



APPLEWOOD
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Nurturing Potential Inspiring Greatness

Welcome to the Junior Primary



Good Roots Good Fruits

Meet your class teachers



Mrs Chundre Krige
Grade 1 Teacher



Mrs Dee Dunton
Grade 2 Teacher



Mrs Andrea Rostron
Grade 3 Teacher

School Administration



Mr Shane André
Headmaster



Ms Diane Tuttelberg
Deputy Head



Mrs Marisa Malan
Head of Academics
& Sport



Ms Charlotte Kruger
Financial Manager



Mrs Allison Klaason
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 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

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.



Academics

The English and Mathematics which we teach both function as a spiral curriculum, meaning that the same topics are integrated across progressive years at an increasing level of complexity and detail. This has the benefit of continuously reinforcing information over time and using prior knowledge to inform future learning.

A snapshot of the Language syllabus

Reading is not a natural skill but an acquired skill. With the Time2Read Programme, we ensure that children have a sound phonological awareness of the English language. This includes identifying, manipulating and blending sounds which forms the basis of reading. Children are taught to code and encode words and not to simply memorise words. Small group-based teaching enhance the children's reading skills, and all children have three 30-minute focus lessons throughout the week where teachers focus on specific skills.

Reading and spelling are taught in tandem. This is one of the most effective ways of breaking the code systematically and explicitly. Reading and spelling are reversible processes, and when taught like this, the reversibility becomes obvious to the child, making the code logical and using the brain's innate ability to recognise and organise recurring patterns.

Afrikaans

Our focus is on developing the children's ability to build their Afrikaans vocabulary in order to understand and speak Afrikaans. The children are exposed to the language using songs, poems, stories and conversational phrases. In Grade Three children are given the option to take Afrikaans as a home language. This selection is conducted in a collaboration between parents and the school and is also based on aptitude.

isiXhosa

Children are exposed to the isiXhosa language through the use of songs, poems, stories and conversational phrases. Knowledge of the Xhosa culture aims to promote positive human relationships and even a basic working knowledge of the language which will allow children to expand their circle of friends.

Snapshot of the Mathematics syllabus: Cambridge Mathematics

Numbers: Your child's ability to work with numbers will help them forge a natural link with the outside world. Your child will learn how to recognise, describe, record, compare and order numbers. They will also develop a sound understanding of place value and calculations.

Patterns: Patterns are everywhere: Your heartbeat, breathing, music, seashells, sand dunes and breaking waves. Your child should be able to recognize, describe and copy patterns.

Space and Shape: Your child will learn about three-dimensional objects and two-dimensional shapes. This functions as a building block of spatial perception.

Measurement: Your child will use formal and informal units of measurement to determine the mass, length and volume of an object (e.g. a balance scale), length (e.g. string, hand spans) and volume (e.g. bottles, containers). They will use words like 'more than', 'less than', 'empty' or 'full' to describe what they observe.

Time: Your child will learn to read the time and distinguish key times of the day. They will also use a calendar to determine the days of the week and months of the year.

Snapshot of the Science syllabus: Cambridge Science

In the Foundation Phase, we incorporate all the sciences into an area which we call 'Topic', covering Scientific Enquiry, Biology, Physics and Chemistry. During these lessons, children are encouraged to question, experiment and collaborate thereby developing their thinking skills.

Snapshot of the Cultural syllabus

Our cultural portfolio provides each child with the opportunity to experience and enjoy the arts during the school day. Music, Drama and Visual Arts are part of our timetabled programme. Drama is run by the Helen O'Grady Academy. Mrs Olive le Roux teaches the visual arts in our wonderful art studio.

Snapshot of the Physical Education syllabus

Physical Education lessons provide the foundation for success in all sporting arenas. We believe that movement is the precursor to all learning and rely heavily on developing these most important fundamentals. Our children are exposed to conditioning, mountain biking, trail running and swimming as part of the curriculum.

Our unique classroom experiences

Grade 1

"Welcome to our Grade One class, where warmth, fun, and enjoyment await you! Step into a world of curiosity, and friendship. As your teacher, I am thrilled to embark on this exciting journey of learning with each child.

In our classroom, smiles are contagious, and laughter fills the air. I believe that learning is most effective when it is enjoyable and engaging. Our classroom is a safe haven where kindness and respect flourish, and where we value individuality and encourage self-expression. Together, we celebrate successes, embrace challenges, and grow as a class.

In our class we embrace hands-on activities, creative constructions, and use interactive games to make learning fun. Collaboration is at the heart of our class, and children will have numerous opportunities to work with and learn from their friends. In Grade One we embark upon the journey of learning to read. Children are astounding with how quickly they learn to blend sounds which culminates in the reading their first book: a huge milestone for these little people and an amazing highlight of their year.

Welcome to our warm, fun, and enjoyable Grade One class, where each day brings new adventures and lifelong friendships!"

-Mrs Chundré Krige



Grade 2

"The Grade 2 year is a happy year, where children are taught with an abundance of encouragement, support, and positive reinforcement. Growing deep and meaningful relationships with each child is my primary goal. By developing caring relationships within a safe classroom space, I believe that children are academically more successful and they in turn become kind little people. Making time to actively listen to each child is a priority as I find this builds a foundation of trust. Our Grade 2 classroom is a warm and loving space where children are nurtured and encouraged to be caring and empathetic towards each other. Building strong foundations of friendship which include respect, compassion and tolerance are developed throughout our year together.

Themes and outings are based on the Cambridge Primary Science curriculum where they learn more about animals, space, and physics. This is the year where they are introduced to mini projects, and they absolutely love sharing their knowledge with the class in the form of oral presentations.

Applewood has an exciting Outdoor Education Programme, which includes excursions and camping, and our little ones conclude their Grade 2 year with their first Applewood camp accompanied by the Grade 7 children on our beautiful campus."

-Mrs Dee Dunton



Grade 3:

In Grade 3 we strive to make learning an exhilarating adventure!. This vibrant classroom radiates fun, energy and compassion whilst nurturing resilience in every child. We strive to embody and instill the school values of initiative, grit and integrity. Through exciting activities, interactive discussions and hands-on experiences, a passion for learning is ignited in our children. Grade 3s are encouraged to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, fostering their resilience and teaching them how to bounce back from setbacks.

Highlights of the Grade 3 year include our exciting Coding Programme as well as our many incredible and educational outings. We strive to instill a love for the outdoors and a sense of adventure among our children.

The Grade 3 classroom is a warm and inclusive environment where every child feels valued and supported. In this dynamic class, children learn not only academic skills but also important life lessons about perseverance, self-discipline, and the power of commitment. Children are empowered to become confident, determined individuals ready to overcome any obstacle that comes their way."

-Mrs Andrea Rostron



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
- If your child attends aftercare, please pack an extra lunchbox





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.
- Specific homework guidelines are outlined for each grade in the Applewood homework policy.

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, 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. 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 children. Applewood offers a range of sporting opportunities which vary each term and start in Grade One. These sports include swimming, cycling, running, tag rugby, cricket, tennis, 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 on weekends and after the academic school day. Applewood also arranges frequent inter-house sporting events and galas. Children 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.

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 cycling. 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 multi-sport squad 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 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 strategise 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 assistance at their discretion.



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 compassion, grit, commitment, respect, self-control, integrity, gratitude, responsibility, accountability 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 emphasise 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 Junior 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 utilised). Applewood emphasises the importance of conflict resolution rather than conflict dismissal. Above all, children should be given the opportunity to rectify their mistakes.



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 well-being 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 encourage 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. 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 children 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