

No. 24

# Dihlabeng Christian School Newsletter

December 2018

Produced by New Life Church Biggin Hill. UK. Tel: 01959 571667 Email: [admin@newlifebh.org.uk](mailto:admin@newlifebh.org.uk)School Web site: <http://www.dihlabengschool.com>[www.facebook.com/pages/Dihlabeng-Christian-School](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dihlabeng-Christian-School) Click on the 'Like' button to receive regular updates

## Staff Changes at DCS

It is with very heavy hearts that we say farewell to three much loved and valued members of staff this year. Mathapelo Mokoena, Nadia Schultz and Adriani Basson (left to right in photo) are all leaving at the end of this school year, in December. We are pleased that they are all moving on to new and exciting chapters in their lives but we will miss them terribly. They have each said a little about their time at the school.

### Mathapelo Mokoena

*'I started working at DCS in 2014. I had the privilege of working with Yolanda Van den Broek in Grade 3 in 2014 and 2015. From 2016 to 2018 I worked in Grade 1 and 2. I was assisting teachers in all of the classes I worked in. I have also been the First Aid officer at the school for the last 2 years as I am a qualified First Aider'.*

As well as her First Aid qualification, Mathapelo has also gained Level Four in Early Childhood Development, whilst at DCS. Mathapelo and her husband Petros, plus their two boys Thapelo and Lebohang, are moving to Bloemfontein to support the Regions Beyond church there that was established a few years ago.



### Nadia Schultz

*'I started at DCS in January 2017, as a Grade 4 teacher. I learnt so much in that year and helped produce a musical performance evening. I also headed up other musical clubs after school. This year I taught Grade 6 and we had the best time, finishing the year by making a trip to Leisure Bay in October. The year has been full of great experiences like participating in the Eisteddfod competition and experiencing community like never before with the staff members at DCS. I am so grateful for my time here and the influences of Margaret, Andy and Adriani. I will be flying to South Korea on 13 December 2018, to teach English in Daegu next year'.*

Nadia has made a significant contribution to the arts teaching at DCS. She is a very talented musician. Whilst teaching full time Nadia fully qualified as a teacher, completing her PGCE certificate in one year.

### Adriani Basson

*'My husband Kobus, started at DCS in 2007. I helped out with Art during that year. Then Margaret asked me if I would like to teach the Grade 3 class for 2008. There were only 10 students, and I jumped at the opportunity. And so, my teaching career started. I have loved every moment of it and every child became someone God gave me to show love, acceptance and affirmation towards. To see the students grow in maturity and ability was very fulfilling. The most important thing in my classroom was to see happy children. This is definitely a motto in my classroom: **Only if a child is feeling loved and accepted will they respond to learning in a positive way.** An upset student does not want to learn and struggles to pay attention and needs much more motivation and energy from you as teacher. So my aim was always to create a positive learning atmosphere in the classroom.*

*My time at DCS has been life changing and I will miss every staff member and all the amazing students very much. I am moving to Kwazulu-Natal because my husband Kobus, accepted a new post as a Regional Manager of the ACE schools in the Free State and Kwazulu-Natal. But I will definitely be back to visit this lovely school and the people I learned to love over the last 10 years'. During her time at DCS Adriani trained over four years and fully qualified as a teacher in 2017.*



**Luke Nunns**

**Volunteer to DCS**

Luke Nunns, aged 24, is a newly qualified secondary school maths teacher, originally from Cambridge. He attends the Regions Beyond church in Durham, UK. Whilst waiting to secure a teaching post, he volunteered to spend Term 4 at DCS.

*'I have been at DCS for the fourth term, October to December, mainly teaching Maths for Grades 5, 6 and 7 but also Grade 6 Natural Science and Grade 7 Economic and Management Sciences. In addition I ran an Ultimate Frisbee club, which the children really enjoyed and some were starting to get quite good at!'*

*'In December I'm going back to the UK, looking for a job as a secondary school maths teacher'.*

We are very grateful to Luke for the time and commitment he has given the school this term and we hope that the experience he has gained will help him as he starts his career in teaching.

**Batamo Nihapo**

Batamo Nihapo, a young man from the Clarens location, has been helping to organise and teach sports activities at DCS this year. He has been sponsored and supported by Kick Kent, a UK based sports charity managed by Keir Wilson. Keir visited the school earlier in 2018 and the project began from there.

Batamo has learned valuable skills of communicating with the children, organising his activities, equipment and time, and being accountable to the school. Moving on from this experience, he is hoping to gain a sports coaching qualification. We wish him well and are grateful for his help, and Keir's support.



**Batamo Nihapo from Clarens**



**Our New Sports Facilities**

We are very pleased to report that our new sports court is now fully operational and contributing to the life of the school as the pictures below show. The children are delighted with the new facilities and we have include some of their responses with the photos. We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who contributed financially to this project. Despite the many problems and set-backs, we have won through and the court is now complete. It is making a big difference to the activities and scope for sports teaching at Dihlabeng.

*'If there was no tennis court at the school lots of children would not know how to play tennis. I love learning tennis and I wish lots of children could become good at the game'.*  
Mohlabani – Gd 4 Tennis Club

*'The court is not just a tennis court, it is a netball court as well. It is fantastic'.* Alan – Gd 3



*'The tennis court is beautiful and fun and flat to run on'.*  
Rethabile Ntabe – Gd 3

*'I think the tennis court is helpful because we don't need to go to the faraway courts to learn the game. We have more opportunity to practise'.* Keryn – Gd 5 Tennis Club

*'The new court has changed the dusty area into a tennis court'.* Gabby – Gd 3





## The Eisteddfod Festival 2018 - Organised by Nicolene Van Wyk and Nadia Schultz

The Bethlehem Eisteddfod is a bi-annual arts festival in which students from nearby towns compete and perform. The Festival was held in the Bethlehem area from 13th to 17th August, 2018. Bethlehem is the nearest large town to Clarens. Over forty DCS students from Grade 1 - 7 took part or entered Art work. We were represented in four of the six categories for Primary School students. Several pupils got special awards and impressed the judges with their enthusiastic performances. Later in the term the children performed their poetry, prose and dance to the parents at a very special evening performance. Here are photos of some of their lovely art work and the resulting scores in all the categories entered.

### Poetry

A++ 3

A+ 8

### Prose

A++ 4

A+ 1

### Dance/Mime

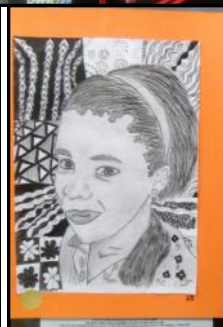
A++ 2

B 4

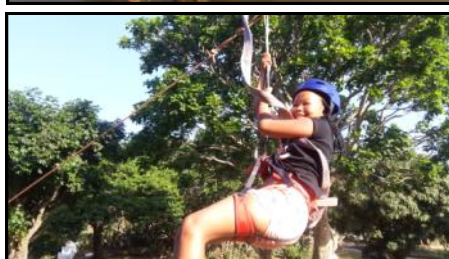
### Art

A++ 2 A 3

B+ 4 B 18



## Grade 6 Trip to Leisure Bay, near Durban Organised by Nadia Schultz



The Grade 6 class went on a trip to T. O. Strand in Leisure Bay, from 9th – 12th October. T. O. Strand is a beautiful ATKV Resort that caters especially for school groups. The 17 pupils from Grade 6 swam in the ocean, practised archery, went kayaking, built sandcastles, snorkeled, climbed a very high climbing wall and built their own raft. All activities were supervised by dedicated group leaders who knew just how to entertain the children, while keeping them safe. It was such a wonderful, life-changing experience that brought out different sides in the learners we know so well. We were lucky enough to raise enough funds to buy each learner a beach outfit, towel and some other goodies. It was a privilege to see their faces light up when they saw the ocean for the first time. Jane's first reaction was "It's so big teacher!"



Nadia would especially like to thank: **Jan-Hendrik and Werdene Williams, Lize Smit, Theresa Walton, Margaret Grant, Ninette and Tielman Malherbe, Janina and Gerhard Schultz, Betsie Schulze, Zurika Schulze, The CAD Corporation**, all of whom helped to make this trip possible.





## DCS Foundation Phase Nativity 2018 - Produced by Naomi Lokkers

This year's play, which took place in the last week of term was called 'Busy, Busy Bethlehem'. It is about a little soldier who is trying to get everyone in Bethlehem counted. He's cross when Mary and Joseph arrive late but he's curious about them and decides to follow them. When other visitors arrive to see the baby he wonders what is so special about him and why they feel so excited. In the end, he goes to see the baby too.



DCS Foundation  
Phase children  
are in Grades R,  
1, 2 and 3



## DCS Book Prizes 2018

Each year the school gives a book prize to one boy and one girl in each Grade. These prizes are awarded for many different reasons; effort, attitude, behaviour, perseverance etc. If you sponsor one of our children, you have been a part of that achievement, perhaps you recognise the name of your sponsored child!

- Grade 1: Spencer Oosthuyzen - Boy  
Afia Yeboah - Girl
- Grade 2: Letlotlo Ntoko - Boy  
Lebohang Makoseng - Girl
- Grade 3: Relebohile Mokete - Boy  
Bohlokoa Soko - Girl
- Grade 4: Tendai Muvayi - Boy  
Retshedisitswe Mofokeng - Girl
- Grade 5: Tshiu Mokoena - Boy  
Keryn Woodage - Girl
- Grade 6: Ben Kgarara - Boy  
Maleqwa Mokoena - Girl
- Grade 7: Katleho Mokoena - Boy  
Lebohang Mothopeletsi - Girl  
Relebohile Mothopeletsi - Girl

## Our Grade 7 Trophy Winners for 2018 - (left to right)

Lefa Mofokeng, Relebohile Mothopeletsi, Mosa Motaung, Mongadi Mafisa, Ntombi Tshabalala, Matthew Woodage, Hadiyo Makhubu, Katleho Mokoena.



All the children in FP take  
part as either actors,  
narrators, singers or  
playing musical  
instruments.



## DCS Trophies and Awards for 2018

These awards are primarily given to students in Grade 7, apart from the Top Achiever and the Sports Awards.

IP Top Achiever: Hadiyo Makhubu Gd 7  
IP Sports Woman: Manthathi Mokoena Gd 6  
IP Sports Man: Katleho Mokoena Gd 7

Foundation Phase Top Achiever: Daniel Oosthuyzen Gd 3  
Foundation Phase Sports: Skake Thamae Gd 3

Principal's Prize: Katleho Mokoena Gd 7  
& Hadiyo Makhubu Gd 7

Maths Award: Matthew Woodage Gd 7  
Sesotho Award: Mosa Motaung Gd 7  
Afrikaans Award: Matthew Woodage Gd 7

Creativity Award: Mongadi Mafisa Gd 7  
Performing Arts Award: Ntombi Tshabalala Gd 7  
Kindness Award: Katleho Mokoena Gd 7  
Mount Horeb Perseverance Award: Lefa Mofokeng Gd 7  
Exemplary Behaviour: Relebohile Mothopeletsi Gd 7  
Oliver Family Trophy: Community Service Club



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

