

ZULULAND REMEDIAL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

It is with a heart overflowing with gratitude that I reflect on **16 remarkable years** at ZRC - years that have, without a doubt, been the most fulfilling of my **36 years in education**.

It has been the greatest honour of my professional career to lead a **School Management Team** of true excellence - dedicated, passionate and unwavering in purpose.

Together, we have not merely managed a school; we have built an **institution of excellence**, and watching ZRC grow from a small, humble school into the beacon it is today fills my heart with immeasurable pride.

At the core of everything I have done has been a deep and unshakeable **passion for children** - every single child. I have fought, and will always fight, for our **LSEN learners** and their **rightful, dignified place** within our education system. They deserve nothing less than the very best and advocating for them has been one of my greatest privileges.

It brings me tremendous joy and peace of heart to **hand over the baton of leadership to Mrs Kisten** - a woman who has been my steadfast right hand for **9 years as Deputy Principal**. She knows this school, she loves its children, and she carries its heartbeat with her. ZRC is in extraordinarily capable and caring hands. Equally, I am immensely proud of **Mrs Coertze**, our Deputy Principal of the Bridging Classes, who has served with dedication and distinction for **5 years**. Together, they form a formidable leadership team, and I have every confidence that the best for ZRC is still ahead.

With great pride, I can say that we commenced the **new academic year with every learner equipped with books and stationery from day one**. No time was lost; no child was left waiting - a testament to the



exceptional planning, administration, and commitment of our entire team. This is what excellence looks like in practice, and I could not be prouder.

We bid a warm and heartfelt farewell to **Ms C Kriek**, who leaves ZRC as she embarks on a new chapter, relocating to **Durban**. Ms Kriek, you have given so much of yourself to this school and its learners - we wish you every happiness and success on this exciting new journey. You will be deeply missed.

We are equally delighted to extend a very warm **welcome to Ms L Puterman and Mrs M Venter**, who joins the ZRC family. We look forward to the wonderful contribution you will make, and we have no doubt that you will feel right at home in no time.

A very special congratulations to **Ms Walton-Rudd and Mrs de Waal**, both of whom are expecting the arrival of precious new little ones! What a beautiful blessing and joy awaits you both. The entire ZRC family celebrates with you and cannot wait to welcome the newest additions to your growing families.

To every **SGB member - past and present** - your unwavering support, trust, and partnership have meant more than words can ever express. You stood with us, believed in us, and helped shape the ZRC we are so proud of today. **Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.**

The 13th of March 2026 is a day I will carry in my heart forever - a day that reminded me why this journey has been so worth it.

To God be All the Glory - for every child reached, every battle fought, and every milestone celebrated.

**D Millin
Principal**

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7

GENERAL:

SICK LEARNERS AT SCHOOL:

Parents need to ensure that learners are taken care of before sending them to school. The school cannot take responsibility for administering medication to sick learners who come to school. Parents will be contacted to collect sick children at the discretion of the educator/staff involved.

Please do not tell your child in the morning that if they feel sick the office needs to phone the parents. These incidents disrupt the class and office constantly; often when learners are not sick enough to go home.

All parents ensure that the office and Educators of the learners have their full Medical Information as requested by the school.

PARENT MEETINGS / UNSCHEDULED VISITS TO CLASSROOMS:

Please take note that NO educator will be allowed to leave the class, nor take a call during teaching time. Parents need to make scheduled appointments with the educator, in advance. Any parent/visitor to school needs to report to the office and obtain permission to enter the school academic area during the academic day. Parents/Visitors need to respect the professionalism of the educator and we need to safeguard our learners and educators.

LOST CLOTHING / PROPERTY:

Please mark every item of clothing, shoes and stationery clearly. We have lots of "lost property" which we could return to the learners if items were marked.

DEBIT ORDER SYSTEM / CARD SYSTEM:

This new payment method is now available at school for your convenience. Parents who would like to use it can request a form and return their completed debit order form to the school. Debit orders run on 1st, 15th and 25th of each month. We also offer a Credit/Debit card option at the Financial Secretary's office.

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 2 -
School Re-Opens
Wednesday, 08 April

Photo day	15 April
GPPS Mini sports day	18 April
Raffle draw	19 June
SGB meeting	17 June
School closes	26 June

SCHOOL/PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

Good Friday	3 April
Family Day	6 April
Freedom Day	27 April
Workers Day	1 May
School Holiday	15 June
Youth Day	16 June

LITTERING:

This is becoming a major problem at school. Learners are reprimanded, but we would appreciate your co-operation by making your child aware of this problem, e.g. at home, while travelling/walking/jogging etc.

MEDICATION:

If you should need some of your child's medication for home use, we would like you to collect and sign for it from the educators personally. No medication may be forwarded to the school, without it being in the sealed envelope provided by the office. Parents to ensure that the educator is informed of any new changes to medication.

SCHOOL FEES:

School fees need to be placed at the top of your budget! Educators need to be paid monthly. The normal running expenses of the school must also be paid.

EARLY DEPARTURE REGISTER:

Please phone the office, send a message in the Homework/ Communication book if you need to collect your child early.

NO LEARNER will be allowed off the premises without the parent collecting him/her from the office and signing them out in the Early Departure Register

TOILETRIES:

A small contribution = a saving for all. Another item we don't have to buy – ensuring a minimal rise in school fees.

Toilet Paper: Gr 1-3 & BC: GM & LdB

Tissues: Gr 4-7 & BC ZM & CS

PARENT INFORMATION:

We have forwarded these forms to each of the 'old' parents to assist us in updating our database. Please complete (even with no changes) and return to school a.s.a.p. This way we can ensure that you receive all text messages and that you can be contacted in case of emergency.

PARKING AREA:

We have clearly demarcated parking bays for parents, taxis, etc. for dropping off or collecting children. Please use them as marked – and do not park/stop on the yellow lines or in front of the staff entrance. We have complaints daily from parents and staff not being able to get through the parking area. The RTI will be phoned for assistance with parents/taxis not adhering to what is known as normal traffic rules.

ABSENTEEISM:

The high absenteeism rate is a serious matter of concern. It's every child's constitutional right to be in a school and education cannot be withheld from them. Continuous absenteeism is now infringing on the right of children to have education.



SCHOOL FURNITURE:

Please take note that if your child damages a school desk, chair, any furniture, or any educational & Therapy equipment, the replacement or cost of repairs will be forwarded to the parent for settlement.

ZRC SCHOOL BUS:

At the moment our ZRC School bus is full. We have learners on our bus waiting list who are using the Ikhwezi School Bus or private transport. This bus was organized to transport our learners together with Empangeni High's learners to school and back every day.

Please contact Ikhwezi Transport directly when buying your bus tickets or with queries:
R.Bay: 035 797 6200 or Empangeni: 035 787 1564

SCHOOL PHOTOS:

Photo day will be on **15 April 2026**

Photo order for parents on **30 April 2026**

1st Photo order collection **1 June 2026**

Final order collection **22 June 2026**

PARENT MEETINGS:

Please make every effort to attend these meetings. It is very important for you to meet and work together with your child's educator to ensure that their full potential is reached.

ATTENDANCE DURING FORMAL ASSESSMENTS/EXAMS:

High learner absenteeism rate was noted during Formal Control Tests. All parents received, in advance, notice of the Test Timetable. Learners who do not write tests will be given zero unless valid proof of absenteeism is provided.

BIRTHDAYS:

Please note that learners are allowed to wear civvies on their birthdays. If the birthday falls on Civvies Day, a weekend, or holiday, they may wear their 'civvies' on Monday or Friday.

Civvies must be sensible and modest.

(Girls – no high heels, strappy tops, and hair must still be neatly tied back).

WHAT HAPPENED IN TERM 1?

MR MILLIN'S LEARNER FAREWELL:

On Friday, 13 March, Zululand Remedial Centre hosted a heartfelt farewell assembly to honour the retirement of its principal, Mr Millin. Learners and staff gathered together to celebrate his years of dedication and leadership at the school.

Mr Millin was seated on a special retirement chair during the assembly while the school presented a series of meaningful tributes in his honour. One of the highlights of the morning was a special video created by the entire school. Each class recorded a message, sharing words of gratitude and well wishes for their principal.

The school choir performed a beautiful song on stage, followed by a moving performance from the Schatamiya group, both adding to the emotional atmosphere of the occasion.

The two Grade 7 monitors, Kuyintando Mkhize and Isabella Mthethwa, delivered a heartfelt speech in which they thanked Mr Millin for his guidance and support. They also presented him with a special farewell gift on behalf of the learners. School Governing Body member Kerry McLean shared a short message of appreciation, acknowledging Mr Millin's contribution to the school community.

To conclude the celebration, the learners formed a guard of honour around the school as Mr Millin made his way to his car. As he walked through the guard of honour, he was celebrated with cheers and heartfelt thanks. Learners and teachers lined the path, offering fist bumps, hugs and warm farewells.

The morning was filled with emotion, gratitude and celebration as the Zululand Remedial Centre community came together to thank Mr Millin for his years of service and to wish him well in his retirement.



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:

Our Grade 1 learners made a very special appearance in the Zululand Observer newspaper on their first day of school! ✨

With bright smiles, shiny shoes, and a mix of excitement and nerves, they took their first big step into their school journey. It was a day filled with new beginnings, brave hearts, and lots of little milestones.

We are so proud of our Grade 1s and look forward to watching them learn, grow, and shine throughout the year. Welcome to school, little stars!



SCOUTS:

It has been such an awesome term with our Scouts! We spent the first few weeks really getting stuck into what Scouting is all about and discovering the heart of the movement. Things got a little "twisted" as we tackled our pioneering skills. We decided to end the term on a high note by trading the ropes for some high-energy fun and fitness exercises to get everyone moving. I'm so proud of the gees and teamwork shown by the group this term. Enjoy the break, and stay prepared!



VALENTINE's DAY:



A huge congratulations to our Valentine stars:

Seniors: Mr Valentine: Noah Oosthuizen
Miss Valentine: Sky Govender

Juniors: Mr Valentine: Nqubeko Zulu
Miss Valentine: Emihle Mtshali

ZRC SPCA DRIVE:

Zululand Remedial Centre turned compassion into action this February as the school proudly handed over an extraordinary 1.2 tons (1200kg) of dog food to the Empangeni SPCA, alongside learner donations and a financial contribution toward veterinary care.

The initiative formed part of the school's February theme, "Love Your Community." Throughout the month, learners collected dog food, blankets, and essential supplies to support vulnerable animals in their area. The generosity of the school community was further strengthened by a remarkable contribution from Hill's Pet Nutrition, who donated a massive 1.2 tons of dog food to the Empangeni SPCA.

The assembly opened with a heartfelt address by Nelmari Morton, who reminded learners that love for the community is shown not only in words, but in meaningful action. Her message set the tone for a morning focused on compassion, responsibility, and service.

Local veterinarian Dr Geoff Fourie then addressed the learners with an engaging and educational talk about his profession and the importance of responsible pet care. He explained what his role entails, how veterinary care helps injured and neglected animals, and shared practical advice on how to properly look after pets at home. In appreciation for his dedication to animal welfare and his service to the community, the school presented Dr Fourie with a certificate of gratitude, acknowledging the important work he does in caring for the region's animals.

The official handover followed, where the 1.2 tons of Hill's dog food, together with the learners' collected donations, were presented to the Empangeni SPCA. In addition, Zululand Remedial Centre announced that the school had contributed R3500 toward the SPCA's veterinary account, helping support medical treatment for rescued animals in need.

In a touching moment, SPCA Chairlady Marina Visser presented Principal Mr Millin with a certificate of appreciation, along with a special certificate and gift in honour of his retirement. The SPCA expressed sincere gratitude for his years of steadfast support and the strong partnership built between the school and the organisation over time.

As a gesture of thanks, the Empangeni SPCA also gifted learners special thank-you colouring-in pictures, allowing them to take home a small reminder of how their kindness is making a difference in the lives of vulnerable animals.

The morning concluded on a joyful note as Carmen Oosthuizen and her trick champion dog, Mysti, entertained learners with a series of impressive dog tricks. The performance showcased the special bond between handler and dog and reinforced themes of patience, discipline, teamwork, and love for animals, a fitting end to a celebration of kindness in action.

With bowls soon to be filled and veterinary care supported, Zululand Remedial Centre demonstrated that when a community comes together with purpose, compassion becomes powerful.

In Empangeni this February, that compassion amounted to 1200kgs of kindness. 🐾🐾



ZRC AQUATHON

On Friday, 20 March, we hosted our exciting ****Aquathon****, and what a wonderful day it was! Our learners had a fantastic time swimming, taking part in a variety of fun pool games, and enjoying some energetic soccer matches. The enthusiasm and team spirit on display made the day truly special.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the event, the tuck shop was also a great success! Your support helped make the day even more enjoyable for our learners.

We are so proud of the participation, sportsmanship, and smiles we saw throughout the day!

Individual Prize winners:

1. Lukhanyisa Boyana - 1LR
2. Eshile Manzini - 4YR
3. Solwazi Mtshare - 2DdW
Chloé McLean - 6NM

Class winners:

JP : Grade 1 - Mrs L Rol
SP: Grade 6 - Mrs N Morton

Total funds raised: R 46 100.00

A BIG THANK YOU!!

