



LADYBUZZ

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21 November



Ladybird International Arts Academy Newsletter
13A&B Prinsloo Street Ladybrand 9745 South Africa +27 (0)82 561 8842 • ladybirdartsacademy@gmail.com • www.ladybirdarts.com

Ronél Henning

Short finale 2025

Another remarkable year

As we close the curtains on this year, I want to thank each of you for your incredible talent, hard work, and dedication to creativity. Your passion has brought Ladybird International Arts to life, from the vibrant colors of the Kuwait collaboration project to all the excellent exam results achieved, to the beautiful year-end concert, Very Best Times, and our performance at the Bloemfontein Children's Choir concert. You have not only mastered new techniques but have also grown as artists, innovators, and as a arts community, and it has been an honor to witness this journey.

We're greeting our beloved Chef Chantelle Sousa at the end of this year. She has changed the lives of many children over the past five years with her remarkable gift as both chef and educator. We wish her the very best for the future in furthering the prosperity of her well-known family business in Ladybrand.

Sincere thanks to our remarkable staff and supportive patrons. We also acknowledge our terrain staff with gratitude. You create the canvas for us to be able to function well as teachers. Congratulations on a remarkable year. Go enjoy a well-deserved break, and we look forward to seeing what next year brings from all of you.



Centre piece of our 2025 exhibition: The beautiful outcome of the collaborative installation work with the Kuwait British School's Visual Art Department.

Chantelle Fraenkel

Art from The Secret Garden

Year-end student exhibition 2025

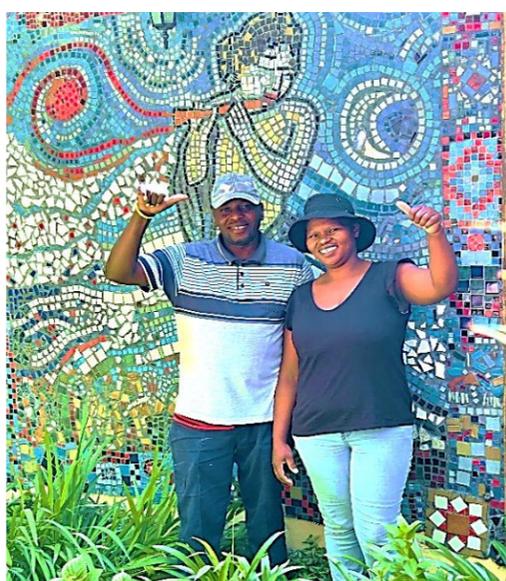
Our Visual Art Department proudly announces the successful conclusion of its annual student art exhibition, titled The Secret Garden, which showcased a diverse collection of works from our talented young artists. The exhibition, held in the Ladybird Auditorium on 5 November, featured a diverse range of styles. This year's event highlighted student innovation and artistic exploration, providing a platform for budding artists to gain recognition and display their creativity to the community.

The exhibition's success demonstrates the vibrant and thriving arts programme at Ladybird.

We are already looking forward to next year's showcase, which will continue to support and celebrate our young student artists.

At the heart of this year's art projects was our collaboration with the Kuwait English School. 'We are incredibly proud to offer the outcome of this collaboration, showing the dedication and creative talent of the art students from both schools who participated across our respective continents in this cross-cultural artwork,' said Chantelle Fraenkel, Head of the Art Department. This collaborative work is a testament to their hard work and is a vital part of their artistic development.

Michael Sejane & Angelina Mahloka, our friendly and efficient terrain management staff, giving the year-end a thumbs-up.



The Violin's Bow Technical Tips

Ilona Knot

Some valuable information and tips about bowing for string players on...

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Kuwait Art Collaboration Spanning continents

Ronél Henning

A special parcel was delivered from Kuwait last week. Read more about it on...

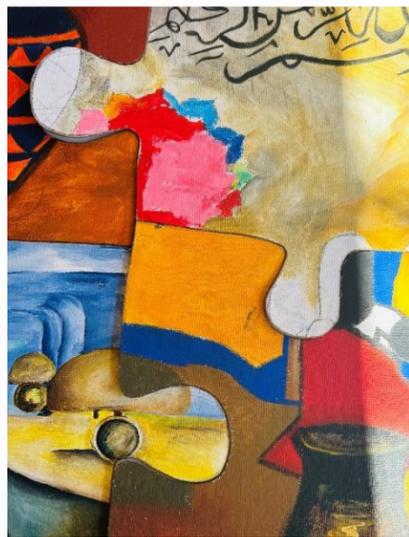
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Bloemfontein Children's Choir A wonderful visit

Music Staff

Read about the Sounds of Africa concert and visit of this well-known choir on...

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Ilona Knot

The Violin's Bow

'Voice' of a string player

Did you know that a violinist's bow is more than just a piece of wood and horsehair? It is the breath, the voice, and the soul of a string's musician. While the left hand determines the notes, it is the right hand - and the bowing technique - that defines the timbre, the volume, and the emotion of every note. A small change in speed, pressure, or contact point can transform a soft sigh into a dramatic cry. I would like to delve little deeper into the techniques every player should know.

Legato: The Art of Singing (Connected Bowing)

- What is it? The Italian word for 'bound' or 'connected.' Multiple notes are played in one long, uninterrupted bowing motion. The goal is for the string sound to transition so seamlessly that the violin sounds like it is singing.
- The Sound: Creates a song-like, lyrical, and flowing tone. Essential for melodies and slow, emotional passages.
- Technique Tip: The key lies in the fluid wrist movement during the change of bow direction, where the bow doesn't stop but gently direction (think of a figure-eight motion).

Détaché: The Core of String Tone (Detached Bowing)

- What is it? Literally 'detached.' Each note is given its own bow stroke, but without any silence or interruption of sound between the notes. The bow remains on the string.
- The Sound: Produces a core, clear, and even tone. It is the standard stroke and is used for fast passages where every note needs to be defined but not bounced.
- Technique Tip: The movement primarily comes from the forearm, maintaining the same speed, pressure, and contact point from the beginning to the end of the stroke for a perfectly even sound.

Continued page 8...





Chantelle Sousa

Little Chefs

A final term of culinary extravaganza

Over the past term, the Little Chefs' culinary journey started with creating and updating their personal recipe books, as well as learning the following menu:

- Fragrant Portuguese rice with Chorizo, Peppers & Tomatoes
- Scones with Cream & Strawberries
- Tagliatelle Alfredo
- Smash Burgers
- Sweet Nacho Drizzles with Chocolate Sauce
- Ice cream



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...more Secret Garden works





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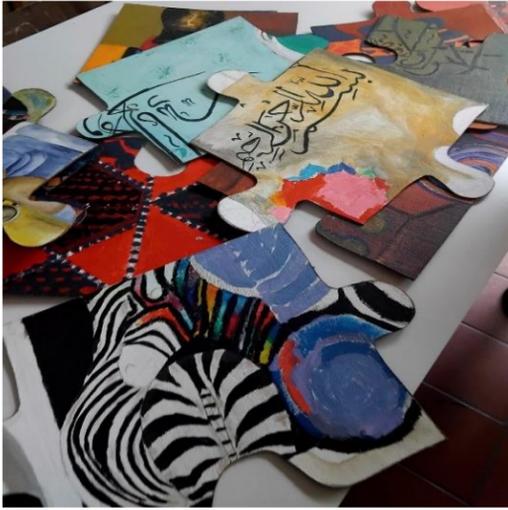
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Ronél Henning

Kuwait art collaboration

It is a wrap: An exciting parcel delivery from Kuwait!

Enjoy the visuals depicting the last part of the journey of this unique collaboration process between the visual art departments of Ladybird and the Kuwait British School (KES). Thanks to Jehan Carew and Francois Stevens from KES.



Katleho Mothae

Did You Know?

Hmmmmmm 🤔

Music has an incredible effect on plants, animals and the human mind, with studies showing music can improve and influence plant growth and health by stimulating cellular activity, increasing nutrient absorption and enhancing immunity to pathogens. Classical music, gentle vibrations and pure tones within certain frequencies promote faster growth, while loud and chaotic music can be detrimental and slow down growth.

Research shows that music can increase growth and biomass in plants like balsam, marigolds and duckweed.

In humans, music has an impact on:

- Memory and Brain function. Music activates areas of the brain linked to emotions, motor skills and can help improve memory and recall.
- Mood and stress. Music boosts happiness, relieves stress and lower blood pressure, improving heart health.
- Universal language. Music connects people from all backgrounds and experiences. It transcends cultural barriers.



Ronél Henning

Chantelle Fraenkel

Bethlehem Exhibition 1 Nov - Bravo!



Continued from page 2...

What is it? The Italian word for 'sprung' or 'bounced.' The bow is lightly 'dropped' or 'thrown' onto the string with a controlled motion, causing it to bounce briefly off the string between notes.

- **The Sound:** Creates a short, light, and pointed sound. It gives the music an energetic, playful, or rhythmic quality (think of a fast march or a scherzo).
- **Technique Tip:** The stroke should occur around the balance point of the bow. The player must be active with the arm, but the bow is passive—the bow bounces by itself. Too much pressure or speed can disrupt the natural bounce.

The true beauty of violin music lies in the performer's ability to switch seamlessly between these techniques. Whether you are a player or just a listener, the next time you hear a string player, pay attention to how the bow dances—you'll be hearing not just the notes, but the art of bowing.



Ronél Henning

Thanks

Wilna, Zena & 'MrKnibbs'

Our most sincere thanks to Wilna Leech (cello), Zena Penfold (viola) and Joshua Knibbs (violin), who were our pillars of strength in all the ensembles over the past year.



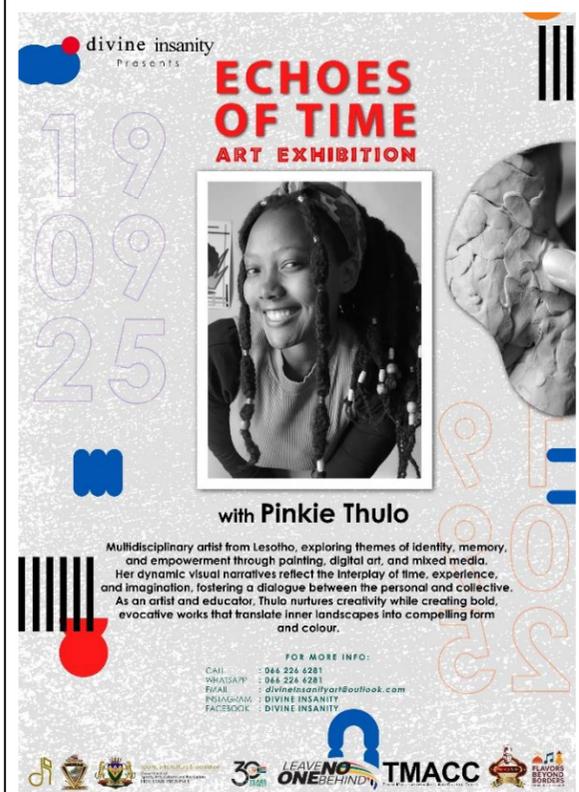
Ronél Henning

Pinkie Thulo

Echoes of Time Exhibition

Well done to our graphic design teacher and multidisciplinary artist, Pinkie Thulo, who was one of the artists exhibiting her works at this year's Echoes of Time Art Exhibition in Maseru, Lesotho.

She explores identity, memory and empowerment through her diverse art themes. As an educator, she inspires her students to explore from within their own unique contexts to communicate their work.





Ronél Henning

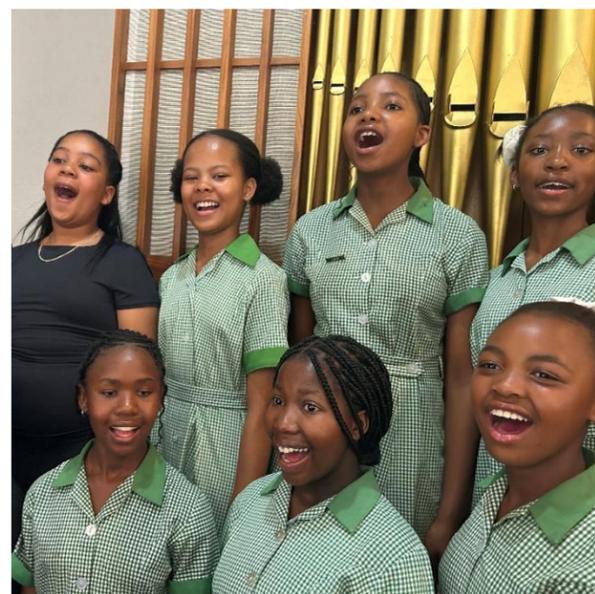
Bloemfontein Children's Choir Sounds of Africa concert 1 Nov

A privilege to have received them in Ladybrand

The well-known Bloemfontein Children's Choir (BCC), under the direction of Werner Stander, graced our town with their production, Sounds of Africa, on 1 November. The children's voices, and excellently sung diverse programme, created an emotional depth of choral sound, which included a tapestry of African music, sounds and movement to captivate their audience. The choir is currently preparing for its biannual international concert tour to Belgium during the festive season 2025.

Singers from Encore Maluti, Ladybrand Primary School Choir and members of the Dutch Reformed Church's praise and worship vocal group, conducted by Katileho Mothae, performed the opening programme for this concert.

We wish the BCC the very best with their Christmas Concert Tour to Europe later in the year.



2026

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THANKS to our wonderful CONCERT CREW 2025

Gideon Knot (Junior Concerts Manager),
Hannah Hamilton,
Sarah van der Linde & Xinghan Huang



Music Staff

Very Best Times

Tapestry of joyful sounds to end the year on



Katleho Mothae

Rhythmic Awakening: Launch of Djembe and Percussion Classes in 2026

A vibrant new chapter is about to unfold in Ladybrand as we announce the launch of djembe and percussion group classes, slated to begin in early 2026. This exciting expansion of the Academy's offerings promises to infuse the community with the rich, infectious rhythms of world music, offering a unique and engaging opportunity for creative expression and connection.

The initiative, which is my passion, aims to make the joy of rhythm accessible to everyone, regardless of age or musical background. I've always believed in the power of the arts to bring people together, and there's no purer form of communal expression than group drumming. Can't wait to share this experience.

The djembe, originating from West Africa, and other world percussion instruments provide more than just musical education; they offer a pathway to improved mindfulness, reduced stress, and enhanced cognitive function. Group drumming fosters a unique dialogue. It teaches us to listen deeply to one another, to find our own voice within the collective, and to synchronize our energies. It's a powerful tool for community building and nurturing the well-being of humans.

WHAT'S NEW?

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