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School Web site: <http://www.dihlabengschool.com>



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## New Teachers at DCS

We have been fortunate this year to employ two newly qualified teachers at DCS; both are SA nationals.

Nicolene van Wyk (right) has come to teach Grade 2. She is a fully qualified teacher having gained her B.Ed degree in Foundation Phase at Potchestroom University. She also holds a degree in Educational Psychology and qualifications in music, dance and drama.



Nadia Schultz (left) is teaching Grade 4. She obtained a BA Hons degree in Afrikaans and Dutch at North-West University and a further degree in Communications Studies. She is also a talented musician and writes her own compositions and arrangements. As well as taking on her teaching role, Nadia has embarked on her PGCE qualification for the Intermediate/Senior phase of teaching.



Nadia with her Grade 4 pupils.



Nicolene with her Grade 2 pupils.

Both these teachers bring a new dimension of creativity and energy to our staff team and we feel privileged to have them. The first year of teaching is a steep learning curve for all newly qualified teachers, we wish them every blessing and success as they start their careers.

## New Teacher Needed

### Foundation Phase/Key Stage One (UK) Teacher needed for January 2018

We need a full time, experienced Christian teacher to join our team serving the poor by teaching in the local community. This position will be in our Foundation Phase teaching children aged approximately **5 - 8 years**.

This is a volunteer post for international teachers or paid employment for a SA resident and requires a minimum 2 year commitment.

A volunteer visa to South Africa will be required for international applicants accompanied by a university transcript of the qualification course studied and a qualification certificate/s.

Experience in teaching ages 5 - 8 years is preferable and some management experience would be beneficial.

For extra information and/or application requirements please contact:  
Margaret Grant, Principal

Email: [margaretg@intekom.co.za](mailto:margaretg@intekom.co.za)

Telephone in SA only: (0027) 058 256 1796



Kate Woolnough (left) and Helen Davies (right).

## Volunteer Helpers at DCS

Kate Woolnough and Helen Davies, both gap year students, came to assist at DCS during Term 1. Kate from Twyford in the UK has taken a year out to travel and gain experience before starting her training as a teacher in September. She had previously lived in Malawi and was very at home with the local culture. She mainly helped in the Foundation Phase classes with small groups and one to one work with the children. Her initiative and efficiency impressed us all.



Work in progress (above) and the finished wall (below).



Absolutely stunning!

Helen, from Lancashire, arranged her visit to DCS through her grandmother who is a Clarens' resident. Helen is a talented artist and, as well as running a very successful art club for the children, she set about painting a magnificent 'Africa' mural on the end wall of our classroom block. Aply assisted by Kate and many of the children, the artwork developed over the weeks into a stunning representation of the map of Africa and the beautiful scenery surrounding Clarens. Not only can the children use it as a teaching tool to learn the countries of Africa, but it has also become a focal point for visitors and is thoroughly enjoyed by everyone at the school. Like Kate, Helen was off on further travels before starting at university in September.

We also had extra help in May/June from Steph Caie from Scotland who came to assist in both Foundation and Intermediate Phases. She introduced us to some different teaching ideas.

We are extremely grateful to all three of them for their help and contribution to the school.

## Athletics Competition

In Term 1 we selected and entered 27 children from Grades 1 - 7 in the Free State Inter Schools Athletics Championships. This begins with competitions between local schools and gradually extends over 5 rounds to the National Schools level. 10 of the 27 children got through to the second round, competing in high jump, long jump, sprint races and the 800m.



Our ten young athletes who qualified for the second round of the competition. Also Anyway Muviyi (left) and Mathandela Nhlapo (right)

Palesa Malepa (centre) receiving her medal.



3 of the 10 children progressed to the third round, the Eastern Free State Championships, with Palesa Malepa gaining 1st place in the 800m. Palesa and Manthati Mokoena, both from Grade 5, qualified for the next round, the Free State Provincial Championships held at Sasolberg. Sadly, they were both knocked out of the competition at this stage. Manthati came 8th in the high jump and Palesa came 6th in the 800m. Nevertheless, we are very proud of their achievements and of all the children who took part.

Our thanks go to teacher Anyway Muviyi and assistant Mathandela Nhlapo for training and organising the participation of the children.

## Autumn Fair Fundraising

Our Autumn Fair this year was held at the end of Term 1. The children had all been busy in their art and technology lessons making items to sell or thinking of ways to fundraise. This year we raised almost R8,000.00 (almost £500.00) to be split between the Milk Transformation Project in Burundi and Golden City Academy in Lagos, Nigeria. Margaret and DCS have close links with both of these overseas projects.

During the morning, parents and visitors were treated to items of entertainment from our choir and dance groups.



Beautiful origami flowers by Grade 6, plastic bottle piggy banks by Grade 5 and our ever popular Tin Tombola stall by Grade R, all available at our Autumn Fair.



Our newly refurbished kitchen (left) which is now cleaner, safer and much more pleasant for both staff and children.



## New Computers

We are extremely fortunate to have been given funding from a charitable trust in SA which has allowed us to purchase 12 refurbished laptops. For some of our members of staff who do not own their own laptops this has been a real bonus. For the children, they provide reinforcement of learning and extra IT experience in the classroom. We are grateful to Alan Goodson for all his hard work in loading software and preparing them for use.



## A Fund for Special Educational Needs

We welcome Mariette Halgryn, a qualified Occupational Therapist who has begun therapy at DCS focusing on fine and gross motor skills, scholastic skills including, writing, reading and visual perception, delays to developmental milestones and life skills. At present 10 children are benefitting from this extra help made possible by donations being set aside specifically for this purpose.

## A Visit from Bill and Val Huxley

Bill and Val from Wiltshire, UK were originally members of New Life Church, Biggin Hill. Bill visited Clarens in 2001 with a team of men who came to build some of our classrooms. He has fond memories of that experience and it was lovely to have them visit us again. It was Val's birthday on the day they came and the children sang for her. Bill and Val now run their own charity called, 'People Against Poverty' operating various projects in Romania, Nepal and Haiti.

[www.peopleagainstpoverty.com](http://www.peopleagainstpoverty.com)

## One Off Donations

Since the beginning of the year we have received several very generous donations, over and above the regular child sponsorship funds. These have enabled us to provide:

- 12 refurbished laptop computers for use in the classrooms and for staff planning and teaching
- Refurbishment of our school kitchen with new cupboards and worktops
- A new fridge and freezer for the kitchen
- Funding towards the end of year trips for Grades 6 and 7
- Pre-School equipment
- Sports equipment and expenses
- Setting up of a fund for Special Educational Needs, including Occupational Therapy and Counselling (see article below)



From the left: Margaret, Carol, Val and Bill Huxley, Alan

## Independent Quality Assurance Agency Evaluation 2017

Dihlabeng Christian School is, *"a school that punches way above its weight and is an example to most low-income schools of the incredible things that can be done with love, dedication and commitment."*

Executive Director of the Independent Quality Assurance Agency (IQAA).

As a member of the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa (ISASA), DCS has to complete a quality assurance evaluation, with the assistance of IQAA, every five years. Bridget Walton, our IQAA mentor from 2011, was again appointed to help us and we were thankful for all her wisdom and advice. The process, which involves an in depth analysis of the teaching, learning and life of the school, together with focus group interviews, and opinion surveys from all stakeholders, was a valuable one. It enabled us to identify many areas of strength within the school and also to see where improvements are needed. Both the school report and mentor's report were submitted to IQAA at the end of May for final verification. That the Executive Director referred to the positive responses made on the opinion surveys by all stakeholders at DCS is a source of pride for us all: *"Parents know their children are receiving an education which will set them up for life, pupils are clearly very happy to attend school daily and.....the enthusiasm of the teachers shines through the findings"*. We have much to celebrate!

We would especially like to thank Carolyn Revill (Foundation Phase) and Andy Woodage (Intermediate Phase) for all their hard work in facilitating this evaluation.



Some of our lovely children from Grades R, 1 and 2 who are in need of sponsorship

### High School Land Update

You will no doubt recall from our previous newsletter in December 2016 that we have been waiting on a decision from the Dihlabeng Municipality to secure the piece of land next door to the school and church site, on which we hope to build a High School. Whilst this request has not been rejected by the Municipality, we have equally not had any positive news that would allow DCS to go ahead with developing our much needed sports facilities. We had hoped that money already donated so far, specifically for this project could be used on this land which gives far more scope for our needs. It is now looking more likely that DCS will continue later this year with our original plans to redevelop our current school field, which is much smaller, to provide better sports and play facilities. We will keep you informed of developments.

### Children Needing Sponsorship

Many of you will know that DCS, as an independent school relies heavily on child sponsorship for income. Over one third of the school's income comes from sponsorship and out of the 165 pupils on role, 104 at the moment are sponsored by very generous people in the UK, SA, Dubai, Germany and USA. At the moment we have 23 pupils in need of sponsorship for all or part of their school fees. If you have ever considered sponsoring a child or know someone who may be interested, please go to our school website for more information: [www.dihlabengschool.com](http://www.dihlabengschool.com) or contact New Life Church in the UK (details on the front page of this newsletter) or DCS in SA.

Email: [dihlabengschool@intekom.co.za](mailto:dihlabengschool@intekom.co.za)

You could make a huge difference to the life of one of our lovely children. Thank you.



**'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends**

