



No. 18

Dihlabeng Christian School Newsletter

December 2015

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Tricia Dyson and Grade 6

Tricia Dyson, a retired head teacher from Penge, in south London has been with us for Term 4, teaching our Grade 6 class. Tricia visited Clarens in March, when she attended the church's, Master Builders conference. Of her visit and time at DCS Tricia says:

'It has been a real privilege for me to be part of the team at Dihlabeng for the past couple of months. I have loved working with such a fantastic team in an overtly Christian school.'

Our trip to Durban was very special: experiencing with the children their first taste of being in the sea, seeing a big city and enjoying the water park. Everything that happens at this school is done with so much generosity, either by giving financially or by giving one's time and energy. I pray that God will continue to multiply and bless all that goes on here.'

We are extremely grateful to Tricia for giving her time and energy to be part of the team. Her expertise and experience in teaching has been very valuable and we have also enjoyed her company and humour. The children and staff are really going to miss her.

Farewell to Grade 7

Our Grade 7 students leave us this term to move on to High School for the next phase of their education. Some of them will be attending schools in Bethlehem, our nearest large town, which is approximately 30kms away, whilst others will be going to Clarens Combined, our local school for students up to Grade 9, or Leralla, a farm school up to Grade 9, which is about 10kms from Clarens. We wish them well and hope that they will keep in touch with us. This is a challenging time for many of them and our thoughts and prayers go with them.



Adriani Basson with some of the Grade 7 pupils on their end of year outing

Teacher Advert

Intermediate Phase/Key Stage Two Teacher for 2016/2017

We are still in need of a full time class teacher for our Intermediate Phase/Key Stage Two. Ideally this would be a volunteer post from the UK and requires a minimum 2 year commitment. A volunteer visa to South Africa will be required. The South African academic school year runs from January to December.

If you are at all interested in serving at DCS, either long term or short term, please contact us by the email address or the UK phone number at the top of the Newsletter or contact the school direct on:

dihlabengschool@intekom.co.za

If you know someone who you feel may be interested, please pass this information to them.

Connecting Classrooms

This year we have formed a tri-lateral partnership with Red Oaks Primary School, Swindon, UK and Crossover Functional Literacy Centre in Harare, Zimbabwe. This initiative is funded by the British Council and facilitates visits and online connections to share good teaching practice. It allows staff to visit and learn about the differences, the successes and problems faced by educational projects across the world in different cultures. For more information on our two partner schools please see:

www.crossoverzim.com and www.redoaks.org



Staff and pupils of Crossover, Harare, Zimbabwe (right)

Writing the story of 'Handa's Surprise' (left)



(Above left) Crossover staff learning to use digital cameras

(Below) Science work - measuring the weather (temperature) and making simple recording instruments.



Writing letters to the children at DCS (below)



Ordering and writing instructions on 'How to Make Fruit Salad'.

(above and middle right)



In June this year Margaret and Carol visited Crossover School in Harare, Zimbabwe. Whilst there they spent four days mentoring the staff and modelling good teaching practice in English, science and technology. They also learnt from the children about their farming methods in growing maize, the staple diet of the country, following the 'Foundations for Farming Programme'. They were able to appreciate first hand the problems faced by children and families in a society affected by huge socio-economic upheaval, disease and poverty, and the subsequent fragmentation of the education system.



In October Albert Makaza and Juliet Mutiriki from Crossover, and Verity Glennon and Nicole Willis from Red Oaks visited DCS for 5 days. They worked mainly with Grade 3 and 6. Verity and Nicole used Pi Corbett's, 'Talk For Writing' process for teaching the writing of instructions and factual information, which the children learn and then adapt. This was valuable experience for Albert and Juliet in good classroom practice. Albert and Juliet in turn taught the children a very practical process of making compost and Albert showed us how to make 'Tippy Taps', a very simple hand washing system using recycled materials. We now have two on the school site, which have proved very useful, as our water is often shut off. Verity and Nicole also taught the whole school a very enjoyable dance routine!



Special Treats for DCS

We have been blessed this year with donations and funding that has come from unexpected and surprising sources. Amongst these is a foundation in Switzerland that operates in South Africa to give grants to rural schools for curriculum development. They granted us funds to buy some extra special equipment in the form of technology tools, musical instruments and 3 Samsung tablets for our Pre-Primary class. We are so very grateful to them, not just for the equipment but also for their interest and support for the work of the school.

This kind of equipment costs way above what we would normally be able to afford and has allowed the children to experience learning that was previously inaccessible. Our Grade 7s have made excellent use of the technology tools and the Foundation Phase have enjoyed using the instruments, which helped in the production of their Nativity play. Thank you so very much.



Fund Raising for DCS

Cat (Catherine) Fletcher and Jane Meggison Hills from King's Church, Lewes have both raised funds for the school. Cat ran the Brighton half marathon in February 2015 and Jane organised a 'dress down' day at work. Together they raised £1,250.00 which was split 50/50 between DCS school funds and the work of Dihlabeng church in Lesotho .

Earlier this year Alexis Goodson, daughter of Carol and Alan organised and hosted a quiz night at the market research company she works for, GFK Ltd., in London. Not only did she set all the questions and organise the whole evening but she also got Gareth Wales, pastor of New Life Church, to compere the evening, which was a huge success. They raised £615.15, which has considerably boosted the school's funds for staff training. A big thank you to all three ladies for their support.



Renewing the School Thatch

During August; winter in SA, work began to replace and renew the thatch on the school's assembly shelter. It has needed some serious attention through the last year. This big maintenance job, which was completed by a local company was almost entirely paid for by a donation from Brian and Tania Potter, two of our sponsors, plus some funds raised through the school's Autumn Fair. Their generosity is outstanding. Thank you.



Christchurch Bristol

DCS has had a long term connection with Christchurch Bristol, through our good friends Bill and Sheila Robbins. Bill and Sheila have visited the school many times bringing with them other visitors and friends. They have supported and contributed to the school in many ways. Christchurch has recently made a significant donation from their Mission Funds for 2016. These funds will contribute to child sponsorship, the Feeding Scheme and some staff training. We would like to thank all of them for their generosity.

Book Prize Winners

Each year at DCS a Book Prize is awarded to one pupil in each class. This can be given for good character or other attributes, as well as academic achievement.

This year's Book Prizes went to:

Grade 1: Reshedisitwe Mofokeng

Grade 2: Keryn Woodage

Grade 3: Siyabonga Nhlapo

Grade 4: Hadiyo Makhubu

Grade 5: Sindisiwe Nduna

Grade 6: Thandekile Nhlapo

Grade 7: Suzanna Williamson

Sports Trophies 2015

Intermediate Phase Sportsman:
Valient Mofokeng Grade 5

Intermediate Phase Sportswoman:
Sindisiwe Nduna Grade 5

Foundation Phase Sports Award:
Palesa Malepa Grade 3



Left: Henra Qhekoane Grade 7



Right: Masontaha Kharara Grade 7



Right: Sindisiwe Nduna Grade 5



Left: Mathapelo Kheoane Grade 7



Left: Palesa Malepa Grade 3

School Trophies for 2015

Foundation Phase Top Achiever:
Puleng Motlokoa, Grade 3

Intermediate Phase Top Achiever:
Suzanna Williamson, Grade 7

Exemplary Behaviour Trophy:
Lindiwe Tshabalala, Grade 6

Katy McKay Care and Kindness Award:
Mathapelo Kheoane, Grade 7

The Cameron Family Afrikaans Award:
Henra Qhekoane, Grade 7

The Morena Moshoeshe Award for contribution to the Sesotho language:
Masontaha Kharara, Grade 7

Mount Horeb Perseverance Award:
Henra Qhekoane, Grade 7

Principal's Prize for Leadership:
Thandi Nhlapo, Grade 6

A Special Thank you to Rachel White and the Eastgate Coffee Shop, Lewes who made a donation to DCS, which went towards engraving all the trophies.

Nativity 2015

This year's nativity play was a performance of 'Shine Star, Shine'. All the Pre-Primary and Foundation Phase children were involved, whether as actors, narrators, singers or instrument players. The lead part of the star was played by Ntoiseng Nkisi and Mary and Joseph were played by Mamotsekuwa Mosia and Katleho Mokoena. This year's performance was produced by our Grade 1 teacher Lizzie Mbele but, as always, it is a big team effort from staff and children. Just before the performance we held our Christmas Market sale of seasonal goods, with a few games for good measure.



A lovely Manger Scene - Well Done!



All the Stars



Lizzie Mbele with her Grade 1 Nativity children



The Big Star and the Angels



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

