



Dihlabeng Christian School Newsletter



Dihlabeng Christian School

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End of Year 2022 - Andy Woodage

What a year it has been! In August, we finally threw off the shackles of COVID restrictions and dived into the second half of the year with joy and enthusiasm! Whilst working hard to get "back to normal", we also enjoyed the freedom to be able to spread our wings a little more, including competing in the Bethlehem Eisteddfod. We also put on a lively Nativity and a wonderful 'Heritage Evening' where we celebrated local cultures, with performances in three languages and traditional Basotho and Afrikaners' food; a truly uplifting time. I was relieved to get to the end of the evening without having to eat any tripe (called Mokgodu in Sesotho)!

So, what would I say as I reflect on 2022? It was long and fruitful. For me, the most thrilling thing was to see a number of our older learners grow spiritually. Over twenty students confessed a personal relationship with Christ during the year and the majority have now been baptised and joined discipleship groups. It has been a joy to watch them change – their growing inner assurance and peace bringing them confidence to face the world and all of its challenges. Many have developed a strong sense of hope and purpose for the future; a desire to go out into the world and make a difference. That is why we are here at DCS! Our vision is to create young people who 'Love God, Love Others and Love Learning'. 2022 has seen this fulfilled!



Thank you all for helping us to achieve what we do - without your support, it would be impossible. I want you to know that our fruitfulness is your fruitfulness too. We are changing lives, together. Here's to 2023!

God bless

Andy

There have been over 100 salvations at Dihlabeng Church throughout 2022. The church's 'Wall of Salvation' bears all the names, including over twenty students from DCS (not all in the picture). This makes what we do so worthwhile and we are incredibly proud of these young people.

Bill Robbins

It is with great sadness that we said 'Goodbye' to our dear friend Bill Robbins, who sadly died in September this year. Bill had worked all his life championing the cause of children with profound needs. He, his wife Sheila and other members of Christ Church Downend C of E in Bristol, have supported the work at DCS for many years. As well as making visits to the school, they have had a significant input in supporting our Feeding Scheme and sponsoring a number of our children.

Bill's energy, sense of humour and determination will be greatly missed by us, as well as his family, but mostly his heart for the poor and needy in this world, from which our school has benefitted so much. We thank God for his life which was well lived and our thoughts and prayers are with Sheila, his daughters and their families.



Eisteddfod and Heritage Evening

In August this year many of our Intermediate Phase students took part in the Eisteddfod Festival of creative arts held over several days in Bethlehem, our nearest town. Just as in Wales, this takes in performances in poetry, art, dance and music. In poetry, our Grade 5 girls, Matemoho and Zoe scored A and A++ respectively, our Grade 6 girls both scored B+ and in Grade 7, Boholkoa scored A, Alan A and Milla A++. Our choir scored a B and our dance group scored a C. Thank you to Teacher Bohlokoa and Teacher Deanne for coaching and accompanying the students to the events.

Heritage Evening - A few weeks later, in September, DCS hosted a Heritage Evening as a fund raiser for school and to celebrate Heritage Day in SA. Everyone dressed in traditional clothes and food from both Basotho and Afrikaans cultures was served. The children performed many of the items from the Eisteddfod Festival for parents, teachers and friends. It was a fabulous evening and a chance to get together socially after many months of restrictions.



Sporting Achievements

This year our young sportsmen did us proud in the inter-schools athletics, and cross country competitions. Antrie Mlangeni, Ralph Burls, both in Grade 4, and Cheslyn Burls, Grade 2 all had success in the cross country competitions. All three represented the school in the Free State regional competition. Ralph then went on to the SA National Cross Country Championships, representing the Free State schools at this level. For which he was given a lovely tracksuit in the Free State colours; a fantastic achievement. Rethabile Mokoena, Grade 7 was awarded medals for high jump and sprinting. Antrie Mlangeni, Grade 4 went all the way to the Free State Primary Athletics Championships, in Sasolburg, gaining a medal and a framed photograph award for the 80 metres sprint race. We are incredibly proud of these young men. Well done.



Ralph Burls



Cheslyn Burls



Rethabile Mokoena

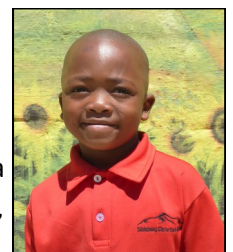


Antrie Mlangeni

New Teacher - In January 2023 we shall be welcoming a new teacher to our staff team. **Noxolo Vuma** will be coming to teach Grade 3. She is a newly qualified teacher. It was lovely to welcome her for a few weeks at the end of Term 4 and we look forward to getting to know her.

New Sponsors Needed - As we look forward to the new school year of 2023, we are very aware that we have a significant number of children attending the school who are in need of sponsorship. Child sponsorship, which is one of our main streams of income, is there to support the most needy and disadvantaged of our students whose families are contracted to pay reduced school fees. If you are interested in sponsoring a child each month, please go to our school website: www.dihlabengschool.com for more information. Any amount given regularly, month by month will help to support a child and their family.

As a sponsor, you will receive regular school reports, a photo and communications from your child each year, as well as our newsletter twice a year. Thank you.



Visitors From New Life Church, UK - In October, it was wonderful to have a visit from a team of seven people from **New Life Church, Biggin Hill, in the UK**. As well as spending time in Clarens and the beautiful surrounding countryside, they came to visit the school and to spend time with Jordan and Becca Brown (pictured, also from NLC), who have been living and working in Clarens for the past year. Jordan and Becca have worked mainly with the wider church membership at Dihlabeng Church and in particular, with the young people. Becca has also headed up a community ministry, teaching and supporting those in the community who are affected by domestic abuse. The team also spent time visiting projects such as, the 'Nnete Foundation', which is an after school homework centre for older students, and getting to know many of the young peoples' group.



Left to right: James Beston, Heather Wichall, Jordan and Becca Brown, Simon Turner, Julie and Terry Dixon, Tracy and Rob Lewis



We were so pleased to welcome them into the school on two separate days. They spent time in every class, working with groups or individuals, helping with reading, using puppets and playing board games with the older children. The children just love having visitors and a great deal of fun was had by all. Thank you for visiting and coming to our lovely school.



Eco School by Yolanda Van den Broek.

Yolanda with some of the students at the 'Bring and Buy' sale.



'Eco Schools is an international programme aimed at encouraging young people to think about the positive actions they can take to look after the environment. We started the programme back in 2018 by thinking about how we could be more intentional about recycling. Each year we have chosen an extra theme to work on, as well as continuing with themes introduced previously. We are currently working on five themes including, Recycling, Health and Well-being, Culture and Heritage, School Grounds and Energy. As well as teaching on these subjects in class, we try to celebrate special days in the calendar such as, 'Clean up and Recycle Week'! This next year we are working towards our Gold Award.



Toys, books and games all for sale at very reasonable prices.

At the end of October we held an Eco Schools 'Bring and Buy' sale to raise funds which will be used for a project to further benefit the school's environment. All kinds of items were for sale from clothing, shoes, toys and hand made cards and gifts. A good way to recycle!

We are very grateful to Yolanda for her commitment to this programme over so many years, which has helped the students to think about the ways in which they impact their environment and interact with it.

Head Boy and Head Girl 2023

During Prize Giving at the end of term we announced the new Head Girl and Head Boy, plus their Deputies, for 2023. They are: Letlotlo Ntoko, Head Boy. Nthabeleng Motaung, Head Girl. Lucy Woodage, Deputy Head Girl and Mafa Makhubu, Deputy Head Boy. They will all be in Grade 7 next year. We wish all four of them every success as they begin to serve the school in so many ways in 2023.



Letlotlo Ntoko - Head Boy
Nthabelang Motaung - Head Girl



Lucy Woodage - Deputy Head Girl



Mafa Makhubu - Deputy Head Boy



Trophy Winners 2022 - Grade 7s Left to Right

- Lebohang Mokoena** - Exemplary Behaviour
 - Skake Thamae** - Care and Kindness Award
 - Thomas Roos** - Basson Award for Mathematics
 - Rethabile Mokoena** - Creativity Award and Intermediate Phase Sportsman
 - Mvula Mahloma** - Principal's Award for Leadership
 - Relebohile Ntabe** - Performing Arts Award
 - Makeresemese Dlamini** - Morena Moshoeshoe Award for Sesotho
 - Dimakatso Motaung** - Community Service Award
 - Mpolokeng Motaung** - Mount Horeb Award for Perseverance
 - Milla Pienaar** - Cameron Family Award for Afrikaans and Intermediate Phase Top Achiever
- Other Grades - Left to Right (below)**
- Cheslyn Burls Grade 2** - Foundation Phase Sportsman
 - Lefa Nkomo Grade 3** - Foundation Phase Top Achiever
 - Palesa Tsiana Grade 6** - Intermediate Phase Sportswoman award



Book Prizes - These are awarded to one boy and one girl in each Grade from Grade 1 upwards (in Grades RR and R each child gets a small gift of a book). This is the teacher's own choice and can be for any outstanding quality shown throughout the year; academic or character. This year they were awarded to these children:

- Grade 1 - Mosa Mofokeng - girl and Joseph Mokoena - boy.
- Grade 2 - Bonolo Mosia - girl and Reabetswe Chabela - boy.
- Grade 3 - Nnoi Josephine Mofokeng - girl and Katleho Seshoeshoe - boy.
- Grade 4 - Reitumetse Nzimande - girl and Ralph Burls - boy.
- Grade 5 - Mpho Ofobi - girl and Siyabongo Nhlapo - boy.
- Grade 6 - Lucy Woodage - girl and Mafa Makhubu - boy.
- Grade 7 - Relebohile Ntabe - girl and Lebohang Mokoena - boy.

If one of these children is the child you sponsor, you should feel justly proud that you have contributed to their success by helping them to come to, and remain at DCS for their education.

Thank you to all our many sponsors.



We also held a small Christmas Market with gifts and treats made by the children and staff to raise money for the school.

Nativity 2022 'The Sleepy Shepherd' - After two years, it was such a treat to have our Foundation Phase children perform their Nativity play once again. This year it was on the theme of 'The Sleepy Shepherd' who was so sleepy he nearly missed the big event in Bethlehem! This is a date in the DCS calendar not to be missed! The children were amazing - as always. Well done to staff and students.