

No. 14

# Dihlabeng Christian School Newsletter

Dec 2013

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## SUE AND GEOF COLE AT DCS

In Term 3 we were fortunate to have Sue Cole (Katy McKay's mother), and her husband Geof, come from the UK. Sue came to take the Grade R class, whilst Carolyn Revill had a 3 month sabbatical back home in the UK. We are extremely grateful to them for the time they so generously gave to the school.

Here are their thoughts about their time with us:

**Sue** - *'Little did I know when I accompanied Katy to see where she would be teaching that I would join her three years later. Here in England looking out at a grey sky, my three months of teaching 'Butterflies' seems like a dream. The, mountains round DCS were always capturing my gaze until I was distracted by cattle herded daily past my classroom. Then there were the children! Eager to please, eager to learn, and eager to have fun. I hoped they learned a bit from me. I learned a lot from them. It was a privilege to be part of the staff at DCS, if only for a short time. I felt accepted and affirmed by them all.'*

**Geof** - *'I thought I was coming to Clarens to support Sue ('Teacher Zu') as she covered Carolyn's sabbatical, but God had other ideas! It wasn't long before I found myself as a part time member of staff and teaching art to Grades 4-7; straight in at the deep end after 11yrs out of a classroom. I felt it was important that the children had 'fun' and enjoyed being creative, using the available resources the best way we could. So depending on the class, some lesson subjects were more formal & structured, others were wildly experimental! All of the Grades were able to display their work at the Cultural Evening, and attracted very positive comments. I left DCS feeling I had received far more than I had ever given - the children, and staff, are just amazing and I felt it was a great privilege to be part of their lives and community for my stay at Clarens.'*



## NEW TEACHERS NEEDED FOR 2014/2015

Dihlabeng Christian School is in need of two new teachers, one for April 2014 and one for January 2015, for our Intermediate Phase (age 9 - 13 years), Grades 4 to 7. This is a volunteer post, requiring a volunteer's visa to South Africa, with a minimum commitment of two years. Ideally, we would like experienced Junior School teachers who are able to provide financial support for themselves, although some funding towards expenses may be possible. He/she should be a

committed Christian who is able to uphold and work towards the school's aim of bringing 'Hope to the Hopeless' and provide a high standard of education to children who may come from very impoverished backgrounds.

If you are such a teacher and are looking for a life changing opportunity and a challenge, or you know someone who may be interested in working with us at Dihlabeng, we invite you to contact the school direct by email at: [dihlabengschool@intekom.co.za](mailto:dihlabengschool@intekom.co.za) or contact New Life Church, Biggin Hill, as above. We will be happy to give you more information.

## FAREWELL TO KOBUS



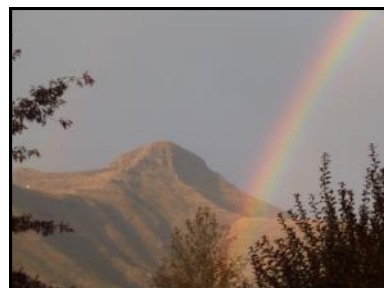
It was with great sadness that we said 'Goodbye' to Kobus Basson in September, just before Term 4. Kobus has served faithfully at DCS since 2006, as both a class and sports teacher but also as an immense support in so many other ways to Margaret and the staff. He has moved on to become the Principal of Caritas College, an Independent Christian School in Bethlehem, which follows the ACE education process.

We will miss his teaching, his presence, his sense of humour and his big heart and love for the children, but we wish him every success in his new job.

We are very fortunate however, to be keeping Adriani, his wife, as a teacher in Intermediate Phase.

## GRADE 7 CLIMB MOUNT HOREB TO GET TO JOHANNESBURG

Mount Horeb is the mountain that dominates the skyline of Clarens. With the town already at approximately 1800m above sea level, Horeb is another 640m up. Grade 7, along with their teacher Katy McKay, set themselves the challenge of climbing the mountain to raise money for their end of year trip to Johannesburg. Gaining sponsorship from family and many friends in the UK, they reached their target of sufficient funds for their trip. So, on October 18th, at around 7am, after weeks of practice and



training (for Katy!), they set off to climb the mountain. They reached the



Grade 7 Full of Determination

summit easily by about 9.00am. None of the children had done this before, even though many of them have lived in Clarens all their lives - Katy certainly won't do it again!

Thank you to Gill Friend, Chris Tuttiett, Dr Rob Ferns, Gareth Oosthuizen and Dave Turner who accompanied them and to those

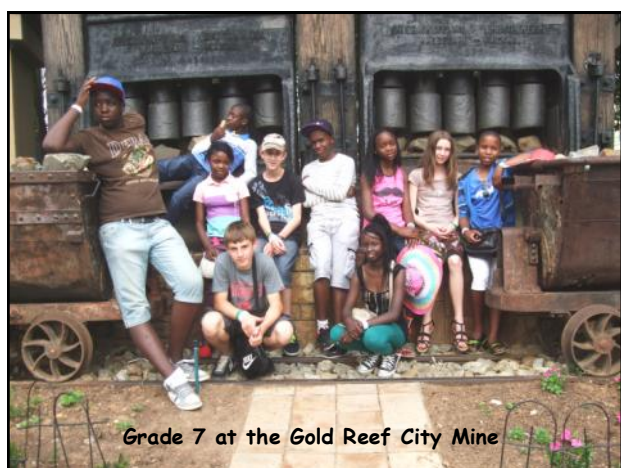
of you in the UK who gave money to sponsor them, it is such an achievement and we are extremely proud of them all.



Katy and Grade 7 on the Summit of Mount Horeb

## END OF YEAR TRIP TO JOHANNESBURG

Having raised the money for their trip the Grade 7s, plus Katy McKay, Gill Friend, Alan Goodson and John Mokoena, set off on November 11th for a four day trip to the area just west of Johannesburg. They visited Montecasino, where they went bowling, shopping and to the cinema, then Pilanesberg Game Reserve, a self drive game park.



Grade 7 at the Gold Reef City Mine

Most of the children had never seen African animals in the wild and they were fortunate to see Elephant, Rhino, Hippos, Giraffe, Wildebeest, Warthogs and many different types of buck. Then onto Gold Reef City, where they had planned to visit a working mine but sadly this was closed. So, they just had to endure the fun of the theme park! For these young people this was a chance to experience life on a wider scale, stretch their wings a bit and make independent decisions. Despite some appalling storms whilst travelling, they remained safe and the trip went well. They all thoroughly enjoyed it and were exhausted! Thank you to Katy for all the organisation and the dedicated staff who gave up their time to make this happen.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

It is always a pleasure to find out what our ex-pupils have done since they left DCS. Margaret keeps in touch with many of them and we have contact with others through Dihlabeng Church. Over the next few Newsletters I am going to feature some of our ex-pupils to let you know what they are doing and how they have grown and developed into teenagers and adults.

**Pula Mokoena Aged 23** - Pula left DCS in 2003. He attended Clarens Intermediate to Grade 9, then Bethlehem College until Matric. He secured a place on the Grassroots training programme, which works through several large South African Companies to provide training in management. For Pula this was with the Shoprite supermarket chain. He is now training as a facilitator for Grassroots. He is also part of the leadership team of Dihlabeng Church and is married to Maddie Reece from Worthing, in the UK.



**Elvis Mokoena** - Elvis left DCS in 2005, then attended Clarens Intermediate to Grade 9, Moriting to Grade 10, then Ntsu School through to Matric.

'I was at DCS from Grade 4 -7 and am now 21 years old. I am currently studying law at Wits University, Johannesburg and I am in my third year. After completing this degree I am hoping to do my Masters in Law and become a litigating attorney. In the long run I would like to be a Judge, sitting in the Supreme Court or Constitutional Court. Above all I hope that God will use me in this area of work, so that I can litigate for the least and under privileged'.



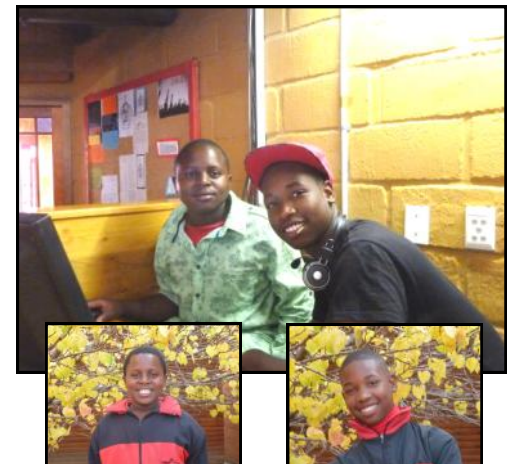
### **Sarah Kirsten Johnston (nee' Northcote)**

Sarah, the eldest daughter of Gavin and Lynne Northcote, was at DCS from 2000 - 2003, completing Grade 7. She attended Clarens Primary for Grade 8, and then moved on to Lady Grey Arts Academy in the Eastern Cape, until Matric in 2008. She has studied Fine Art at Tshwane University of Technology graduating this year 2013, obtaining a BTech, with distinction. Sarah, who also got married in 2012, is an extremely talented artist, as her amazing painting of a local Sotho woman (right) shows.



### **Reitumetse Mokoena and Thabang Koti (pictured right)**

Both left DCS in 2011. They have now just completed Grade 9, Reitumetse at Leralla School and Thabang at Bethlehem Combined School. They regularly help out with the sound desk and computer system at church.



### **Joshua Mokoena, Thabo Mthambo, Thoto Mashinini (above, from left to right)**

Josh and Thoto left DCS in 2010. Josh has now completed Grade 10 at Ntsu School and Thoto has completed Grade 9 at Clarens Combined. They both learnt to play the guitar at DCS with Anyway Muviyi. Thabo left DCS in 2011, he is now also at Ntsu School, having completed Grade 9. He is a self taught and very accomplished drummer. As well as making good progress at school, all 3 boys serve the church in the worship band.



Pre-School



GradeR



Grade 4



**OUTINGS TO 'OODLES'**  
An Adventure Farm run by Laura and Jeremy Webb, ex-teacher at DCS.



Grade 3 Crazy Golf or 'Putt -Putt' as it is called here.



Grade 5 Photography and a trip to the Dam



Grade 4 Maths Group at Meringsklof

### Sports Trophies for 2013

Foundation Phase Sportsman of the Year - Valiant Mofokeng Grade 3 (for the 2nd year running).

Intermediate Phase Sportswoman of the Year - Lebohang Leboya Grade 5 (for the 2nd Year running).

Intermediate Phase Sportsman of the Year - Tavonga Muviyi Grade 5



### End of Year 2013

Class Book Prizes awarded to individual students this year went to:

- Grade 1 - Nnyalleng Mokoena
- Grade 2 - Ntombi Tshabalala
- Grade 3 - Karabo Mokoena
- Grade 4 - Thandekile Nhlapo
- Grade 5 - Thabo Motloun
- Grade 6 - Nthabeleng Mofokeng
- Grade 7 - Matsoeute Mokoena

### School Trophies for 2013 (from left to right)

Exemplary Behaviour Trophy to Matsoeute Mokoena Grade 7

Mount Horeb Perseverance Award to Thapelo Koti Grade 7

Principal's Prize for Leadership to Nthabeleng Mokoena Grade 6

Oliver Family Good Fellowship Trophy, for being a good ambassador for the school to Lesala Nkayi Grade 7



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

