

Dihlabeng Christian School

Newsletter

No. 3

Produced by Biggin Hill Christian Fellowship. UK. Tel: 01959 571667 Email: info@bhcf.org.uk

Dec 2007

The school is based on Isaiah 32 verse 2 and aims to bring hope to the hopeless



The Editorial Team

Back row: Thandi, Thabiso, Adam, Lex, Jurie, Naledi
Middle row: Thoks, Mamoeletsi, Siso, Ntshadi, Lindo
Seated: Thembi, Gabby, Sibongile

Our Second Trip to Clarens

We made our second trip out to Clarens this October, during Carol's half term holiday. We were really looking forward to seeing the school again and, this time, spending even more time with the children and getting to know the staff a little better. Our visit also coincided, as it did last year, with the 'Life Change' team who were there visiting the church and all the community activities they are involved in. So, the school was busy with lots of extra visitors and activities. However, this did not phase the children, who were welcoming, friendly and so enthusiastic, as always.

We managed to do some videoing of the children who are sponsored and we attended the school's Parents Evening, during which the children gave a musical presentation. All of which we have put onto a DVD.

Clarens is a small town surrounded by very beautiful mountains. The town centre is built around a large green area with shops and restaurants. It is frequented by many weekend visitors who come for relaxation and activities such as fishing and walking. Most of the children who attend DCS live near the school and church, in the areas just outside the town centre. The church and the school share the same site.

We have included a few pictures that may give you a feel for what it is like.

We hope you enjoy receiving and reading the newsletter and we would welcome any feedback from you.

Carol and Alan Goodson.

The editorial team for this newsletter, No. 3, has been Margaret's Class. They are a vertically grouped class of Grades 5,6, and 7. They are also the children who went on the Cape Town trip in September. They have contributed to many of the written items about school events. Some of our sponsored children, Naledi, Lindo, Thembi and Thandi will be leaving DCS this year.

Thank you for your hard work.



Mount Horeb and the surrounding countryside.

Overlooking the housing areas of the Bosotho community, the school and the church site.



Clarens Town Square



My Cape Town trip was awesome. The things we did in Cape Town were excellent, especially doing the educational things about the sea creatures at the Two Oceans Aquarium. Going to Robben Island was a pleasure and it was so important to hear about life long ago. We had a thrilling time in Cape Town and at the beach. It was great to swim in the seas. I was proud of our class and school for the chances we get to go on trips and the opportunity we had at the church when some of us spoke. It was wonderful to see people welcoming us so well and being very happy. I felt so safe and at home. Our hosts were so kind and I thank God for such a privilege he has given to us. Our hosts cared for us like our mums and I just couldn't believe how God works into people's lives. I just want God to bless them and give them more days of living.

Mololeki Tshabalala

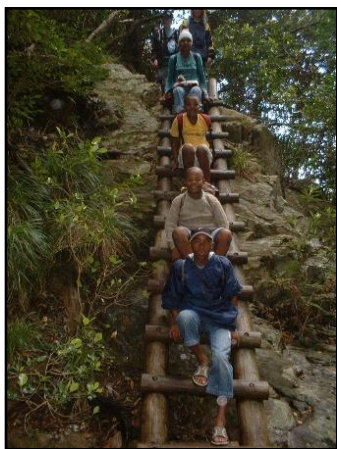


The trip to Cape Town was wonderful and I enjoyed it very much. My experience was living with new people and getting to know them. The exciting thing was going to Robben Island and getting to know about the history of South Africa. The scary thing was to climb the mountains and ladders which we did on Monday. When we went to see the fish I was amazed to see so many big fish. I loved it when we went to see the penguins. It was a wonderful time in Cape Town.

Thabiso Mokoena



DCS Cape Town Trip 2007 Thoughts and Pictures



The best thing was going to the beach to swim and staying with our hosts. My highlight was meeting the hosts and they were happy and excited to see us. I loved it when we went to the church and sang a song called, 'I am Special'. The hosts were nice and very good to us. The bus to Cape Town is big and there are lots of people living in Cape Town. I liked the information I learnt about long ago at Robben Island. I was happy to see Cape Town again. I thank God for giving us Margaret to take us to Cape Town and I pray that God blesses Margaret and her mum.

Thembi Lengoabala

I was so excited when we went to Cape Town everything was wonderful to me, staying with the hosts and going on a different outing each and every day was wonderful. The best thing that I enjoyed was going to Somerset Mall with my hosts. I enjoyed everything I did in Cape Town. It was lovely to go to Betty's Bay, to climb the mountain, the ladder and drinking brown water. I loved it when we were singing in the bus, swimming on the beach and having fun everywhere. I enjoyed it when the girls buried me in the sand. Playing rugby with the boys on the beach, having lunch and having lots of fun together was really wonderful. It was wonderful to go on the boat to Robben Island, learning lots about the prison I enjoyed it when the boat was going up and down in the water, when we travelled back from Robben Island. I was sad when we came back to Clarens I was crying, I didn't want to come back to Clarens because I love Cape Town very much. It is a cool, beautiful, wonderful, incredible, big place. I had a lovely time in Cape Town. **Naledi Matule**

Caring For Our School Environment

We did a rubbish pickup opposite the school. We did it on the 20th of July and we picked up all the rubbish that people had thrown out of their houses. It was so cool because we put gloves on our hands and they ended up smelling and gross because of all the rubbish. We picked up about 25 bags altogether. It was a lot of fun to pick up rubbish together as a group of children. I think you should try and also do a rubbish pick-up in a team. **by Moleleki Tshabalala**

The Rubbish Pick-up.



On the 20th of July we went to pick up rubbish opposite our school. It was fun. We had white gloves and we wore black plastic bags, we looked very funny. There was lots of rubbish that we found. We went next to a place called Phahameng, it's where Claren's people live. We had a lot of plastic bags and they nearly filled Gabby's Dad's trailer. **by Sibusiso Buthelezi**



Buscot House



Bristol Steam Museum



Cotswold Wildlife Park



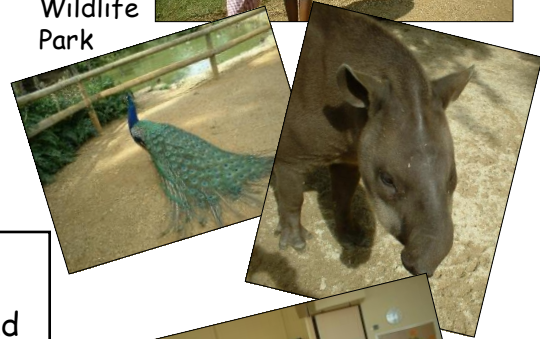
London



UK Trip

This year Mamoletsi and Matsikulu travelled to England on their exchange trip with Margaret and Lizzie.

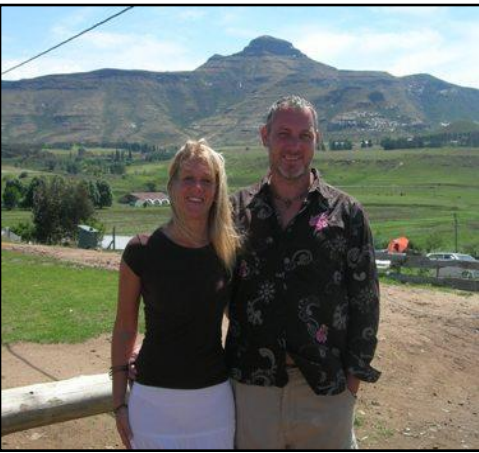
Peatmoor School



Red Oaks Primary



New Staff and Friends at Dihlabeng



Ivane and Alex - by Ivane

I have been working at Dihlabeng Christian School since July of this year and have loved every moment of it. It's a great school to work in! There is a wonderful sense of family, where everyone is loved and cared for and expectations are high.

Before coming to South Africa I was living in the UK. I worked as a teacher for 5 years and then I worked for a church where I ran kids clubs and went into schools doing assemblies and religious education lessons. However, I have always had a heart for Africa and for the poor. When Alex, my husband, and I heard about the need for teachers and builders in Clarens we became very excited, prayed a lot, and decided this is where God wanted us to be.

Building plans

Alex has begun work on building a new ablutions block on the school site. This will give the children enough toilets and washrooms to then allow for the building of the last classrooms. This will enable the school to grow to its full capacity of about 120 children. This is the start of a bigger building programme to extend the church building and facilities next door, and has involved the initial re-sighting of underground drainage and a larger septic tank being installed. During our visit in October Alex had begun by moving two wooden shed/classrooms to the other side of Dihlabeng school grounds to allow for work on the drainage to begin. At the time we were out there he was hampered by the rain and mud but as they move into full summer the problems will change to too much sun! We will keep you posted on the progress throughout the year.

Preparations for 2008

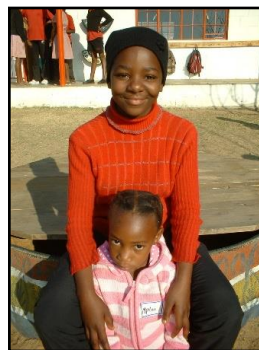
School Readiness Test



The 24 children with Katie and Pontsho

On Wednesday 12th September we had our annual school readiness test. A total of 24 five year olds attended a full day of activities and free play. They were assessed on their gross and fine motor skills, hand and eye co-ordination, perception, language and memory skills, also their social and emotional readiness. The children had fun and many of them are excited about starting school next year. 15 out of the 24 children tested will join us for next year's Grade R.

Katie (Grade R Teacher)



Matsikulu and her cousin



Ntshadi and 3 of the children.

Helping With the Readiness Test

A readiness test is for children who want to come to Dihlabeng school and they do a test for the teachers to see if they should come or not. There were lots of children who came and we greeted them and asked them questions. Then we took them around the school and played with them too. We enjoyed helping very much because the children were very happy being at school and when we asked them, 'Do you know which grade you are in?' some of them told me that they were in Grade 6, but they really meant they are six years old!.

by Ntshadi Mofokeng and Thembi Lengoabala



The children of Dihlabeng Christian School would like to say
a very special 'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends



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