

Dihlabeng Christian School

Newsletter

No. 5

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

Welcome to this newsletter for Dihlabeng Christian School. We hope 2008 has been a good year for you and we would like to wish you a Happy New Year for 2009.

Sponsorship and Support 2008

Through the generous giving of our sponsors and friends in 2008 we have been able to support:

- 38 children with full sponsorships
- 19 children with partial sponsorships

14 other children are supported by sponsors in South Africa.

The number of children attending the school throughout the year has been 101. This is expected to rise to about 115 with the new intake in January 2009, some of whom still need sponsors.

- The Feeding Programme supports 12 children with a nutritious sandwich lunch, including fruit and milk each school day.
- Other one-off donations from individuals and small groups have totalled around £4,000.00
- Gift Aid tax rebate from some sponsorship giving and donations has provided another £3,900.00.

These last two items have contributed towards the building fund and specific items of school equipment and resources.

On behalf of Margaret and the children of the school we would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to all our sponsors and friends.



The Whole School - 2008

Teacher Training

One area that we are keen to develop in the life of the school is teacher training. The school believes in providing a multi-cultural staff working together. This provides an opportunity for employment and also a positive role model for the children.

The training of teachers in South Africa takes place whilst they are working and can take four to five years to complete, depending on how many modules can be completed each year.

We are pleased that two members of staff are keen to begin training in 2009 and we are seeking to provide funds to assist with this.



Pontsho Koti has been working as an assistant at the school for the last two years, mainly with Reception and Grade 1. She now wishes to begin her training to achieve teacher status.

Pusetso Nkomo Piccanen is nineteen years old and has just graduated from school having completed his matric (school leaver's qualification). He has his heart set on becoming a teacher. At the moment he is serving in the church with the young people's work. He will begin work in January as an assistant/teacher and will commence training this year.



We are aiming to fund both these people on a year by year basis, depending on progress.

New School Brochure

We have redesigned and updated the school brochure for 2009. If you would like a copy, please contact us using the email or phone number printed at the top of this newsletter.



All Dressed Up For the Occasion



The Totopoly Races Caused Great Excitement



The Children Were Marvellous!

Fund Raising in 2008

Tea at the Races - June 22nd 2008

Earlier this year in June we held a fund raising event at Biggin Hill Christian Fellowship to emulate an afternoon at Ascot races. This was organised by the children's workers of our Sunday Club and was mainly the idea of Dave May, one of the leaders. The day was planned to coincide with Margaret's visit to England with two of the Dihlabeng children, Ntshadi Mofokeng and Gabby Dunkley. The main church hall was converted into a 'race track' surrounded by tables, at which our guests were given a lavish tea, served by the children and provided by church members. During the afternoon there were various children's races. Guests sponsored children to take part in each race. We also held 'Totopoly' races using a table top game, which was viewed on a large screen. Everyone dressed up in their finery; posh frocks and hats for the ladies, including Margaret and the girls. The sun shone and we had a wonderful afternoon! Overall we raised a staggering 20,000 Rand (about £1,350). This money was used for each class of the school to have an end of year outing or treat in December, prioritising those children who are sponsored. Events like this help to connect our Sunday School children with the children out in South Africa. They also have a lot of fun taking part. On the day the children were wonderful hosts and worked very hard. Well done Kids! Our special thanks also go to Dave May, Lesley Wales and the other Sunday Club Leaders for all their hard work, resulting in such an enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you all so much!



A Sack Race Round the Course



Dave and Sam May - Thank You!



Gabby and Ntshadi Line Up for the Egg and Spoon Race

New Building Work

Throughout 2008 Margaret and the children have worked together to raise funds for the building of a much needed toilet block and two new classrooms. The children have been busy with a 'Buy a Brick' campaign around their home town of Clarens, and when they came to the UK. Further funds have been supplied by Biggin Hill Christian Fellowship and a large one-off donation was made by the River Centre Church in Tonbridge, whilst Margaret was in the UK. This has enabled work to reach the stage of the main structure being completed, and one classroom, hopefully, being ready for the new school year. Fitting out the toilet block and the second classroom will be a priority in 2009. This kind of capital expenditure is a real challenge for the school's finances but very necessary for the growth of the school.



Our Trip to Clarens October 2008

We made our annual trip to Clarens in October to visit the school and work with the children. With us also came some members of the J C Revival Crew. This is a Christian Puppet Outreach team led by Janet Lee from our church at Biggin Hill Christian Fellowship. They are a group of about 7 adults who work around our area in Bromley, working in school's and at special events, presenting children's song and entertainment that has the Christian message of the gospel and a very unique appeal to children! Alan is also part of this team. The team consisted of Alan, Rob Lewis, Janet and Janet's mum, May who is 76 years old! They worked with the children making puppets and learning and presenting songs. The children in Grades 4, 5, 6, and 7 all had some opportunity to do this. The older children also went out onto the streets of the location of Kgubetswana, where many of them live, to present their songs and puppet routines. This was quite a challenge and it was a delight to see them perform and share their faith with those who came to watch. We also travelled with Margaret, Carolyn and a group of children from Grades 5, 6, and 7 to Maseru, Lesotho to present the Puppets to the children of 'Bokeletsa Bana', an after school children club for some very needy children run by Cheryl and Nigel Clark. The children from DCS were wonderful ambassadors for their school and for God. Here are a few photos from our time there and some of the comments written by the children and sent to us afterwards. It was a wonderful two weeks. Carol and Alan Goodson.

It was a great time with you, especially in Maseru. Thank you for helping us to make puppets. Thoto.

Making Puppets
Grade 6 & 7



I had a great time with Rob, Janet and Alan doing songs and the puppet show. I miss them very much. My Favourite song is 'I Lost My Sheep'. Thapelo.

It was fun when we did puppets. Thank you May, Janet and Rob. My favourite song is, 'As For Me and My House'. Zandile



Bokeletsa Bana - Maseru

On 28th October we went to Maseru - yeah, it was cool. I really enjoyed being at Bokeletsa Bana, which means 'Gather the Children'. There are lots of children there from poor families. Mohluowa.



Grade 6 & 7 with Janet, Rob, May and their teacher Kobus.

I love the songs you taught us. Every day when I go home I sing all of your songs. I don't forget your songs. You taught us about Jesus. Love from Matsouete.

The Puppets Performing at Maseru



Grade 4 & 5

I mostly enjoyed the tricks and doing 'As For Me and My House' action song. My favourite song is 'OO AA II'. Tavonga.

Thank you for: music, puppets, teaching us songs and for coming. Pitso.



Kgubetswana

Wow! What an amazing time we had with the Biggin Hill team. I made puppets with Carol and May. What fun that was! Our outreach in Kgubetswana was amazing. Ineke.



Grade 5

I was happy when we went on the stage and sung to the school. Salemane.

Grade 6 Trip to Durban

In early October the Grade 6 students spent a few days away in Durban. They stayed at and were hosted by Highbury School, a private boarding school for boys. This was a very different school experience for them. Here are some of their impressions and photographs.



All Set to Go!

'We went to Durban by SA Roadlink. I enjoyed being on the coach. We stayed at Highbury School, which is a bit different to ours, as they have a chapel and a big hall. They have a Headmaster. It was very nice. While we were in Durban we went to Ushaka Marine World. Kobus took lots of pictures of us all. We also went to the beach and swam in the sea. The waves in Durban are very big. I was very tired when I got home after our trip but I enjoyed myself very much.'

Sibongile.

'We went to Durban on 8th October. On the way we stopped and bought ice-creams. At Ushaka Marine World we watched a dolphin show and then we went to swim and the slide was very nice. We also saw snakes and crocodiles at the Reptile Park.'

Lefu in the Classroom at Highbury Palesa.



Crocodiles at the Reptile Park



Ntshadi Riding the Tubes



Mamoeletsi Enjoying the Waves

'We, as the Grade 6 Class, went to Durban on 8th October. We took six hours to travel down to Durban. We stopped at a mall on the way, which was huge and amazing. At Ushaka Marine World we swam and we rode the tubes.'

Ntshadi



Watching the World From Under the Sea.

Grade 7 Sponsored Students Leaving Dihlabeng This Year

These five students, who have been sponsored during their time at Dihlabeng, are leaving this year to move onto Intermediate School, the next phase in their Education. We wish them every blessing and success in their new schools.



Neo Manele



Sibusiso Buthelezi



Mafusi Twala



Thabiso Mokoena



Matsikulu Tshabalala



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

