

RESOURCE CENTRE

Newsletter

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MEET THE HEART BEHIND THE HELP



At Tafelberg School, we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive. This belief is at the heart of our Resource Centre—a vital part of our school community that provides dedicated support to educators of, and learners with, specific learning difficulties.

While the entire school plays a role in the work of the Resource Centre, a committed core team takes the lead in driving its mission. This team is made up of passionate and experienced role-players drawn from various departments within the school. This multidisciplinary approach ensures that support is holistic and well-rounded, addressing the diverse needs of our learners and the wider community.

Together, the team plans and coordinates workshops, curates relevant educational materials, and provides targeted support to help learners overcome barriers and meaningfully engage with the national curriculum.

Whether by equipping teachers with resources or reaching out to the wider community, the Resource Centre stands as a place where inclusion, empowerment, and educational progress come together.



Chanelle Shankland
Occupational Therapist



Carey-Lee Vermoter
Psychologist



Candice Jonker
Speech-Language Therapist



Agnes Steenkamp
Counsellor



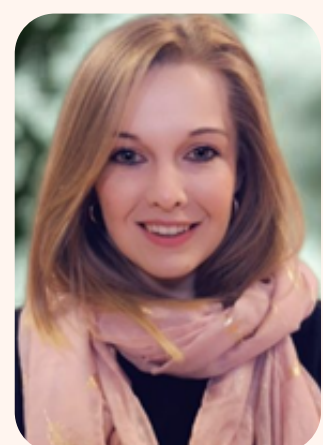
Carolien Snyman
Alternative Assessment



Kerri-Lynn Davidson
Foundation Phase



Mia Husselmann
Intermediate Phase



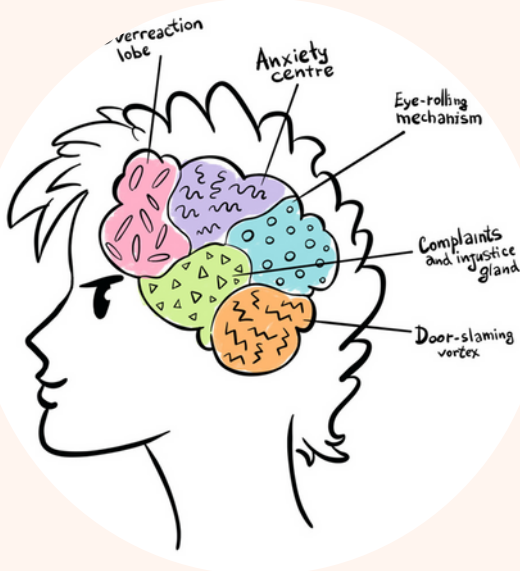
Annemarie Bester
High School

EMPOWERING PARENTS: BECOMING A THERA-PARENT

On 5 February 2025, Tafelberg School's Therapy Department proudly hosted its annual "Becoming a Thera-parent" presentation. This online session aimed to equip parents with practical tools to support their children therapeutically at home, particularly during homework time. Our multidisciplinary team—including Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Therapy, and Psychology—shared expert advice and strategies. Parents also received helpful resources to further support their children's development.



HELPING YOUR ANXIOUS CHILD



Carey-Lee Vermoter and Agnes Steenkamp, from the school's psychology department, recently made available an insightful online webinar titled "Helping Your Anxious Child". This presentation, made available to parents in February 2025, offered valuable guidance on recognising and managing anxiety in children and adolescents. The session aimed to help parents to identify signs of anxiety and distinguish between healthy and unhealthy anxiety levels. It also provided

age-appropriate coping strategies for learners and explored how the brain functions in relation to anxiety, including the changes that occur during adolescence. The webinar was made available to parents of Foundation Phase learners at Tafelberg School in response to a need observed in the classroom and expressed by parents. The session was well received, with the tips included in the presentation empowering parents to make the adjustment to new grades easier for our young learners.

SCRIBES IN TRAINING

At Tafelberg School, we are committed to supporting all learners in reaching their full potential. Through the SIAS process (Screening, Identification, Assessment, and Support), learners who experience barriers to learning are identified and provided with the necessary accommodations to ensure they can perform to the best of their abilities during assessments.

One such form of support involves the use of Readers and Scribes—trained individuals who assist learners with approved concessions during tests and examinations. These accommodations allow learners with specific learning difficulties to demonstrate their knowledge without being hindered by their disabilities. The support provided can include reading, writing, prompting, or a combination of these depending on the learners' needs.

In accordance with WCED regulations, anyone assisting in this role must hold a WCED Scribing Certificate. To meet this need, the Tafelberg School Resource Centre hosted a scribe training workshop on 12 April 2025. This session, presented under the auspices of the WCED, equipped participants with the skills and understanding required to support learners effectively.

We are grateful to community members who take the time to become part of this important support system. Their role makes a meaningful difference in the academic success and confidence of our learners.



A SAFE SPACE TO REGULATE & REFOCUS

This year, the Resource Centre has proudly supported the development of a sensory room at Tafelberg School—a dedicated space designed to help learners reset their emotions, improve focus, reduce sensory overload, and just have a little breather from the demands of the busy classroom.

Sensory rooms are specially designed environments that offer a range of visual, tactile, kinesthetic, and deep pressure stimuli. These features work together to create a calming atmosphere, particularly beneficial for learners with sensory processing challenges or other special educational needs.

The new sensory room is available to both junior and senior learners who are allowed a time-limited break from their classroom environment. Learners have made positive use of this resource in the past months, with our “jellyfish lamp” and “squishies” proving particularly popular in helping learners to gain better emotional regulation and regain the calm and focus needed to return to their academic day.

The inclusion of a sensory room reflects the school's ongoing commitment to supporting the wellbeing and holistic development of every learner.

