

No. 8

Dihlabeng Christian School

Newsletter

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Produced by New Life Church Biggin Hill. UK. Tel: 01959 571667 Email: admin@newlifebh.org.uk

Web site: www.newlifebh.org.uk

Lighting the Candles



HAPPY BIRTHDAY DCS 10 YEARS OLD!

The School's 10th Birthday

by Margaret Grant

What an exciting day the 15th October 2010 was!



Each class decorated their own cake, which became part of the big 'Number 10'.

Grade 3 with their teacher Anyway Muviyi and their cake.

This was the day we chose to celebrate DCS's tenth birthday and remember with grateful thanks all those who have served at the school in the past and have given of their time, expertise, love and resources to build the school into the wonderfully happy, family-type school it is today. It was a day to thank God for the wonderful staff team of 2010 and to glorify God for all He has done over the last ten years.

From Small Beginnings

The school's birthday was a good time to think back and remember how we started in 2000 with only seven children in the garage of my home using an old door as a table and plastic crates as seats. The original 'door-table' was out on display during our birthday party so that all those who are now at the school could see our humble beginnings and rejoice and marvel at the amazing things God has done for us over the last ten years.

Living Our Dreams

I shared with the children during our birthday gathering how I had a hope and a vision to be used by God to break the cycle of poverty and change many children's lives through providing a good primary school education where children could meet Jesus and be educated for life and godliness. I explained to them the joy and fulfilment of being able to 'live my dream' every day with a team of others who have the same heart and to see this coming true through God's provision, equipping and enabling. I highlighted the great importance of giving one's life for something bigger than oneself and the value of following one's dreams and passions. Above all I encouraged each child to believe the truth, that with God nothing is impossible and that each one of them can make a difference in the world and attempt great things for our great God.

The Finished Birthday Cake



Yolanda Van Den Broek and Grade 4



There's nothing boys like better than cake!



Tshepo Grade 3

Tavonga Grade 2



Grade R wearing their party hats.



Adriani with Grade 5 and 6





The Children Dressed Up for Funny Clothes Day



FUND RAISING

Various fund raising events have taken place this year. In August 'Funny Clothes Day' was organised by the School Council to raise money for extra new reading books.

The children also continue to raise money throughout the year for end of term outings and treats by holding regular Entrepreneurs Days.

The New Pre-School Building

Each member of DCS staff was given R50.00 'seed' money to 'grow' in any chosen fund raising event or activity. This resulted in over R12,000.00 (over £1,100) being raised for the new Pre-School.

Grade 7 had fun tie dying cloth that was made into colourful shopping bags to raise money for the new Pre-School.



Tie Dye

Grade 7 with some of their Tie Dye cloth which was then made into shopping bags and sold. This also formed part of their Art and Culture lessons.



Fund Raisers

Yolanda Van den Broek and Paulina Mlangeni, the winners of the staff 'Seed' money collection. Yolanda made and sold Christmas cards and greetings cards from recycled materials and Paulina sold second hand clothes in the location. Well done!

Various fund raising events in the UK including an Acoustic Night, a Quiz Night, a Coffee Morning, a Marathon and individual donations have amounted to a total of approx £12,000.00 being raised to date. And we hope there is more to come.



Leaving DCS This Term

Katie Van den Heever (right) and Cynthia Turner (left) are both leaving DCS this December.

Katie, Originally from UK, has worked at the school for nearly 5 years. She has taught in the lower school and in the last 2 years has organised the Feeding Scheme. She is still completing her teacher training.

Cynthia, also from UK has taught Grade 7 over the last 2 years and also pioneered the Adult Literacy Classes at DCS.

They are both moving to Bethlehem, along with several other church members, to be part of a new church plant from Dihlabeng.

This is a very exciting new venture but they will both be very much missed by the school and we wish to thank them for their hard work and commitment to the pupils and staff.



Family Groups

The school's Family Groups continue to thrive, meeting every two weeks for Fun and Games. Each group in 2010 adopted a name and made a banner to give them separate identities.

Sports In Action

In September we had a visit from a Christian team of young men from Holland called 'Sport In Action'. They helped to organise a session of team games for the Family Groups, including the Bucket of Water game in which the children had to pass by hand as much water as possible along their team line. The amount collected in a bucket at the end was then measured. The team also presented some drama items to the children and gave their testimonies.





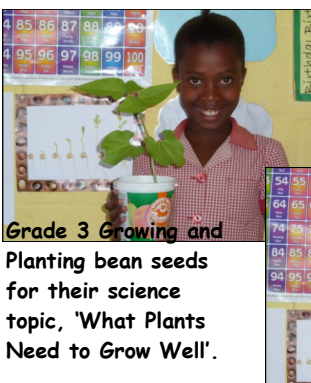
Grade R - Work on Time and Clocks



Grade 1 used the story of Noah's Ark to think about grouping and sorting animals with different attributes, and multiplication.



Grade 2 used the story of Jack, or in their case, 'Jim' and the Beanstalk to learn about measurement. They made some big life-size charts.



Sibongile and Masabata

Grade 3 Growing and Planting bean seeds for their science topic, 'What Plants Need to Grow Well'.



Dimakatso

Mohapi and Leitumetse



Grade 4 made maths board games played with dice and counters which they took to Grade 1 and 2 and taught them how to play. Good experience in being both pupils and teachers.



Maths Week - August 2010

Maths Week for the whole school produced a wonderful range of maths activities that the children studied during their maths lesson time and then presented to the whole school in our Friday assembly. This provided a fun way to learn about practical maths topics and activities.



Grade 5 used co-ordinates to draw shapes on a grid, then by changing the co-ordinates in set ways, learnt how to enlarge, translate and rotate the shapes.

Children at Work

Grade 1



Lucy Grade 1



Computer Lessons



In The Classroom

Grade 2



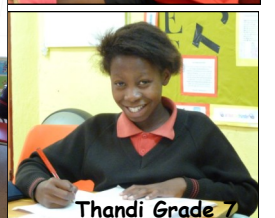
After School Clubs



Grade 4



Thandi Grade 7



Grade 3 focused on multiplication using a story with a Pancake recipe, the quantities of which they multiplied for large numbers of people.



Grades 6 and 7 both studied data handling in different ways. Grade 6 (above) made a human bar chart and Grade 7 (below) focused on how to calculate the 'mean', 'median' and 'average' from a given set of statistics.





International Links - Red Oaks

DCS has International links with two schools in UK and one school in Russia. The two UK links are with Red Oaks Primary School in Swindon who, you may remember from previous newsletters, are regular visitors to Clarens and with Christchurch Junior in Bristol.

Red Oaks runs a 'Dumelang' club. The Sotho word roughly translates as 'Hello Everyone'. If you would like to see more of what they do and of Margaret and the children's trip to the UK in May, please go to www.redoaks.org and then click on the purple button, 'Global Village'. There are some wonderful pictures of the children.



The play was produced by Carolyn Revill and featured all the usual Nativity characters; Stars, Angels, Shepherds, the 3 Kings and their Pages.



Prize Giving Grades R-3

The Lower School then went on to have their Prize Giving and celebration of achievements.



Right - Some of the children who were presented with certificates for excellent work, behaviour, good manners and helpfulness.



Prize Giving Grades 4 - 7

Prize Giving for the older children took place this year on a separate evening. The children presented an evening of Christmas Carols and Bible readings. The school choir sang a song arranged by Yolanda, and Grades 5 and 6 presented a wonderful dance arrangement of a song called 'He Reigns'.

The teacher in each grade presents a 'Book Prize' to an outstanding pupil. The children who received these prizes are:

- Grade R - Ebony Mokhele**
- Grade 1 - Lindiwe Tshabalala**
- Grade 2 - Tavonga Muviyi**
- Grade 3 - Thandi Tshabalala**
- Grade 4 - Matsouete Mokoena**
- Grade 5 - Makgala Botha**
- Grade 6 - Lebohang Mokoena**
- Grade 7 - Doris Senoane**

The Principal's Award went to Doris Senoane and the Oliver Family Good Fellowship Trophy to Ineke Basson. Sponsors of all these children should be especially proud of them!



Winners of the Class Book Prizes and Pupil Trophies in the Upper School. From left: Matsouete, Makgala, Ineke, Lebohang and Doris.

Sports Awards were given to: Zandile Mani (left) and Thapelo Lekgetho (right) for their achievements in athletics.

In the Lower School a new Sports Trophy was awarded to Dylan Zwahlen for his good all round achievement but especially in Athletics and Cricket.



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

