

Dihlabeng Christian School

Newsletter

No. 4

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

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

The production of this, the 4th Newsletter for Dihlabeng Christian School, has been a joint effort from the Editorial Team, assisted by John and Liz Summerton during their extended stay in Clarens, South Africa.



Sibongile and Ntshadi Grade 6 and Boitumelo Grade 5



John and Liz Summerton



The Editorial Team this time was Ntshadi and Sibongile from Grade 6 and Boitumelo from Grade 5. Thank you girls for all your hard work. A special thank you to John and Liz too for helping to collate all the information and for all the superb photos they brought back with them!

John and Liz are regular visitors and supporters from England and were very happy to be back, helping around the school this term. 'It is great to be able to visit again, we really feel like Auntie and Uncle now to hundreds of children here, at the school, the local churches and the orphans who meet together each day for lunch in the village.' (This is organised by the local churches working together to feed the hungry.)

'The family just keeps growing and we love them all!'



Mokone Grade 6



Thabiso Grade 7



Lefu Grade 6

Congratulations to the Swimmers!

Congratulations to Lefu, Mokone and Thabiso, who successfully completed the 'Mid Mar Mile' swimming event on Sunday 10.2.08 in 55 minutes. This annual event attracts many competitors, not only from South Africa, but from overseas as well. Also, the same trio completed the 'Sterkfontein' Dam 1 kilometre event and each won their second swimming medal in two weeks on Saturday 23.2.08. These three boys have only learnt to swim in the last few months (taught by Loretta Dickerson). Well done Lefu, Mokone and Thabiso! (Some of you may remember the interview that we did last October which was on the DVD at Christmas) This is a huge achievement for these boys. Well done!

Dihlabeng School Clubs

For this newsletter we decided to let the children tell you a little bit about their school clubs. These are extra curricular activities which over the last few years have served to widen the children's experiences and skills in many different ways. The reporting on this is all done by the Editorial team; Ntshadi, Boitumelo and Sibongile.

'Grades 3-7 are involved in Club activities, which take place each Tuesday afternoon between 1.45 and 2.45. There is something for everyone! This gave the editorial team plenty to report on!'

GUITAR CLUB - MARGARET

Obakeng, Thoto, Mohlouwa, Lefu, Sebotane and Mokone have been practising well for 7 weeks. Margaret is delighted with the progress that the guitar group is making and is hoping that some of them will be able to play at the Sunday morning meeting at Dihlabeng Church.



3 of the boys played very well in assembly at the end of term, in front of the whole school.



JOURNALISTS CLUB - JOHN

'This was a very enthusiastic team of reporters for the production of this newsletter. They were quick to report and take 'action' shot photos. Well done girls you have done an excellent job!'

John said it was great to be involved again and see the newsletter become an established and excellent means of communicating to the school's many families and sponsors.



A photo of Ntshadi and Sibongile (Boitumelo was too busy taking photos to be in one herself!)

SWIMMING - KATIE

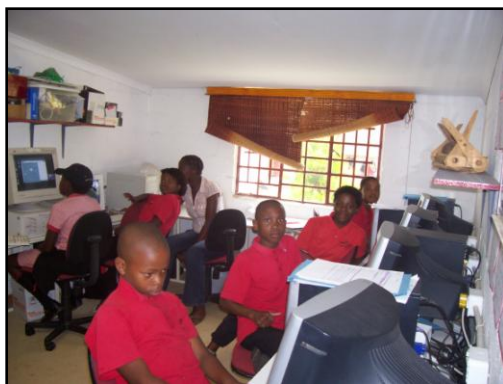
Beginners Jemina, Lindiwe, Thabang and Phokela enjoy their swimming club each week under the tuition of Katie. They are growing more confident.



COMPUTER - DAVE TURNER 'ACCESS EMPOWERMENT'

Access Empowerment is run by Dave Turner and his wife Cynthia, offering English Language and Computer Skills training to adults.

Dave and his assistants have been teaching Thoks, Thabiso, Siso, Mafusi, Neo and Matsikulu computer skills which complements the school's teaching. They are all eager to do well in this subject, as it will be a skill to help them in the future.



Gifts have made it possible for the children to be able to do this course.

PUPPETS/DRAMA - IVANE.

Gabby, Doris, Palesa, Moloi, Thandi, Salemane and Lefa, have lots of fun in this very popular club. The club have been doing 'mime' acting with the puppets and are hoping to do a version of the Bible story, 'The Good Samaritan.'

Report by Sibongile. She also took the photo.



KNITTING - ANNA

Madikgang, Puleng, Ntswaki and Ntabiseng. 'Anna and her club are making little squares which they are then going to sew together to make a mat for the school. Anna has been teaching her club how to knit.

Report by Sibongile.

COOKING - JOANNA.

Seotsa, Thabo Mtambo, Mafotha, Reitumetse and David. The Cooking club is very popular with the boys as well as the girls!

'Joanna says she likes cooking with the children and they have made lots of things from chocolate, including: chocolate cake, chocolate chip biscuits, Bar-one cakes and chocolate biscuits. The best thing that the children like is eating the things that they bake!'

Report by Ntshadi.



The boys cook up something chocolaty!

GARDENING CLUB - LIZ

Mmitsi, Palesa, Matsikulu and Mamoeletsi really enjoy being in the gardening club.

'Liz says that she likes being out in the sunshine and watching things grow. It is good to do gardening in South Africa because the plants grow very quickly in the sunshine, as long as the get plenty of water too. She loves spending time in the school with us and does enjoy sponsoring children here. The gardening team have worked very hard and enjoyed watching their efforts grow to make their school look well loved, as it is.'

Report by Ntshadi.



Joanna with her 'Cooks'



Palesa (side), Mamoeletsi and Mmitsi Helping to make Dihlabeng School look lovely!

The Younger Children



Learning to Use Crayons



Carrying the Babies - Just Like Mum!



The Team From DCS Read a Story



Foundations are laid



Work in Progress

OUTING TO MASERU IN LESOTHO

Maseru is right on the border of Lesotho and South Africa. Dihlabeng Church has recently planted a new church here and are beginning to get involved with the people and provide for some of their needs, which are many.

On Tuesday 4th of March the school represented by Mamolets, Matsikulu, Ntshadi, Siso, Sibongile and Thabiso (from Grades 6 and 7) went to Maseru to help with a children's group called 'Bana Bokoletsa'. This means 'Gathering the Children' and it is an after school club for any children in the area. The younger ones come from about 2.30 for an hour, and then activities are changed to more educational games for the older ones who arrive about 3.30pm. The DCS children had a great time making new friends, helping them play and with craft activities. They read them a story and gave them all peaches to take home. Simple fun but a very special day for us all.



Let's Play Doctors - John Needs Some TLC!

New Building Work at DCS

The school are in the process of building a new toilet block at the back of the site at DCS. This is a very costly project and is being funded mainly by some money from the Sponsorship Fund, extra gifts and donations. We would like to see this finished this year.

'The whole school went to stand on the foundation of the new toilet block on Wednesday 30 January to pray for the release of funds to continue the work. On Wednesday 6 February the building bricks were delivered, workmen came and the next stage commenced. A real answer to prayer - isn't God good!'

A building fund continues to complete this block and for the erection of two further classrooms. If you would like to give to this please see the enclosed letter.

The Older Children



Learning English with Margaret



Art and Craft



Taking Peaches Home

CAN YOU HELP!

ANY AMOUNT!



Praying For Funds



The Next Stage Begun



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

