances. Meanwhile, the more experienced bands, Best Parts and Southern Astronauts (Grades 7 to 10), captivated the audience with musical excellence, stage presence and remarkable audience engagement.

The solo performers were equally impressive. Watching our learners grow as musicians and performers, developing both their skills and their confidence, is truly inspiring.

We are incredibly proud of every DSK musician who contributed to this special evening.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Celebrating the people behind the music!

Our sincere thanks go to the Music Department for their passion, dedication and commitment. We would also like to thank everyone working behind the scenes who helped make these two wonderful concerts possible.

Music has a unique way of bringing people together, creating lasting memories and strengthening community. These two concerts were a beautiful reminder of exactly that.



The People Who Shape Our School

FAREWELLS AND NEW FACES AT THE DSK

SAYING GOODBYE.

As we conclude the second term, we say farewell to valued colleagues: Stefanie Bergemann, Miriam Finschow and Carel Greyling.

We would like to thank them sincerely for their dedication, passion and meaningful contribution to life at the DSK. We wish them every success and happiness as they embark on the next chapter of their professional and personal journeys.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome new colleagues to our school community at the start of the third term:

Frauke Ferber – Primary School

Mareike Janssen – Mathematics

Arved Schmitz – Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science

We warmly welcome them to the DSK and wish them a successful start, many inspiring connections and every joy in their new roles within our community.



A Look Ahead to Term 3

EXAM SEASON BEGINS

With the start of the third term, an important and demanding period begins for our school community: the exam season across both the German and English streams. This phase will shape the course of the term and will continue, in part, into the fourth term.

Our learners are preparing for a wide range of final and language examinations: the written Abitur exams, followed by the oral examinations at the beginning of the fourth term, the IEB-NSC examinations, which also continue into the fourth term, as well as the DSD I and DSD II language diploma exams.

These weeks and months call for focus, resilience, and confidence. At the same time, they are a clear reflection of the commitment and dedication with which our learners approach their academic journey.

We wish all learners strength and every success during this important time.

TIMETABLE ADJUSTMENTS

As usual at the start of the new term, there will be some timetable changes.

Term 3 will also include updates to teacher assignments due to recent staffing changes.

Please refer to the updated timetables for all specific changes.



Coming Up Next

BLAST OFF INTO SPACE!

Meet NASA Astronaut Dorothy "Dottie" Metcalf-Lindenburger - live at the DSK!

The Space Tour 2026 is back - and it is touching down at the DSK once again. We're excited to invite you and your family to an evening that's out of this world.

Save the date: Thursday, 23 July at 18:00 and get ready to meet a real astronaut, face to face.

Meet Dorothy "Dottie" Metcalf-Lindenburger
Astronaut. Educator. Explorer. Storyteller.

"Dottie" flew aboard Space Shuttle Discovery on the STS-131 mission to the International Space Station – as Mission Specialist and robotic arm operator during critical spacewalk operations.

And here's the cool part: she also played a role in a history-making moment. One of four women in space at the same time, for the first time ever.

Before NASA, she was a teacher. That passion never left her. Today she speaks about unlocking potential, expanding access to STEAM, and the powerful message that your starting point does not define your future.

This is your chance to hear her story first-hand and ask your burning questions.

Secure your seat & save

Tickets on Quicket: <https://qkt.io/FMLrjQ>

DSK families enjoy an exclusive discount:

- Adults save R50 - promo code **DSKAdult**
- Children 12 & under save R30 - promo code **DSKChild**

Don't miss it. Bring your curiosity, your questions, and your whole family. This is the kind of evening that sparks big dreams.

See you at the Space Tour 2026 at the DSK!

Living Maths
THE POWER OF MATHS IN EVERY DAY

GUEST SPEAKER

Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger
ASTRONAUT

23 July 2026
from 6-830pm
The German International School, Cape Town

DEUTSCHE INTERNATIONALE SCHULE KAPSTADT

Visit [Livingmaths.com](https://livingmaths.com) for more information

Book here



DATES TO REMEMBER

START TERM 3

Monday, 20 July

MEET THE TEACHER 2 GR. 5 - 12

Tuesday, 21 Juli | 17:30 - 20:30

SPACE TOUR 2026

Thursday, 23 Juli | 18:00 - 20:30

MOVIE SCREENING: 270 REASONS TO KEEP GOING

Tuesday, 28 Juli | 18:00 - 19:30 | ILoveBoobies Fundraiser

GO CUP SOCCER

Sunday, 09 August | 08:00 - 17:00

UNAFFI – UNIFIED SPORTS FEST

Saturday, 15 August | 08:00 - 18:30 | Partner Event

LATERNENFEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Saturday, 15 August | 17:00 - 20:00

BOOK WEEK GR. 1-9

Monday, 31 August - Friday, 4 September

WINTER SPORTS AWARDS

Wednesday, 16 September | 18:30 - 20:30

THEATRE PERFORMANCE JUNIOR DRAMA CLUB GR. 5-9

Thursday, 17. September | 18:30 - 20:30

END TERM, 3

Wednesday, 23 September

CIVVIES DAYS

FRIDAY, 31 JULY

FRIDAY, 21 AUGUST

FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER