

Dear Friends,

We are at the end of 2021 already! It feels like it has flown past in the blink of an eye but still the pandemic circles the globe and impacts every part of life. Yet, DCS has had another fine year with many successes and moments to cherish. We are proud to have upheld high academic standards despite the restrictions of COVID and we have regularly managed to 'go the extra mile' and enhance the school experience of our learners. In addition to an excellent range of sports and cultural clubs, we have managed to feed more children than ever through our Feeding Scheme and send more children than ever to Horse Therapy. We managed not one but TWO residential trips this year (including one that had been postponed from 2020). We pressed forward with improvements to our technology teaching and held an in-house exhibition of our projects (photos and information later in the newsletter). We continue to pursue our Eco-Schools award and, under the excellent leadership of Yolanda Van Den Broek, we have applied for our 'Gold Mark' for 2021. It has been a busy but fruitful year.



Grade 6 on their way to Drakensville Adventure Centre for their residential trip



Grade 7 enjoying their end of year meal. These students will move on to high school in 2022.

2022 looms as a season of change at the school. As you will see from this newsletter, we have had a number of alterations to our team. We have the heartache of saying goodbye to a number of friends, colleagues and co-workers in the Lord, alongside the joy of welcoming new, fresh faces who will help us to maintain what we have and to push into new and exciting adventures. Change is not always easy but, when we trust in God, we know He will lead us to prosper within plans and purposes that He has placed before us (Jeremiah 29:11).

We are looking forward to discovering all that He has prepared.

A huge thank you again to all of you who support us with your prayers and generosity. We couldn't do this without you! Andy.

To all our Sponsors and Friends - from Carol and Alan Goodson

We hope you enjoy reading this latest newsletter from Dihlabeng Christian School. It seems incredible that it is now almost two years since we were able to travel to Clarens and spend time working in, and supporting the school. Covid has continued to make life difficult but we have done our best to keep you in good contact with the life and work of the school through the newsletter, our Facebook page and website, details of which can be found above.

We are very grateful to New Life Church, Biggin Hill, in the UK as they continue to facilitate the charitable work of the school and to all our child sponsors and supporters for their reliable and consistent giving which enables so many disadvantaged children in Clarens to receive a good and Godly education. We are especially grateful to Andy, and the amazing staff at DCS, who have helped and supported us in so many ways, as we run the sponsorship programme, with information, emails, photos and articles, whether it be by email, Whatsapp, Facebook or Zoom. Thank you.

We are currently hoping to return to Clarens some time towards the end of January for an extended stay. We are looking forward to meeting many new people who are now part of the team, as well as reconnecting with those we know so well. Thank you all for your support and interest. Best Wishes for 2022. Carol and Alan Goodson.



End of year fun!

Each Grade has an outing.

Staff Changes at DCS

At the end of this school year, December 2021, due to a variety of changing circumstances we are losing some of our long serving members of staff. We are incredibly sad to see them go and wish to thank them for their years of dedicated service to the school. They have each written about their time at Dihlabeng. But, we are also gaining other qualified teaching staff, some of whom joined the team towards the end of the year and it is our pleasure to introduce them to you.

Staff who are leaving:



Carolyn Revill - Deputy Principal, Leader of Foundation Phase and Pre-Primary, and Grade R Teacher.

'I arrived in Clarens in April 2008 ready to give two years of my life to serve the school as the Grade 2 teacher. Nearly 14 years later, and with the added roles of Deputy Principal, Leader of FP (Grades 1 to 3), Leader of Pre-Primary (Grades RR and R) and Grade R class teacher, it is time to pass these mantles on and return to the UK. Throughout these years, I can testify to the amazing faithfulness of God in the way He continues to sustain the school with all that is needed through both good times and bad. It has been wonderful to serve with such a committed and passionate staff team from a variety of cultures and backgrounds who share the same vision of bringing hope to the hopeless through the good news of Jesus. It has also been a privilege to encourage and grow young children in their faith. Although my physical role in this incredible school has come to an end, I know God will continue to be glorified through it. I am returning to the UK to spend time with family and friends and then pursuing the next adventure God has in store for me.'

Naomi Lokkers - Grade 3 Teacher

'I joined the team in January 2012 and taught Grades 1, 2 and 3 during my time at the school. Despite the hardships and heartbreaks that can be part of SA life, DCS is a safe, accepting and joyful place and it has been wonderful to be a part of such an inclusive, multicultural and loving family. It has also been a privilege to be free to share the love of Jesus each day. I've always been blown away by the generosity of our sponsors - it's such an act of faith to give money to something so far away, but it has allowed so many children's lives to be changed. Next, I'm moving back to the UK for a season with my family. I'm planning to spend some quality time with my parents and my own children.'



Howard and Suzanne Kirby - Volunteers

'We arrived in Clarens in January 2016 to volunteer for a year and stayed for nearly six! This is a measure of how we have been impacted by sharing our lives with the children and staff.'

It has been a privilege to see how children's lives are changed educationally, emotionally and spiritually in a safe and secure environment at DCS, where they are loved and cherished unconditionally. We have loved being involved in the classrooms as well as in the many extra curriculum activities, eg. homework club and the Feeding Scheme and seeing the children experiencing things for the

first time – the sea, the Drakensburg Boy's Choir, taking part in the 'Psalty' production, sporting achievements, Eisteddfod etc. as well as achieving their full potential educationally through excellent leadership and teaching.

It has also been a pleasure to be part of improving the infrastructure of the school through building play equipment and helping in the organisation of solar panels for hot water.

We have seen, heard and experienced things we never imagined we would – a truly memorable, life changing and unforgettable time. We are so grateful to God and our DCS family.'



Tsitsi Musango (left) - School Office Manager.

'Thanks DCS ! I have had the most fantastic time working at DCS. I pray the Lord keeps doing amazing things in the school and the community. I will miss everyone dearly.'

Tsitsi is leaving us to get married and is moving away from Clarens. We wish her every happiness and success.



Chantel Badenhorst - Grade 7 Teacher

Chantel came to work at DCS in January 2020 as our Grade 7 teacher. She left the school during term 3 in 2021 with plans to go to New Zealand. We wish to thank her for her service and dedication to the school during that time.

New Staff Joining the Team for 2021/2022

Jordan Muvei (Jordan took over from Chantel in Term 3 2021)

'My name is Jordan Muvei, I am 27 years old and I'm from Zimbabwe. I came to Clarens in 2010 and attended Clarens Primary where I completed Grade 9.

I then went on to the local high school, in Clarens, "Moriting Wa Thuto" to complete my matric, and furthered my studies at the University of South Africa where I studied for a Bachelor of Education (Intermediate and Senior Phase).

I gained employment at DCS in mid 2021 and I love and enjoy my job. Teaching at DCS is a blessing to me, I hope to fill my uncle's (Anyway Muviyi) shoes who served DCS wholeheartedly for 11 years. I was born and raised in a Christian family, so teaching at a Christian School that puts the children at the centre of its world is like a dream come true to me. DCS is a lovely school where the vast majority of parents and pupils are very respectful and supportive of the school and the staff.

Next year I'll be the Grade 6 class teacher and will also be teaching some lessons for Grade 7. I thoroughly enjoy teaching and making a difference in children's lives. It is an honour to be in this role.'



Nicholas and Deanne Payne

(Nicholas is from the USA and Deanne from SA)

'Hi everyone, our names are Nicholas and Deanne Payne and we are so excited to join the team at DCS! For the last four years, we lived and worked in the country of Jordan at a small Christian school where we met and eventually married. Deanne has a B Hons in Developmental Communications and a Licensiate Diploma in Teaching Dramatic Arts, whilst Nicholas has a Bachelors in Elementary Education. We work with an organization called 'Teach Beyond' that equips and sends teachers to bring transformational education to countries all over the world. In life we are passionate, worshipping God through music and building community that will change lives with God's love.'



Jon, from the UK, is a long term friend and supporter of the school.

He raised a staggering £1,500.00 from his marathon run!

Our heartfelt thanks to you Jon!

Fund Raising for DCS - Jon Marshall

'Running has been a lifeline for me over the pandemic, providing both a means to get out and a safe place to meet up with other people. Having done more running than I've ever done before, I dared contemplate my first marathon in Manchester this October. With connections to DCS through Andy and Becky, and also working in IT, I was delighted to hear of the opportunity to get sponsorship to support DCS with updated and new ICT equipment. What I found humbling was how, particularly, my colleagues in IT dived in with amazing financial support to sponsor me and people whom I didn't even know did too! With 3 weeks to go before the race, I unfortunately contracted COVID, albeit with fairly mild symptoms. It is with no exaggeration that I can say the generous sponsorship got me to the start line that day. What got me over the finish line 4 hours and 27 seconds later, I do not know. I will not forget the feeling, at halfway, of thinking I simply cannot do the same again, but, one footstep after another, I somehow did. Manchester has left a fond spot in my heart for all the people who turned out to cheer me on.'

End of Year Awards - Trophies 2021

FP Top Achiever: Prince Kuria Gd 3 and Ralph Burls Gd 3

FP Sportsperson: Mojalefa Mokoena Gd3

IP Sportsman Award: Katleho Mokoena Gd 7

IP Sportswoman Award: Relebohile Ntabe Gd 6

Perseverance Award : Mamotsekuwa Mosia Gd 7

Exemplary Behaviour Award: Rethabile Makatu Gd 7

Care and Kindness Award: Rethabile Makatu Gd 7

Creativity Award : Johnathan Subke Gd 7

Performing Arts: Trenki Mofokeng Gd 7

Sesotho Award: Ernest Mokoena Gd 7

Afrikaans Award: Retshedisitswe Mofokeng Gd 7

Maths Award: Chaka Mosea Gd 7

IP Top Achiever: Retshedisitswe Mofokeng Gd 7

Principals Prize: Retshedisitswe Mofokeng Gd 7 and Rethabile Makatu Gd 7



Trophy Winners from Left to Right:

Back Row: Trenki Mofokeng, Johnathan Subke, Prince Kuria, Chaka Mosea, Ernest Mokoena, Rethabile Makatu, Retshedisitswe Mofokeng, Katleho Mokoena.
Front Row: Ralph Burls, Mojalefa Mokoena



	Book Prizes 2021	
	Girls	Boys
Gd 1	Hlompho Mollo	Katleho Motaung
Gd 2	Thembekile Ncala	Lefa Nkhomo
Gd 3	Nompilo Khoza	Antrie Mlangeni
Gd 4	Zoe Siviter	Tlhonefatso Mokoena
Gd 5	Nthabeleng Mokoena	Vincent Mmole
Gd 6	Milla Pienaar	Alan Tshabalala
Gd 7	Mamotsekuwa Mosia	Ernest Mokoena

Headgirl 2022: Mannemase Mokoena. **Deputy Headgirl:** Makeresemese Dlamini

Headboy 2022: Thomas Roos. **Deputy Headboy:** Lebohang Mokoena



Technology at DCS - During Term 3 the school had a special curriculum focus on Technology which culminated in an exhibition. Working on different themes in each grade the children produced some very innovative models. Grade RR made aeroplanes and experimented with building blocks. Grade R were inspired by the Watts tower and made their own versions of the tower with pipe cleaners. Grade 1 made some fun cars from milk bottles. Grade 2 made creative cars from cardboard. Grade 3 had a variety of creations including robots, insects, volcanoes and solar systems. Grade 5 made cars from various materials that could be wound up by rubber bands. Grade 6 created a water tank system that could provide water to the toilets when no other water is available. Grade 7 combined their skills into making a truck that had a pulley system, lights and a hooter. Everyone had a lot of fun and we are proud of all the effort that the learners put into their projects. These photos show a selection of the projects, more can be found on our Facebook page - posted at the end of September.



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

