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## Volunteers and Visitors to DCS

We were pleased and grateful to have had the assistance of Linn Schwarz from Germany at DCS during Term 4. This is what she says about her time with us: *"Hi, my name is Linn. I am from Berlin in Germany. After graduating from school this June I decided to go to another country. I wanted to improve my English and to get to know a different culture. I have been in Clarens for two months and volunteered for the fourth term at DCS. Most of the time I spent with Grade 4. It was a lot of fun for me to teach Grade 4 and Grade 6 hockey. Another highlight during my stay at DCS was that I got the chance to join the Drakensberg trip with Grade 7.*

*It was a pleasure to be part of the wonderful family of DCS. I will definitely come back to visit."*

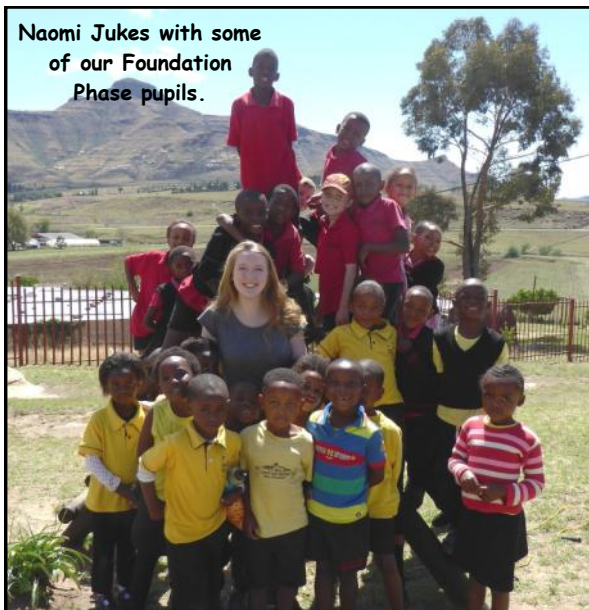
Linn was introduced to us through her family's connections with one of our SA sponsors. We are very grateful to her for all her help; she proved to be a very willing and able assistant who integrated into our team perfectly. We wish her well in her future studies.



Linn Schwarz with some of the Grade 6 Hockey club

## Hope Church, Exmouth

... We were also pleased to welcome a small team of visitors from Hope Church in Exmouth. They are friends of Dr Rob Ferns who is a frequent visitor to Clarens and Lesotho. Ian Jukes, who leads Hope Church, and his daughter, Naomi, plus teacher Steve Plant and his son, Sam came for a few days during the UK October half-term. They spent time in school and travelling across into Lesotho.



Naomi Jukes with some of our Foundation Phase pupils.



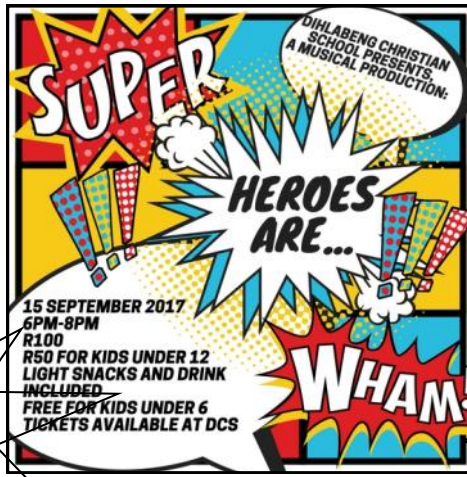
Back row: Ian Jukes far right, John Mokoena, Steve Plant, centre left and Sam. Front row: Naomi Jukes and Margaret

Steve, who has had previous experience in SA, was able to renew old friendships and spent time in the classroom. Ian gained first time experience of being in Africa. Naomi spent time with our Pre-Primary children and Sam developed his photography/filming skills and followed his own personal interests in farming methods. It was a pleasure to meet them and we feel sure that the friendship will continue.

Grade 1



"What makes Superman a hero is not that he has power, but that he has the wisdom and the maturity to use the power wisely."  
Christopher Reeve



'Heroes Are' . . .  
Everyday People

Grade 2



"A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is brave five minutes longer."  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Grade 3



"A true hero isn't measured by the size of his strength, but by the strength of his heart."  
Disney Movie - Hercules

On 15th and 18th of September, at the end of Term 3, the DCS children in Grades 1 - 7 performed an evening of dance and song on the theme of 'Heroes Are' . . . Each Grade performed a different song to a delighted audience on two separate evenings. The songs were uplifting and character building. Our thanks go to Nicolene Van Wyk and Nadia Schultz, our two new teachers, for producing this fantastic performance. You can view all the videos on our Facebook page, just follow the links on the front of the Newsletter.

'Heroes Are' . . .  
Serving

Grade 4



Grade 5

'Heroes Are'  
Fearless



Grade 7



'Heroes Are' . . .  
Everlasting

"Since it is so likely that children will meet cruel enemies, let them at least have heard of brave knights and heroic courage."  
C. S. Lewis

'Heroes Are' . . .  
Loyal

Grade 6





### Staff in Training

From the left: John Mokoena, Elmarie Cameron, Lizzie Mbele, Adriani Basson, Amiee-Leigh Cameron, Nadia Schultz, Mathandela Nhlapo, Jeanett Mokoena.

It is quite normal in SA for staff to work and train at the same time. At DCS we are very proud of our ability to help and support our staff in training and gaining qualifications. This can create life changing opportunities, whilst also increasing the qualification standards of our staff. Some of our staff are helped with funding through direct donations and sponsorship, whilst others are self supporting. All are given mentoring support and valuable classroom experience, with feedback and guidance from more experienced members of staff. Within the small town of Clarens we are probably unique as an establishment in the number of people we have helped to gain professional qualifications. We are especially proud this year of the staff shown in the photo above, for their hard work and achievements.

**John Mokoena**, our Sotho language teacher - John has completed and passed a University Preparation Course this year at The North West University. John already has his application in to begin a degree course in 2018.

**Elmarie Cameron**, our Grade RR class teacher - Elmarie has completed her first year of a B.Ed for Foundation Phase. In 2018 she hopes to further her studies by doing an Early Childhood Development Course.

**Lizzie Mbele**, our Grade 1 teacher - Lizzie has been gradually gaining her National Diploma in Education. She is expecting to complete her final module in teaching numeracy during 2018.

**Adriani Basson**, our Grade 7 teacher - this year Adriani has completed her National Professional Diploma in Education. Congratulations, she is now fully qualified! We would also like to congratulate her husband Kobus, who used to work at DCS. He has also completed the same course and qualified at the same time.

**Aimee-Leigh Cameron**, Elmarie's daughter and one of our ex-pupils, has been working temporarily at DCS - Aimee-Leigh has just completed the second year of her B.Ed degree for Intermediate and Senior Phase.

**Nadia Schultz**, our Grade 4 teacher - Nadia has completed a PGCE for Intermediate and Senior Phase. She has covered the 2 year course in 1 year during this, her first year of teaching. An amazing achievement!

**Mathandela Nhlapo**, one of our Foundation Phase assistant teachers - Mathandela has completed level 4 of his Early Childhood Development course and will be moving on to level 5 in 2018.

**Jeanett Mokoena**, one of our Foundation Phase assistant teachers - Jeanett is also following the Early Childhood Development course and is part way through level 4, she is then hoping to move on to level 5.

We wish all these staff members every success in their studies next year. **Thank you to those sponsors who specifically support staff training, we couldn't do this without you.**

### Sports Field Update

Just before the end of Term 4 we began work on our new sports facility. The promise of a piece of land next door to the school has not come to fruition and we have therefore decided to go ahead with our previous plan of an all purpose games court adjacent to but at a lower level to our current small soccer field. We are very excited about this, as are the children and we will bring you more news and photos in our next newsletter.





**Saying Goodbye** We are very sad this term to be saying goodbye to two members of staff. Ntate Anyway Muviyi is leaving us to take up a position in a government school. Anyway, originally from Zimbabwe, joined DCS in 2007. Over the years he has taught classes in both our Foundation and Intermediate phases. As well as class teaching, his contribution to the musical and creative life of the school, and in latter years training the children for sporting events, will be sorely missed, as will his own unique personality and sense of humour. Thank you for all you have contributed to DCS; our prayers and best wishes go with you.

We are also saying goodbye to Karen Lengoabala. Karen, who is originally from Biggin Hill, in the UK, has worked at DCS since 2011, although her connections with the church and school go back before that. She has mainly worked as an office assistant but she has also provided remedial help for individual children and small groups. Karen and her SA husband Doug have recently taken very brave and life changing steps in the process of adopting a child.



Thank you, Karen for all your help over the years, we wish you every success in this new chapter of your life.



**Trophy Winners 2017** - In term 4 we celebrated the children's achievements in our Prize Giving evening. Whilst we cannot list all certificates and prizes given, we are especially proud of those who received special trophies. Our Grade 7 trophy winners, from the right:

**Neo Molisana** - Sesotho Award. **Vuyani Lokkers** - Intermediate Phase Sportsman. **Alice Mokoena** - Kindness Award. **Rethabile Nhlapo** - Creativity Award. **Precious Kuria** - Intermediate Phase Top Achiever, Exemplary Behaviour Award and Afrikaans Award. **Thabo Motaung** - Mount Horeb Perseverance Award.

Other awards went to: **Katleho Mokoena**, Foundation Phase Top Achiever, **Palsea Malepa**, Intermediate Phase Sportswoman and **Lehlohonolo Mokoena**, Foundation Phase Sportsman.



Left  
Katleho  
Mokoena  
Grade 3



Right  
Palsea  
Malepa  
Grade 6



Right  
Lehlohonolo  
Mokoena  
Grade 3



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

