

# Newsletter

Produced by New Life Church Biggin Hill. UK. Tel: 01959 571667 Email: [admin@newlifebh.org.uk](mailto:admin@newlifebh.org.uk)

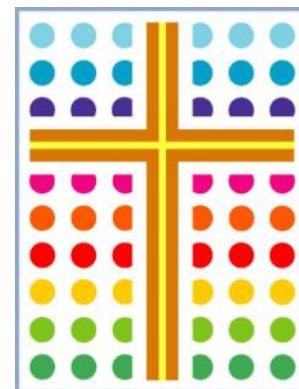
Web site: [www.newlifebh.org.uk](http://www.newlifebh.org.uk)

## Newsletter by Email

Welcome to this our sixth Newsletter for Dihlabeng Christian School. We are pleased to bring this to many of you for the first time by email, a development which we hope will make information about the school accessible to more people and cheaper to distribute; saving on postage. If you have received a copy of this Newsletter by post and have an email address that we could use in the future, please let us know using the contact details above. It makes distribution easier and cheaper. Thanks.

We have many items of news to bring you and we hope you enjoy this edition.

## New Life Church Biggin Hill New Logo



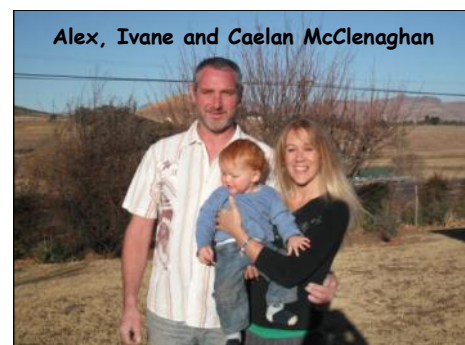
## Name Change for Biggin Hill Christian Fellowship

Most of you are aware that the regular sponsorship of the children at Dihlabeng and other fund raising for the school is mainly administered through the charitable status of our church formerly, Biggin Hill Christian Fellowship. Well, we have recently changed our name to '**New Life Church**' and would like to advise you of the new contact details, which can be found on the heading at the top of this Newsletter. You will see that we also have a new web site. On this we shall be creating a link to a page about Dihlabeng School and will also, hopefully, publish the school brochure, reply form and the most recent Newsletter. We hope this will make it easier for you to share information about the school with friends. We would also like to reassure those of you who make regular donations by standing order that there is no need for you to make any changes to bank instructions or Gift Aid forms. We hope that you and your friends will visit the Web site to find out more about us.

## New Classroom and Toilet Block — Near Completion!

Since the last newsletter considerable progress has been made on the new classroom and toilet block and it is nearing completion. The classrooms are now being used and appreciated by the children and staff alike. Alex McClenaghan, who worked tirelessly on the structure of the building, and his wife Ivane have now returned to the UK and our thanks go to him and his workers for all their hard work and perseverance with this huge project. Through further fund raising the sanitary ware for the toilets has now been purchased and is being fitted by local workers. We have included with this newsletter, a news sheet put together by Adriani Basson, DCS Grade 4 teacher, which shows the progress of the building work over the last 18 months. This whole project has come about from many very generous people donating their money and time; we would like to mention a few:

- DCS pupils and staff for their 'Buy a Brick Campaign'
- Alex and his team of workers for their tireless hard work, including Mafotha, Alfred and Thembisa.
- New Life Church Biggin Hill, foundations and block work.
- The River Centre Tonbridge, Kent gave a huge donation covering most of the structural work in response to Margaret's visit there in 2008.
- 'Children of Clarens', Bristol, through Bill and Sheila Robbins, for the sanitary ware and fittings for the toilets, now being put in place.
- Red Oaks Primary School, Swindon fundraising through Maggie and David Hartridge.
- David Champion and Derivco in Kwa-Zulu Natal.
- Beacon Church Chertsey, Yolanda's (teacher) home church.



There are others too, both in the UK and in South Africa who have contributed to this project and we, Margaret and the children would like to thank you most sincerely.

## VISITORS TO DIHLABENG

### Peter, Julia and Jenny Mizen

Peter, his wife Julia and daughter Jenny are members of New Life Church, Biggin Hill. Peter, a secondary school science teacher at Streatham High Girl's School decided to spend 3 weeks of his sabbatical in July with Julia and Jenny, in Clarens. He spent time in the school teaching the Grade 6/7 about space, the planets and rockets. Taking with him materials partly prepared by the girls he teaches in the UK, they had fun making model planets, setting them out to scale on the school playing field and letting off rockets! Julia spent time in Grade 3 with Yolanda and Jenny, with Katie in Grade R. During their time they also travelled to the Durban coast and the area surrounding Clarens, as well as attending different church activities. They were impressed by the happy atmosphere of the school and the hard work and dedication of the staff.



Peter, Julia and Jenny

Grade 6/7 Making Model Planets



Jenny with Grade R

### A Visit From Red Oaks Primary School



Sibongile studying and drawing a pineapple



Lebohlang, Thandi, Mapotlaki and Pitso making their fruit salad

Staff from Red Oaks Primary School in Swindon visited DCS in February. They taught the children about Healthy Eating, including close observation and drawing of different fruits, designing and making a healthy fruit salad and, of course eating it! They also handed out toothbrushes to all the Foundation Stage and taught them a song about cleaning teeth, in an assembly.

Foundation Stage pupils eating a healthy fruit salad with Red Oak's teachers Olwyn (left) and Jo (right)



Miriana is from Romania. She has been at DCS for about 9 months helping with the teaching of Geography, English and homework club. She has also run a small class teaching basic German. She has enjoyed living and working in a wonderful sunny climate.

### Miriana Meier



She has made many new friends and her work at the school has been a huge help.

### Roy and Frances Fanning

In February Roy and Frances Fanning, who are long term friends of DCS and ex-members of New Life Church, visited Clarens for 5 weeks. Roy spent time supporting the school with maintenance work, whilst Frances worked with the children on Art and Craft. The older children enjoyed the challenge of doing some Batik work.

One of the children writes:

*"We used wax to create negative drawings on materials, which we then put in dye. We designed our own aprons and are now working on making our own bags!"*



Right: Sebotane painting his design in wax

Below: The children with their finished designs



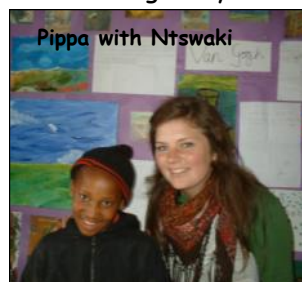
Top: Lefu and Frances

Below: Ntshadi and Mamoletsi



### Pippa Hartridge

Pippa Hartridge, aged 19 from Swindon, visited DCS for 3 months working voluntarily in the school. She has helped with teaching Mathematics, Technology and Tennis. She has enjoyed being involved in different church activities and meeting many new friendly people. She says:



Pippa with Ntswaki

*"When I finished school in July, I wanted to go and work voluntarily somewhere for six months. When I heard about D.C.S. from Margaret, it sounded very interesting. I had always dreamt of working in Africa."*





Precious Twala Grade R with the Bear she named.



Anna, Tshepo and Dimakatso Grade 1 working on their Bear books



Grade R and Adriani with their named Bears

## BEAR WEEK!

*GRRR!*

Grades R, 1, 2 and 3 had a week of activities on the topic of *BEARS*



Leasala, Matthew and Jonathan Grade 3 with their Bear finger puppets.



Jar of Honey and spoon



Grade 1 wearing their Bear masks

Left:

The children even had a visit from a 'Real Bear' which was tempted with honey and captured by Kobus — how brave!

## PIRATE WEEK - ARRGH!

Grade 4,5,6 and 7 enjoyed fun and games with a Pirate Week at the same time as the younger children had Bear Week.

Lefa with a messy face from an eating competition -(right)



Katie and Yolanda choosing teams for Tug-of-War

## Recent Activities and Events at DCS

### Sports Day Fun With Buxton!



Katleho - Sack Race

"When the Buxton team came to our school, it was very nice because we had a sports rotation day. We played games like tug-o-war, egg and spoon, sack race and lots of others. We enjoyed it very much as a school, it was such a joy for the team to come to our school. It was a privilege for us to have them at our school."

By Mohlouwa 6A

Lefu - Tug of War



Dressing Up Race - ?!



Leitumetse Egg and Spoon Race



Mangese - Sack Race



## A New 'Pupil' at DCS! - Mohlodi the School Dog

Margaret's young black Labrador 'Mohlodi' has joined the school. Doris from Grade 6A found out more about him:

*"Mohlodi was born on 6th Nov 2008. His coat is as black as the night sky. He comes and says 'Good Morning' to all the classes every morning with Margaret. He loves to play lots of soccer and if he doesn't have a ball to play with he starts to bark and whine. His school uniform is a red bandana!"*

He has certainly become part of the school very quickly.



David with Mohlodi



Early morning soccer with Thabang

## Teacher Training

Pontsho Koti, Grade 1 teacher, is now part way through her first year of a 4 year B Ed course in Early Childhood Development, Foundation Phase. She writes:

*"I have already started with my first 5 modules for this semester which is from now until November. These include, Child Development, Guidance, Counselling and Life Skills, English Language, Ways of knowing fiction, poetry and drama and Early Childhood Teaching. My final assignment is due in August and I will be writing my exams in October and November. Please pray for me."*

Thank you so much to those of you who have donated money for this important part of the life of the school. Pusetso Nkomo Piccanen, who has been working as an assistant this year, is due to start his training next year in 2010.

## The Feeding Programme

We have several people who now contribute to the Feeding Programme at DCS. This helps to supplement the diet of about 16 pupils from some of the most disadvantaged families. We have included with this newsletter a news sheet compiled by Katie (Grade R teacher) about the valuable part that this plays in the lives of the children.



## Guitar Club

### Guitars

Left: Doris, Sibongile and Palesa

Below: Ntshadi, Mamoletsi, Ineke and Gabby

Ineke Grade 6B writes:

"The grade 6/7A girls have started guitars and they are enjoying every minute! They learn new songs every week. They have played in assembly a few times. I must say it was quite nervous but we made it through. We are practising as much as we can!"



The boys hard at work

Anyway and the older boys have worked very hard and produced a large crop of carrots, beetroot, spinach, beans and tomatoes.

## Gardening Club

This is led by Anyway Muyivi, Grade 5 teacher. The club has had wonderful success with the vegetables they have grown.

The big crop of carrots



Giving the vegetables to People of Hope.

The vegetables were given to People of Hope to pass onto the people they serve in the community. Nutritious 'smoothie' drinks are made by the ladies and given to those who are sick or malnourished.

But thankfully there were still some left to be enjoyed by the workers!

Gardening club members have been:

David Mofokeng, Thabo Mtambo, Reitumetse Mokoena, Tinaye Muviyi, and Mitchel Robin.



Juicy Tomatoes!



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

