



APPLEWOOD
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

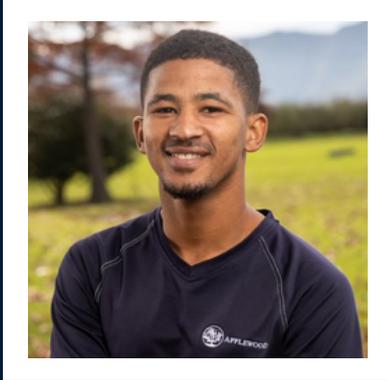
Nurturing Potential Inspiring Greatness

Welcome to the Senior Primary



Good Roots Good Fruits

Meet your class teachers



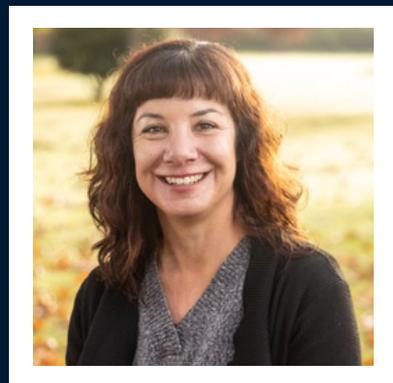
Mr Linden Valentine
Grade 4 Teacher



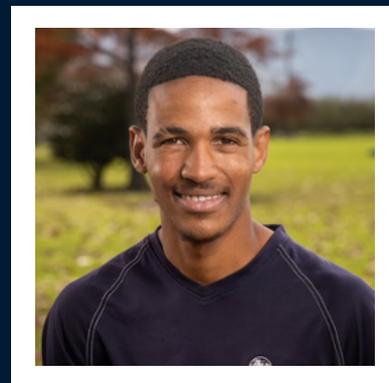
Mr Nico Booysen
Grade 5 Teacher



Mrs Marisa Malan
Grade 6 Teacher &
Head of Academics
& Sport



Mrs Diane Tuttelberg
Grade 7 Teacher &
Deputy Head

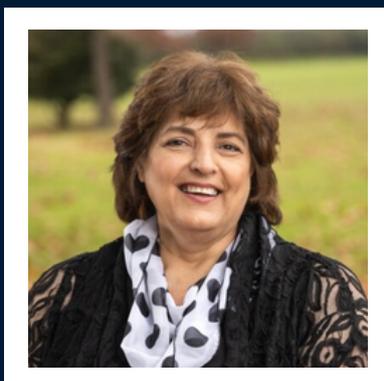


Mr Shaneal Hendricks
Assistant

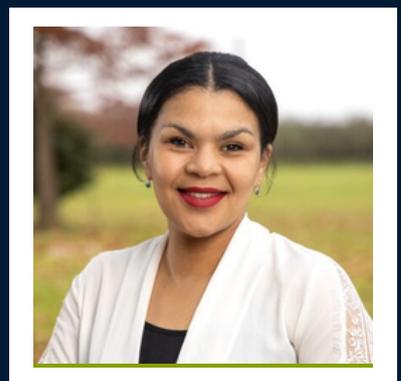
School Administration



Mr Shane André
Headmaster



Ms Charlotte Kruger
Financial Manager



Mrs Allison Klaasen
School Secretary

Specialist Teachers



Mr Grant Allison
Music Teacher



Mrs Riana du Plessis
Afrikaans HL Teacher



Mrs Olive le Roux
Art Teacher



Mrs Shona Beukes
Drama Teacher



Mr Khaya Cengani
Xhosa Teacher



Mrs Karen du Plessis
Librarian



Mr Shane André
Headmaster & Grade 7
Maths Teacher



Mr Brett Wood
PE Teacher / Coach

Contact Information

Reception

☎ tel: 021 848 9121
✉ Email: info@applewood.co.za

Physical address

Applewood Preparatory School
Appletiser Road, Grabouw
Western Cape, South Africa



Communication Policy

- Please ensure that all communication initiated by a parent abides by the Applewood code of conduct of integrity, pride, respect and compassion.
- In order to ensure accurate information, please speak directly to your child's class teacher regarding any queries or concerns.
- Applewood's main conduit of information is the class WhatsApp group which is designed to distribute information and is not to be used as a chat group.
- In addressing a query or concern, please be sure to follow the correct channels of communications and escalate if necessary: first with the teacher, second with a relevant HOD, thirdly with the school head, and finally with the board.
- Parents should not contact teachers before 6am or after 6pm.
- Please respect our teachers' busy schedules and note that teachers may not be contactable during teaching hours. Direct any emergency communications to the school reception.
- Parents should pay close attention to official school letters, class WhatsApp groups, school calendars and school information evenings.
- Please ensure that all communication on class WhatsApp groups remains relevant and necessary.

*For more information, please refer to the full Applewood Communication Policy

Academics

Academic Subjects

Our solid academic programme is offered within a stimulating, engaging and inclusive learning environment where children are encouraged to think critically, explore and create. Our educational approach is deeply rooted in promoting our Applewood values.

The core subjects: English, Mathematics and Natural Science are aligned with the Cambridge curriculum. This flexible, inspiring and challenging curriculum prepares our children well for high school and equips them with problem solving skills. For Afrikaans we divide our grade classes into Home Language and First Additional Language streams. This provides opportunity for small group teaching with specialist teachers. In Social Science we follow the National Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) enriched by the 17 Global Sustainability Goals.

We value reading. Through our annual book week, reading initiatives, outreach programmes centered around reading and the roles of our library monitors, we strive to inspire a love of books and to create life-long readers.

Outdoor Education

Our outdoor educational programme is truly exceptional. This includes outings, excursions and camps as well as outdoor learning experiences on our beautiful premises. Parts of the syllabus, especially in Social and Natural Sciences, are covered in these excursions. This approach ensures that the curriculum remains both relevant and engaging and the overall learning experience fun!

Learner Development

In recognising diverse learning needs, we provide additional opportunities for learners who require specific support and extension.

Assessment Protocol

As part of the assessment protocol, the grade 4 and 5 children complete Thematic Integrated Projects (TIP Projects) at the end of term 2 and term 4. This project based learning integrates different subjects into a project on a certain topic from the syllabus. Projects are all completed by the children at school and we guide and encourage a variety of skills.

Grade 6 and 7 children write examinations at the end of term 2 and 4. We are intentional about teaching study skills, planning and time management skills and revision is built into the timetable. Although exams give valuable insight into a child's progress, we believe that writing exams is more about the skills involved and is part of the learning process. The contribution of the exam mark to a child's final mark is based on current best practice, to ensure fair reflection of performance, knowledge and skills throughout the year. We are preparing children within a nurturing environment, for the academic demands and pressures of high school.

Holistic Development

Developing the whole child is important to us and evident in our comprehensive weekly schedule which include English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science, Xhosa, Drama, Xhosa, Music, Choir, Physical Education and Social and Emotional Development lessons.



Our unique classroom experiences

Grade 4

"Grade 4 is undoubtedly a time of transition. It is a time where the playfulness and fun of the Junior Phase meets the independence and progress of the Senior Phase. Above all, this is a time of creativity and higher-order development in which the fundamental tools established in previous grades are used to challenge oneself and and exert ones sense of individuality.

Grade 4 brings exciting changes in the academic sphere. Children are introduced to interesting subjects like Natural Science and Technology, Social Science and Social and Emotional Wellbeing. Here we also begin to approach reading creatively as a class, and develop the ability to critically engage with texts of all manners.

Highlights of this year are our many fascinating outings, our fantastic and educational TIP (Thematic Integrated Project) weeks, and our Term 4 Camp at Soetwater Environmental Centre. In the Grade 4 classroom, we endeavour to explore the world around us, we learn to ask crucial questions, and foster a sense of insatiable curiosity."

-Mr Linden Valentine



Grade 5

"Grade 5 is the year where children and parents start to settle into the Senior Phase as children become accustomed to the workload and demand that the senior phase presents.

In Grade 5, we focus on making learning fun in order to foster a love for learning. We do this through practical projects such as our TIP weeks, which take place twice a year. A great deal of effort is awarded to nurturing responsibility and emotional intelligence within our children. We do this through our social and emotional lessons, and by creating opportunities to demonstrate personal responsibility.

Our many excursions are practical in nature and apply directly to our syllabus. Examples of excursions are constructing shelters out of recycled materials and sleeping in them for a night, exploring the caves of human origin in Mossel Bay as well as the Blombos museum, a 14-kilometer endurance hike from the Stettyn peak, and microscopic work, where we critically explore the anatomy of the flower in Betty's Bay.

"Tell me and I forget, Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I will learn." This quote by Benjamin Franklin speaks to what we aspire to achieve in Grade 5. Our aim is to involve learners in their own learning through the use of discussion, environmental projects, and opportunities to innovate and create."

-Mr Nico Booysen



Grade 6

"Grade 6 is the year when students learn to become more independent and take responsibility for their own learning. They write exams for the first time and a lot of time is spent perfecting the skill of making good study notes. This helps to make the first exams as stress-free as possible.

The Grade 6 children go on an unforgettable multi-day excursion, where we spend three days in the Cederberg with the Cape Leopard Trust. The primary emphasis of this experience is to learn about the remarkable biodiversity of our country and to encourage students to become more independent by giving them responsibility and freedom.

Another highlight of Grade 6 is our fortnightly visits to Bizweni School for children with disabilities. These visits mean as much to the Applewood children as they do to the children of Bizweni. Another exciting project is the winemaking project, where children learn about and participate in all the processes and stages of making wine, ultimately producing their own bottle wine.

-Mrs Marisa Malan



Grade 7

"Grade 7, the final year at Applewood, is a crucial period that emphasises independence, critical thinking, and embracing the last phase of childhood. Collaborative skills are practised through group projects which are completed during school time. Research and technology are essential in preparing for the path ahead. Global sustainable goals are incorporated into the Cambridge aligned curriculum fostering a deeper understanding of our diverse world. Examinations take place twice a year. This gives students the opportunity to practice time-management and study skills in a non-pressurised environment.

As part of the Grade 7 curriculum, children will engage in a Leadership Development Programme. This program takes place in the classroom, providing opportunities to learn about leadership and self-reflection on their own leadership abilities. It also encompasses school service, community outreach, personal physical challenges, environmental projects, and event organising. Grade 7 also introduces Economic Management Science as a subject, which is approached through entrepreneurship.

Towards the end of the year, the Grade 7 children embark on their ultimate camp challenge: Mountain 2 Coast. This adventure commences at Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve and concludes at Infanta. Throughout the journey, students will hike, cycle, and paddle their way to personal victories. Setting up camp and preparing their own meals for five nights, while facing physical and social challenges, which enhance their self-esteem and independence."

-Mrs Diane Tuttelberg



Christian Ethos

Applewood Preparatory School is founded on strong Christian values that guide our teaching, relationships, and daily interactions. We strive to nurture each child's character alongside their academic growth, encouraging respect, integrity, compassion, and service. Our weekly Christian-based assembly provides a meaningful time for reflection, worship, and the sharing of biblical principles, helping to cultivate a supportive school community grounded in faith and shared values.

Homework

- At Applewood, we believe in establishing a consistent homework routine in order to instill a sense of discipline and responsibility amongst our students and prepare them for the increasing workload of subsequent education.
- Homework is designed to enable parents to become actively involved in their child's education and allow parents a window into their academic progress. Parents should monitor the completion of their child's homework and assist or support when necessary and appropriate. Parents should check and sign homework diaries daily.
- Every child will receive relevant homework from Mondays to Thursdays. No homework shall be prescribed on Fridays or over weekends, with the exception of test or exam preparation in the Senior Phase.
- Work not completed in class due to lack of time, music lessons or absenteeism may become homework at the teachers discretion. Projects or assignments may also require preparation at home.
- Homework ultimately remains the responsibility of the student and should be managed accordingly.
- Specific homework guidelines are outlined for each grade in the Applewood homework policy.

Uniform

- Applewood's daily uniform consists of a branded golf shirt, shorts/skorts or tracksuit pants (weather dependent), a fleece top, and a softshell jacket. With regards to footwear, children are required to wear any white sneakers with white school socks. Children must wear the navy Applewood peak cap when outdoors.
- Sport uniform items include house shirts, swimming costumes and caps, hockey/rugby/cricket socks, cricket shirts and hats, rugby shirts, and flip flops (to be used exclusively for swimming).
- Other Applewood items available include the Applewood lunch bags, tog bags and school bags as well as pencil bags.
- Please refer to the reception for uniform orders. Enquire about second-hand uniforms (subject to availability). All payment should be made in advance.

Lunchboxes

- Please pack a healthy balanced lunchbox for your child; no chips, sweets, cookies, fizzy drinks are allowed
- Please remember to pack a spoon/fork when packing food that can't be eaten with their hands e.g., yoghurt, noodles etc.
- Please ensure you pack food that your child enjoys eating

Absentees

- Please notify the school reception as well as your class teacher telephonically or via WhatsApp if your child is unable to attend school
- As we follow a continuous programme packed with activities, we appreciate consistent attendance to avoid missing out on important learning opportunities
- Children are expected to communicate with their teachers following absenteeism regarding missed work

Culture

Applewood children are exposed to a range of cultural activities, and are encouraged to engage with cultural subjects meaningfully and regularly as a means of creative outlet. These cultural subjects include art, music, choir and drama.

Art classes are integrated into the timetable for one hour weekly, and are much anticipated amongst learners. Artworks are displayed at school events and never fail to impress by their demonstration of creativity and technical skill. Each class has one music lesson weekly where they are exposed to music theory as well as skill. The choir is composed of the entire Senior Phase who have weekly rehearsals and perform regularly, including our prestigious music evening at the Elgin Railway Market.. Lastly, drama lessons are held weekly; the results of which are showcased in our annual drama evening.



Sport

At Applewood, we feel that maximum participation in a varied sport programme is of paramount importance to our students. Applewood offers a range of sporting opportunities which vary each term. These sports include swimming, mountain biking, running, tag rugby, cricket, soccer, netball and hockey. Our sport is compulsory and all students are therefore expected to remain at school until the programme ends. Leagues and fixtures are arranged by coaches and may require participation in weekend or after-school events. Applewood also arranges frequent inter-house sporting events and galas. Students are expected to procure all necessary sporting equipment and uniform for this programme.

Additionally, Applewood integrates Physical Education (PE) into the weekly timetable. The PE activities differ but often entail swimming or running / fitness, depending on the season.

Lastly, an extra-curricular outdoor club is coordinated by the Applewood sports department which entails MTB outrides as well as hikes.

Multisport

A prominent feature of the Applewood Sport Programme is the termly inter-house Multisport event. Multisport takes the form of a duathlon or triathlon and incorporates running, swimming and mountain biking. This is a key school event which is designed to teach the relevant technical transition skills and develop the stamina required to compete in this amazing sport. Students train for this event during sport sessions as well as PE lessons. Applewood is actively involved in local multisport events and encourages maximum student participation.



Extra-curricular Activities

Applewood hosts a range of extracurricular and external programmes. These are to be arranged independently with the service-provider, and may incur an additional cost. Please speak to your class teacher or our receptionist for more information.

Extra sport

Junior and Senior Primary sporting activities such as RSD Rugby, extra tennis and extra soccer are offered seasonally. Squad swimming and squad mountain biking is also available by invitation.

Additional Activities

Private music lessons are available throughout the Junior and Senior phases and include piano, guitar, bass guitar, violin, drums and singing. These lessons take place during the school day and are scheduled to minimise academic disruption. Extra-art is offered at the end of the school day and functions separately from the art programme.

Aftercare

Applewood facilitates a private aftercare programme on the school premises. This is independently managed and should be arranged and billed privately.



Learner Development

Applewood believes in a team approach when it comes to supporting and extending our children. Parents, teachers and assistants play a vital role in assisting our children to have the best possible chance at success. The purpose of this structure is to address the learning support needs of students through the coordination, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of educational programs. Our approach is based on the Response to Intervention (RTI) model; a 3-tiered system involving classroom differentiation, targeted classroom intervention and specialised intervention. This is a multi-tier approach for the early identification and support of students with learning and behavioural needs.

Applewood approaches learning support collaboratively with a team structure which includes the headmaster, the head of academics, the head of pastoral care, the learning leader of learner development, external consultants, class teachers, and parents. The purpose of this multi disciplinary team is to strategize and integrate a differentiated intervention approach and develop well-rounded, resilient students.

*For more information about Applewood learner support, please request a copy of our Learner Support or Facilitation Policy



The Role of the Applewood Parent

Applewood encourages parents to become as involved in their children's schooling as possible. In order to maintain said parental involvement, Applewood relies on the Parents Association (the PA) which consists of a group of volunteers from the school parent body. The role of the PA is 1) to arrange functions to support and improve the community spirit of the school, and 2) to function as a channel of communication between school staff and parents in general school matters (excluding personal or academic matters).

All parents are expected to pay close attention to school notices, communications, and parent class WhatsApp groups. Parents should also be aware of the school calendar including compulsory and non-compulsory school events (which may fall over weekends). Parents may additionally be invited to special assemblies or school events during the school day.

Academically, parents should pay close attention to their children's academic performances and flag any queries or concerns. Parents should also monitor the completion of homework and projects, as well as their children's involvement with school activities. However, parents are encouraged to ensure that their children's work reflects the child's best abilities, and are encouraged to lend only essential assistance in this regard.



School rules

It is a primary aim of Applewood that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly. The School is a caring community whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all, all of which are underpinned by the school's Hurt Free policy. Our school values are encompassed by our Kilembe Tree and include compassion, grit, commitment, respect, self-control, integrity, gratitude, responsibility and initiative. All stakeholders involved or entering into the school community are expected to abide by these values. This includes teachers, learners and parents alike.

Applewood approaches discipline with a restorative philosophy in which we emphasize instilling positive interpersonal and intrapersonal behaviour first and foremost. This is achieved through various modes of encouragement and recognition of positive behaviour within the class and the broader school.

In the event of a transgression against the Applewood school values, disciplinary action may be taken. In the Pre-Primary, Applewood approaches discipline with the fundamental understanding that children should be allowed time to be heard. Additionally, children should be allowed time to reflect upon what they have done (in this sense, time-out or reflection time may be utilized). Applewood emphasizes the importance of conflict resolution rather than conflict dismissal. Above all, children should be given the opportunity to rectify their mistakes. All consequences that are put in place for misdemeanors should be efficient, action based, levelled, clearly understood, fair and reasonable.



A Letter from the Head



Dear Parents

It is my deep pleasure to welcome you to the Applewood family. I trust that you will find Applewood to be a loving, nurturing school whose teachers know that a child's socio-emotional wellbeing affects the quality of their learning.

Our youngest learners in the Pre-Primary are engaged in play-centered learning which is the most natural way for children to make sense of the world around them. Our desire is to instill within them a love for nature and the outdoors, and our open spaces encourages an appreciation for the environment whilst simultaneously promoting physical development and well-being.

Through the Junior Primary years, a love for our natural heritage is imbued, which culminates in the Enviro Challenge in the Senior Primary. Through active engagement in environmental conservation efforts our children develop a sense of responsibility and desire to care for our planet.

Our school values are central to the Applewood approach, all of which endeavour to empower children to be successful, as well as responsible and compassionate human beings.

As part of our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals, a range of formal sports activities are offered that not only promote physical fitness, but encourage teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. Additionally, our learners embark on a number of excursions and field trips that enable them to explore the world beyond the classroom.

We strongly believe that a culture of responsibility fosters personal growth and prepares our children for the challenges of high school. Our children are encouraged to adopt leadership roles, engage in service projects, and actively contribute to the school community.

Upon completing Grade 7, Applewood learners are well-prepared for both independent and public high schools where history has reflected our excellence across all spheres.

Warm regards,
Shane André



The Applewood Song

VERSE 1

From the day we came to Applewood
We've been the apple of their eye.
There are lots of different children here,
Not one of us the same.
God gives us all the sunshine,
The caring and the rain
So that we can all grow up
In the Applewood way.

CHORUS:

Now good roots make good fruits
That's what they tell us everyday
(good roots good fruits).
But the main thing we learn and should never forget
Is that each apple blossoms in its own special way.

VERSE 2

Every single day we are pruned into shape,
for the Royals and the Goldens
Our victory to make.
Now teamwork makes the dream work,
It's the ultimate test.
And all I can give is my very best!

CHORUS REPEAT

Lyrics and music by Ian Corder
Arranged by Johani Louw