



**KINGSMEAD  
COLLEGE**



### **Kingsmead Junior School is anchored in reading on SORA**

OverDrive and the SORA App has helped revolutionise reading habits, practices and library collection development at Kingsmead Junior School.

It was pivotal that KMCJS needed to give girls access to books to read. OverDrive and SORA have a beautiful offering ... an e-Lending library platform that provides the Junior School population with a space to give the girls a variety of reads in genre, author and focused needs. At the moment there are more e-books than audiobooks. The collection is growing.

*For classroom use:*

Curriculum related topics change. Sometimes teachers want to marry what is happening out there in the world with the curriculum requirements as it happens. SORA allows teachers to pick relevant material in a nice and quick download – instantaneous!

In instances where there has been a shortage of reading material, OverDrive allows for speedy purchases and the SORA App unleashes immediate access to books for the girls.

*For pleasure:*

Different lending models serve different needs in girls' reading requirements. The "Books and Bites" Club prefer to read together, which make Class Sets an ideal offering for that purpose to them. The simultaneous access to a title or titles in this type of lending model is an effective way of running a book club at a nominal charge!

The SORA Reads complement the physical library collection. The timing for the release of this collection is supercool because it coincides with school holidays. They read for pleasure without pressure. The badges serve a positive incentive to help drive reading for enjoyment.

The student led initiative to advertise new book additions in the SORA App in the school bathrooms is admirable. OverDrive is making available a growing collection towards South African authors – that's promising!

The existence of the 'Non-fiction Supplement Reading' is doing it for the Grade 6s who derive pleasure in reading about World War II and are learning a lot.

*For Professional Development (PD):*

PD around areas of 'Transformation, Inclusion and Diversity', 'Girls' Education' and 'Leadership' is very current at KMC. Furthermore, the entire College is undertaking an impressive drive towards enquiry - discovery learning via its custom built curriculum. Curated collections to provide insights in the aforementioned areas have been put together and made accessible from SORA for staff use.

*The situation*

"Sora was rolled out from Grades 4 to 7 students from June – July 2020."

"Grades 4 and 5 have their personal iPads that are owned by the school. They access SORA from these devices"

"Grades 6 and 7 have one-to-one personal devices. SORA lives in those devices."

"The plan to give Grade 3s their log in details in the last term of the year is a lovely transition as they move up to Grade 4." When they have gone online, Tania has introduced them into the look and feel of the SORA App.

*Amazing*

"Flexibility to upgrade and update the physical library collection using the OverDrive platform comes in handy each time a need arises."

"The convenience to purchase material, give access to the girls and staff and see them move on to quench their reading appetites is rewarding."

"OverDrive's marketing drive is phenomenal. It keeps one up-to-date with the latest developments in its offerings."

"Not everybody is attuned to reading e-books. It is a different habit which comes with conveniences. It is a 'mix and match' between the physical and digital reading preferences. I am happy that the school can offer variety. SORA brings variety."

Reading has a majestic magic spell, concludes Tania O'Maker: Kingsmead Junior School – Media Specialist.



Compiled by Sibusisiwe Thembela – Former Academic and School Librarian - in conversation with Tania O'Maker.

With tools to make every student's reading more pleasurable and a support team excited to help you, getting started with Sora has never been made easier. Email: [Booktalk@booktalk.co.za](mailto:Booktalk@booktalk.co.za) Telephone: 011 325 2266