



No. 17

Dihlabeng Christian School Newsletter

June 2015

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A Tribute to Mme Evelyn Mokoena.

It is with great sadness that we pay tribute to Mme Evelyn Mokoena who died suddenly on Thursday 28th May. Mme Evelyn had worked at DCS for the last 4 years as one of our classroom assistants, mainly with Grade 2 and their teacher Naomi Lokkers. Mme Evelyn was always ready with a friendly greeting in the morning and her care and support of the children was outstanding. She was a lady born into hardship and poverty, who overcame and endured many hardships in her life. She loved and served God with all her heart and was devoted to her family. She once said, 'If you have R10.00 you are rich'. Her death came as a huge shock to our school community and she will be greatly missed.



Andy and Becky Woodage

We are very pleased to welcome Andy Woodage to the staff of DCS. Andy, his wife Becky and their three children, Matthew, Keryn and Lucy arrived in January. They are from Oxford in the UK, where Andy worked as a Deputy Head in a C of E Primary School. Becky is also a trained teacher. Andy has taken on the role of Grade 5 teacher and Head of the Intermediate Phase. Matthew, Keryn and Lucy are now attending DCS in Grades 4, 2 and Pre-Primary, respectively.

We are already benefiting from Andy's teaching skills and management experience, as well as his sense of humour! The whole family have settled extremely well into life in Clarens. We are so grateful to them for their courage and commitment in taking such a huge step as a family in coming to serve the school as volunteers. It is a privilege to have them all here as part of the team.

Teacher Advert

We have recently posted this advert out to many churches in the UK and circulated it as much as possible. Due to staff changes we need three full time, Christian, qualified teachers to join our team next year serving the poor by teaching in the local community.

One Foundation Phase/Nursery Teacher Required for January 2016/2017
and Two Intermediate Phase/Key Stage Two Teachers for January 2016/2017

These are **volunteer posts** from the UK and require a minimum 2 year commitment. A volunteer visa to South Africa will be required. The South African academic school year runs from January to December.

Key Stage 1 and 2 experience is necessary and an interest in Art/Drama/Sport would be beneficial.

If you are at all interested please contact us by the email address or the UK phone number at the top of the Newsletter or contact the school direct on: dihlabengschool@intekom.co.za

If you know someone who you feel may be interested, please pass this information to them.

New Sponsors and Donations

It is always a pleasure to welcome new sponsors and this year we have been blessed with quite a number. They are:

Steve Jennings - UK

Diane Gething - UK

Adam and Jane Meggison-Hill - UK

Bill and Sheila Robbins - UK

Jonathan and Tania Tooby - UK

Malcolm and Irene Roach - UK

Philip and Vonnie Coxhill - UK

Steve Whittington - UK

Cornelis Van Den Broek - UK

Alan and Nicole Goodson - USA

Earl Kotian - Dubai

Daniela Weber - Germany

Talitha Silcock and family - SA

Gavin and Lynne Northcote - SA

Some sponsors of last year's Grade 7s have also remained with us, sponsoring new children.

Donations

Since writing to you in January with the news that the SA Department of Education had significantly reduced our school subsidy, we have been incredibly blessed with donations and extra funds that have helped to boost our school budget for this year, allowing us to proceed with much needed maintenance and expenditure to benefit the children. Thank you so much to those of you who have given so generously, you know who you are and we are extremely grateful.



Grade 6 Horeb Climb - Friday 19th June

Grade 6 successfully completed a sponsored ascent of Mt Horeb, the mountain that overlooks the town of Clarens and the school site, to raise money for their end of year trip to Durban in October. They did several training walks beforehand and we were grateful for the support and encouragement of a number of adults on the day. All the children made it up to the land mark known as the 'Smiley Face'. They were also accompanied by Margaret, Alan Goodson, Dr Rob Ferns and a few other adults, including Tshepiso Mlangeni our school cleaner and Tembiso Mlangeni our gardener and maintenance man.

Several people made donations for this cause through the website: <https://my.give.net/dihlabeng>

If you would like to give something towards this venture please go to the website and search for **DCS Grade 6 Horeb Climb** or follow the link from our Facebook page.



Leaving School on Friday 19th June



Half Way Up!



Grade 6 at the Top.



Some even climbed the Smiley Face

Staff Training

We have four members of staff who have enrolled on training courses this year. Adriani Bassoon, Jeanett Mokoena, John Mokoena and Mathendela Nhlapo (not in photo). Their courses are:

Adriani (right) - National Diploma in Primary Education through the University of Bloemfontein.

Jeanett Mokoena (centre) - Pre-Primary Certificate through Tshepang College, Bethlehem.

John Mokoena (left) - Bachelor of Education through UNISA, University of South Africa.

Mathandela Nhlapo (not in photo) - Early Childhood Development Course through Universal College, Qwaqwa.

Funds for Adriani and Jeanett have come from Morco Suarez in America, and other funding has come from donations made in the UK.



Drawing snowmen on the computers



Grade 2 rescuing the toys trapped in the frozen ice



Caterpillars and Butterflies' display of 'Frozen' art work

Frozen Week

June and July are the coldest months in Clarens. So for some end of term fun the staff presented the children with 'Frozen Week', planning lessons around the popular Disney film. Everyone got to watch the DVD, then spent the last days of term engaged in maths, English, science and technology activities on the theme of winter, ice and snow. Whilst we didn't feel any warmer, it was a lot of fun!

Here are a few photos. The children also did poetry, music and drama.



Beautiful winter paintings in Grade 3



A snowball fight at the Doll's House!



Scrummy iced snowmen biscuits



Mathematical symmetrical snowflakes



Science - testing insulators on Anna's frozen hands



Science Investigation - Who can melt the ice the quickest to give Olaf back his nose?



Maths calculations to draw a picture of Olaf the Snowman



Snowmen in Grade 1

Jane and Adam Meggison-Hill

Jane and Adam, originally from Australia but now living in Lewes, Sussex, came to stay in Clarens for three months this year, from January to March. Their two girls Alia and Mya attended school in Grade 4 and Grade R during their stay. Jane works in management training in Brighton and Adam has his own web based music business. Whilst with us they both contributed to the life of the school. Jane conducted a very enjoyable and challenging staff training day and also helped out in various classes, including computers. Adam assisted in maths lessons and also managed to keep his business going, working from Clarens with very limited internet! Alia and Mya fitted right in and quickly made new friends in their respective classes.



Adam, Jane, Alia and Mya from Lewes, Sussex.

We appreciated and enjoyed the input they had in the school and getting to know them as new friends. They left with the firm resolve to return for a longer period in the near future.

A New Website for DCS

Since returning to the UK Adam and Jane have been busy setting up a new website for Dihlabeng Christian School. This fantastic new site gives all the background information about the school and provides the means for interested people to contact us directly, both in the UK and South Africa. It also complements our Facebook page, which has current photos and news. Do have a look!

Please go to: <http://www.dihlabengschool.com> Thank you so much Adam and Jane.



Mamoeletsi Mofokeng

Mamoeletsi Mofokeng, an ex-pupil of DCS and daughter of our classroom assistant Anna, has been working as an extra assistant this term. She has been a great help in Grade 4 and more recently in Grade 2, gaining good work experience and confidence before she starts her training for a Diploma in Human Resources, at Goldfields College, Welkom, in July. We would like to thank her for her help and wish her well as she begins her course.

New Picnic Tables

We now have two lovely new Picnic Tables for the children to use at break times. These were purchased with some of the money raised by Darren Hedges through his cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Groats, which we reported on in the June 2014 Newsletter. It has taken a while to get them but they are now in good use.



Toms Shoes - 'One for One'

DCS was contacted by 'Toms' shoe company, under their 'One for One' charitable initiative. We were given 500 brand new pairs of shoes in a full range of sizes. Not only did all the children get a pair but the rest were distributed by 'People of Hope' to the needy adults in the community of Clarens.



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

