

It is with great pleasure that we bring you the latest Newsletter from Dihlabeng Christian School. As we come to the end of what has been a very busy year, it is always good to look back over the achievements of the children and the school generally. We have dedicated the middle two pages of this Newsletter to the children's recent work. We hope that we have been able to give you an insight into the excellent teaching and learning that goes on at DCS. The standard is constantly improving due to the enthusiasm, creativity and dedication of the staff.



Lebohang Tshabalala (right) with his good friend Matthew

We also have to look back with sadness to the untimely death of one of our pupils, Lebohang Tshabalala from Grade 5. He tragically died after a severe bout of what was thought to be food poisoning, during the July school break. He is sadly missed by both pupils and staff of the school. In his memory the school has purchased a lovely garden bench, which now sits in a shady spot overlooking the mountains and is enjoyed by all. Our sincere thanks go to the sponsors and staff members who contributed towards this.



Lebohang's bench with a plaque inscribed to his memory

However, we are also looking forward to the new year of 2012 and the exciting prospect of opening our own Pre-school unit (see more below). Also, to welcoming the new children into Grade R and a few others further up the school, plus new staff who are joining the team.

As always our sincere thanks goes to those of you who are child sponsors and those who contribute regularly, and so faithfully, to the work of this very special and unique school. Carol and Alan Goodson.

Dihlabeng's New Pre-School

We Have Done It!

The good news is, we have managed to raise enough money to complete the construction of our new Pre-School. Overall, we have raised approximately £40,000. In December alone over £8,000 was donated. The two classroom building will house both the Pre-School class and Grade R. They will have their own toilets and storage areas, plus outside play space just for the little ones. We will gradually equip it through 2012. This has been a huge undertaking and we would like to thank Carolyn Revill, the Foundation phase leader of the school for all her hard work and dedicated effort in making this a reality and, of course, we cannot thank enough all those who donated and raised money for this cause. It is a fantastic achievement. The new Pre-School will open on January 18th 2012.



1.

Progress of the Pre-School building through Nov to Dec



2.



3.



4.

. . . And also!

Our school and church buildings are now connected to the main drainage system in Clarens. Since the school and church opened, over 10 years ago, we have had to rely on cess pit drainage, which proved hopelessly inadequate, as the school and church membership grew. Nearly two years ago the school system totally collapsed beyond repair and we could not use our then, brand new toilets. To cut a long story short, after much prayer by us all, dedicated research by Kobus Basson and the amazing generosity of supporting churches in UK, through Gareth Wales and New Life Church, Biggin Hill, we have completed the drilling, tunnelling, pipe laying and connecting needed to join us into the community system. This was a big engineering project and required the equipment necessary to tunnel under the main road outside the school.

On November 25th we celebrated this achievement and World Toilet Day (yes, there is such a thing!) With a party and 'toilet' related games for the children. It sounds gross, but it was great fun!

Completing both these big projects in one year is fantastic and we are very thankful to God and to everyone who has contributed.



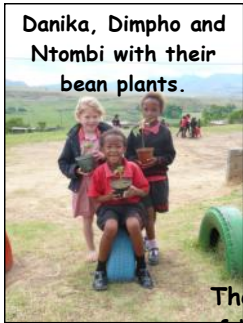
Tunnelling under the main road



Laying pipes at the back of the school



Fun and Games Dressed in toilet rolls!



Danika, Dimpho and Ntombi with their bean plants.



Counting what the Caterpillar ate.

Grade R - Teacher: Pontsho Koti

The children's work has been on the theme of 'Growth'. They used the well known story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' to develop their ideas on growth and change. They also grew some lovely bean seeds.



They also produced some stunning art work of printed butterflies and portrayed their feelings in painting.



Foundation Phase Grades R - 3



Grade 1 pupils with their Animal Masks (left and bottom right) and their technology project of animal puppets.

Grade 1 - Teacher: Lizzie Mbele

Grade 1 have been studying 'Animals'. Their work in Maths Week was based around the story of Noah's Ark - counting in 2s, and they have found out information about all kinds of animals. Their lovely technology projects produced animal masks and sewn animal puppets.



Masks and models of all kinds of animals



Counting the animals in Noah's Ark



Class display on different types of transport

Lindiwe, Thandekile and Tumelo with their model balloons.



Grade 2 - Teacher: Carolyn Revill

Grade 2's theme has been 'On The Move'. They have studied many different forms of transport and the history of flight. They enjoyed a visit to the airport in Bethlehem to find out how aeroplanes take off and land. Their papier mache Balloons have decorated the ceiling of the classroom all term and they made some lovely raised pictures of colourful balloons.



3D-pictures of balloons and string printing by Grade 2

Grade 3 - Teacher: Anyway Muvuyi



Grade 3 have based their studies around the subject of food. In their Natural Science work they have learnt about different food groups and what constitutes a healthy diet. They have used the topic in their maths work to gather data on favourite foods and even used food for printing in Art!

Sports - A team from Grade 3 took part in a mini cricket tournament sponsored by Bakers' Biscuits, and won, beating 2 quite prestigious schools from the Bethlehem area. We are very proud of them.



Grade 3 Mini Cricket Team



Moon Buggies



Grade 4 - Teacher: Yolanda Van Den Broek

Grade 4 have studied the subjects of Transport, Earth in Space and also an English writing project based on the Story of Flat Stanley.

Stanley, the little boy in the story, has an accident, which leaves him flat. He has many adventures, including travelling overseas in an envelope. The children sent their 'Flat Stanleys' to various people overseas, including sponsors. The 'Stanleys' were then posted back having had all kinds of adventures.



Puleng and Dimakatso with their 'Flat Stanleys'



Taking pictures of where the children live for the Flat Stanley Project

Grade 4 also performed a dance from the story 'Kuyanda's Story' called, 'A Promise to the Sun'.

They made costumes and masks in their technology lessons. The play was performed during the Cultural Evening in September and also to the elderly people from the community at the 'Silver Hope' meeting.

Intermediate Phase Grades 4 - 7

Art - Printing by Grade 4



Maths Week - Grade 6 took the theme of 'Circles'. Their work included plotting and measuring giant circles on the field, parts of a circle, using compasses and best of all, making pizzas!



Grade 7 - Role play in Social Science on the theme of Traders and Settlers

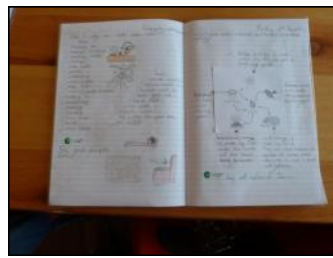
Grade 6 and 7 - Teachers: Adriani and Kobus Basson, supported by Margaret and Carol Goodson.

Grade 6 and 7 share many of their lessons, including Natural Science and Social Science.

These photos show some examples of the subjects they have enjoyed throughout the year.



Grade 7 Maths Week - Symmetry



Grade 5 - Teacher: Katy McKay

Grade 5 have been out and about studying and measuring the course of a river. They also benefitted from the expertise of Jonathan Felton in their science topic on Energy. Jonathan visited the school in July with a large team of people from Dubai.



Jonathan Felton teaching Grade 5



The Ice Experiment
Grade 5 Science 'Energy'



Grade 5 and 6 also took part in an International Art competition on the theme of One World. This was done with long term friends of DCS, Terri Menham and Mel Brough from Red Oaks School, in Swindon. They visited us in October.



Left: The 3 Prize Winners



Art work on the theme of One World



From the left:

- 1st Prize - Lesala,
- 2nd Prize - Inger,
- 3rd Prize - Jonathan



Grade 6 and 7 Technology-Designing Clay Pots.

Natural Science/Technology - Electricity. Designing and making a shoe box room with a working light circuit and switch. Also, the class display was lit up to show their work on Electrical Circuits.



Work by Zandile



Thabang's Stylish Room



Grade 6 Trip to Durban

In October Grade 6, the smallest class in the school, made a 4 day trip to Durban. They stayed at Illovo Beach and enjoyed time on the beach and in the sea. This was the first time some of them had seen the ocean. They also visited Ushaka Marine World and took part in a Hip-Hop dance workshop. The children's own fund raising helped to pay for this trip.



Grade 6 2011



Above: The Hip Hop Dance Workshop



Below: Fun on Illovo Beach



Grade 7 2011

Grade 7 Trip to Gold Reef City

Grade 7 (12 pupils) had a two day end of year trip to Gold Reef City, near Johannesburg. The tour around the Gold Mine added information and experience to their curriculum work on the mining industry, and the theme park rides allowed them to challenge gravity and test their nerves (and stomachs!) to the utmost. It was a most enjoyable and popular trip.



Left: Visiting the Underground Mine Workings



Defying Gravity at Gold Reef City!

Staff Development in 2011

The following staff have benefitted from staff development this year - paid for by the school, from money donated for staff training and some funding from the Paul and Stella Lowenstein Trust, an initiative of ISASA.

- Margaret Grant - UNISA Course in counselling traumatized children
- Pontsho Koti - UNISA Modular Course on Early Childhood Development
- Matendela Nhlapo and Anyway Muviyi- National Christian Teachers' Conference
- Lizzie Mbele and Pontsho Koti - Music Workshop run by ISASA
- Kobus and Adriani Basson - Maths Workshop run by ISASA
- Margaret Grant, Yolanda Van Den Broek, Carolyn Revill, Violah and Anyway Muviyi - School Sustainability course run by ISASA
- Sotho speaking part time and assistant staff have also benefitted from the adult English classes provided by Alan and Carol Goodson.

In 2012 we plan to widen the parameters for the use of money donated for staff training to allow more members of staff to benefit from short term courses and qualifications. Long term training, whilst working full time, has proved unworkable for staff.

Prize Giving - November 24th

The Class Book Prize Winners of 2011: Gr R Hadiyo Makhubu. Gr 1 Samuel Motaung. Gr 2 Dylan Zwahlen. Gr 3 Malefu Motlokoa. Gr 4 Nthabeleng Mofokeng. Gr 5 Joshua Van Den Dolder. Gr 6 Mamoyna Dhlamini. Gr 7 Thabang Koti.



Carols by Candlelight and the Nativity - November 29th

We celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus with the choir leading us in Christmas Carols, then a delightful Nativity play performance of 'Its A Baby' by the Foundation Phase children.



Sports Trophy Winners Thapelo Lekgetho (far left) Zandile Mani (far right) Depheney Mashinini (Centre right).

Thabo Mtambo (centre left) was awarded the Oliver Family Good fellowship trophy for service and leadership.



Behaviour Awards

Makgala Botha (left) and Nthabiseng Jakobo (right) were awarded gift prizes for exemplary behaviour. The picture shows them with their proud parents.



Our Grade 7 Leavers

Pictured with their teachers Kobus and Adriani Basson.

Many of them are going on to Ntsu School in Bethlehem. We wish them every blessing and success.



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

