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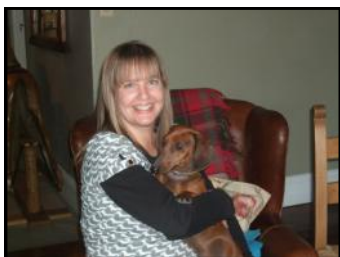


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Our New Jungle Gym

In mid September work began on the construction of our new Jungle Gym, which has been provided by the funds raised by Darren Hedges earlier this year. The children looked on a little dismayed as the old Jungle Gym was dismantled but it was not long before the ground was prepared and the new construction began to take shape. Within a week we had a new structure, a clamber net, climbing ropes, monkey bars, a tyre tower AND a slide! We have even managed to make some new climbing ladders from some of the old poles left over. The money provided by Darren's cycle ride will also provide new picnic benches for the children to use at break time. These are on order and will be available next term. There is also an added bonus of some new reading books. We cannot thank Darren enough for all he has provided for Dihlabeng School, it's fantastic! The children are thrilled with their new Jungle Gym, thank you so much Darren and thank you too, to Carolyn Revill for organising and overseeing the construction work.



Katy (left) and with her last Grade 6 class below

Katy McKay - It is with great sadness that we say goodbye at the end of this school year to Katy McKay from Norwich, England. Katy has served as a volunteer teacher at DCS for the last four years. She has been a class teacher for Grades 6 and 7, and taught English Writing across the whole Intermediate Phase, as well as the full range of other subjects. She has led the Intermediate Phase team of teachers with expert professionalism. Her teaching skills and caring qualities are outstanding, as is her sense of humour and fun! She has been very popular with the children and all the adults she has built relationships with, both at the school and in the wider church. We are all deeply grateful to her for the commitment and talents she has brought to the life of the school.

We will miss her so much.



It takes a very special person with a very special calling to take a break from full time paid employment and career prospects, to come and serve in the way that all our volunteer teachers do. Katy came to us from a teaching post in Dubai, where she had worked for three years.

We wish Katy every success as she returns to the UK and seeks new employment and fresh adventures.

Volunteer Helpers at DCS

It is always a pleasure and a privilege to welcome extra volunteer helpers to DCS. These four young ladies have given their time and expertise to us this year and we trust that they have all benefitted from their experience in many ways.

Daniela Weber from Essen in Germany

Danny came to us through knowing one of our sponsors, Michael Doenhoff. She is a trained teacher of children with special needs. This is what she writes about her time at Dihlabeng. *'My first trip to SA started in Clarens. I lived and worked in this lovely small city from the 6th August to the 8th September. These four weeks at the Dihlabeng Christian School were an amazing time. Most of my time I worked at the "Caterpillar" and "Butterflies" classes. All of the kids are incredible.*



Danny with Moeketsi Khukhune

'One of my best things was falling in love with my little sponsored child Lerato. I am so happy that I got the chance to get to know her. All of the people I met were very friendly and helpful all the time. They supported me and let me be a small part of their community. I had the chance to get an idea of what school means in another country and how people live there. I really want to come back! Thank you all!'

Danny left us to continue travelling in SA, taking in many of the sights down to Cape Town. She was a tremendous help with the children and worked well in our staff team. We are very grateful to her and hope that she returns to see us one day.



Emma with the children of Butterflies Class

Emma Lovelock and Amy Rutherford

Emma and Amy are good friends and both from Bristol. They visited DCS from mid September until early December, having just finished A level exams. They are both 18 years old. It was lovely to see their confidence grow and their skills develop in the time they shared with us and we say a huge **'Thank You'** to them for their help.



Amy and her Gym Club girls

Emma: Worked with Butterflies class, helping Carolyn Revill with the daily routine in the classroom, which she loved. She also assisted People of Hope, Dihlabeng Church's project with the sick and needy in the community, one day a week. This involved visiting some of the poorest areas and helping with the needs of the very sick. She also helped with the Silver Hope meeting for elderly people once a month.

Emma describes her time in Clarens as, *'eye-opening and an amazing privilege'*. She says she now knows what hard work is! She starts university in January to begin her training as a midwife. We wish her every success.

Amy: Spent her time with a range of classes, as well as helping with People of Hope and Silver Hope, together with Emma. Her love of sport and her expertise in Acrobatic Gymnastics led her to help, first with the Under 9s Netball team and then also to run a Gymnastics Club for the older girls in Grades 4 - 7, teaching them basic gymnastic floor work. This proved to be extremely popular with the girls.

Amy says her time at Dihlabeng has been *'inspirational'* and seeing the children enjoy themselves so much has given her much pleasure. In February she is planning to visit New Zealand.



Rosie with some of her students

Rosie Horsley - is 22 years old and from Biggin Hill, Kent. She went to Exeter University, studying English and Psychology and had previously been working as a Teaching Assistant at a Secondary School in Lewisham. Rosie started at DCS in August and will be with us until March 2015. She has been assisting as a support teacher in Grade 6 and giving individual tuition to a number of students. She says, *'The children's attitude and enthusiasm makes work enjoyable and it is great to be able to build relationships with them; there is also a lovely sense of family at the school'*. Rosie is hoping to train as a financial advisor when she returns to the UK.

Fundraising for DCS

Earlier this year the three children of John and Cathy Goodgame (child sponsors), decided to do some fundraising for DCS. David (9), Anna (8) and Ruth (6), pictured on the right, chose some of their toys to sell, they also created some pictures and made some small craft items. From their sale, and some saved pocket money, they raised £20.16, which they donated to the school through their aunt, Carolyn Revill, our Foundation Phase teacher. This money went towards some new playground toys.

Well done children for your lovely idea and for being so generous.



Ruth, Anna and David
Thank you very much!



Open Day

On Saturday 25th October we held our annual Open Day for prospective parents and visitors. Unlike last year, when we had the most atrocious weather, the sun shone and it was a beautiful day. Each class arranged to hold activities with small groups of children in their classrooms, replicating a school day. Some children also worked in the Computer Room and our Grade 7 pupils acted as guides to our visitors. It was a wonderful opportunity to see the school looking at its best and to have on display all the many activities that Dihlabeng provides to give the children a broad and varied curriculum.



At Bristol

Trip to England July 2014

On 9th July Margaret, Thandekile Nhlapo from Grade 5 and Thandi Tshabalala from Grade 7, travelled to England for a two week visit. Whilst there they visited: Bristol - Downe End Primary School, Swindon - Red Oaks Primary School, Bognor Regis, Sussex - staying with Jane and Paul Sedgwick, Thandekile's sponsors, Biggin Hill - New Life Church, staying with Gareth and Lesley Wales and taking a trip to the City of London, Tonbridge, Kent - staying with Liz and John Summerton. During this time the girls experienced many new things at the schools and places they visited and they met many new people. For children who had never left their home country and rarely travelled from their home town, this was a huge adventure.



At Arundel Castle



At Bognor Regis



Trafalgar Square



Thandekile with Jane Sedgwick

They were superb ambassadors for the school; polite, well behaved and considerate of others. It was a fantastic visit. Well done girls!

We would like to thank all those mentioned who hosted Margaret and the girls, as well as the many others who spent time making them all feel welcome.



The Thames - St Pauls

Sports Trophies for 2014

Foundation Phase Sportswoman of the Year: Palesa Malepa, Grade 2

Intermediate Phase Sportswoman of the Year: Puleng Jobo, Grade 7

Intermediate Phase Sportsman of the Year: Valient Mofokeng, Grade 4

Netball Medal for most improved player: Dimakatso Nzimande, Grade 7

Netball Medal for perseverance: Henna Qhekoane, Grade 6



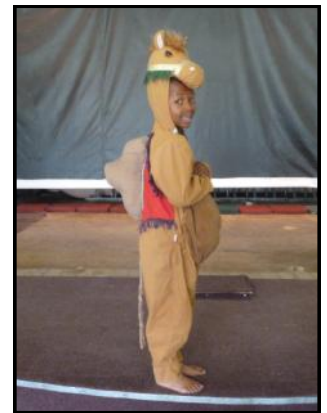
Palesa Malepa



Hadiyo Makhubu



Grade 7 Trophy Winners - From Left: Puleng Jobo, Sibongile Tshabalala, Thandi Tshabalala, Dimakatso Nizamande, Nthabeleng Mofokeng and Mangese Dlamini



End of Year Achievements

Class Book Prizes awarded to individual students this year went to:

Grade 1 - Tshiu Mokoena

Grade 2 - Manthati Mokoena

Grade 3 - Hadiyo Makhubu

Grade 4 - Precious Kuria

Grade 5 - Nkono Lethoba

Grade 6 - Suzanna Williamson

Grade 7 - Nthabeleng Mofokeng



Precious Kuria



Lindiwe Tashabalala

School Trophies for 2014

Foundation Phase Top Achiever: Hadiyo Makhubu, Grade 3

Intermediate Phase Top Achiever: Nthabeleng Mofokeng, Grade 7

Exemplary Behaviour Trophy: Lindiwe Tshabalala, Grade 5

Katy McKay Care and Kindness Award: Precious Kuria, Grade 4

The Cameron Family Afrikaans Award: Mojalefa Mosia, Grade 6

The Morena Moshoeshoe Award for contribution to the Sesotho language: Mangese Dlamini, Grade 7

Mount Horeb Perseverance Award: Sibongile Tshabalala, Grade 7

Principal's Prize for Leadership: shared by Nthabeleng Mofokeng and Thandi Tshabalala, Grade 7

Oliver Family Good Fellowship Trophy, for being a good ambassador for the school: Thandi Tshabalala, Grade 7

DCS Nativity

It is always a pleasure to finish the school year with the Nativity play performed by all the children in the Foundation Phase, Grades RR - 3. This year they acted the story of 'Humph the Grumpy Camel', telling the Christmas story with narration, songs and dance. Humph was played

by Kamohelo Mzizi from Grade 1 (shown on the right). He did a splendid job. He was joined by the Kings and Pages, Shepherds and Sheep, Angels and Stars, as well as the older children who sang and played instruments or confidently took the parts of narrators. Well done everyone, it was delightful!



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

