



# Dihlabeng Christian School Newsletter



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

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**Important Change: We are changing our email address to: [dcssponsorship@newlifebh.org.uk](mailto:dcssponsorship@newlifebh.org.uk)**

**We will endeavour to use this new email address for all correspondence in the future. However, if you contact us on our personal email address, that we have previously used, we will not ignore you!**

**Please add this new address to your contacts to avoid correspondence going into SPAM. Carol and Alan Goodson.**

## Andy Woodage - Principal. June 2024

Hello everyone. I am writing this in cold but sunny Clarens, wondering if it's possible to type in gloves (it is!). The start of 2024 has been filled with exciting challenges and fun learning. As you will see from this newsletter, we've been enjoying active learning opportunities, we've got a number of new, energetic staff members and we are busy fundraising for a number of exciting initiatives.

On fundraising, we have three main areas of focus locally. We are busy raising funds for an ambitious Grade 6 Trip to Durban. Our Student Representative Council (SRC) are raising money for new playground equipment. We also have our regular 'Fabulous Fortnightly Friday Fundraising' (FFFF) which is used to raise funds for class trips and end-of-year treats.

This year, we have introduced a further fundraising project which we are calling our school's 'mission'. We have linked with a family in Zomba, Malawi, who are setting up a local church that is trying to help the very poor community in that town.



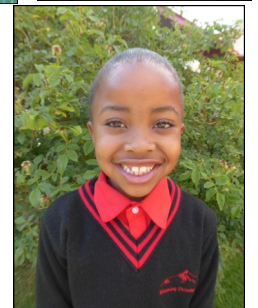
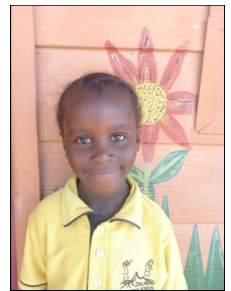
Brown and Christine Masingati (pictured left), with their daughters, Carol and Petra, are contending with very tough conditions. 2024 is the second year in a row that the President of Malawi has declared a state of national emergency. By starting our mission, we are aiming to help them to impact their town and, at the same time, teach our children that they can make a difference. They can be part of God's big plan and they do have something to give to the world. The learners are all really excited to participate in our mission, with the SRC even deciding to give 20% of all they raise to help!

Thank you all for your ongoing kindness and support for us – we really appreciate your love and generosity. We love that we can be part of a big global family, and that we are all in this together.

Andy.

## Can You Sponsor a Child?

At DCS we intentionally take children into the school from the poorest sectors of the Clarens community, in the hope that we can provide sponsorship to support their families with their school fees. We currently have over 20 children, mainly in Grade R and Grade 1 who are in need of support with their school fees. If you feel you could provide a regular monthly payment of £10.00 upwards, to a maximum of £50.00 per month, we would love to hear from you. If you are a UK tax payer, with your permission, we can also claim 25% Gift Aid on your giving. Your money will go direct to the school to assist these children. You will receive an annual photo of your sponsored child, his/her school report twice a year, and a personal communication from your child. If you are interested, please contact: Carol and Alan Goodson on the email at the top of this newsletter, or for more information, go to the school's website: [www.dihlabengschool.com](http://www.dihlabengschool.com) and complete the response form under the 'Giving' button. Thank you.



These are some of our children from Grades R and 1 who are currently in need of support for their school fees.



**Jeannette Radebe**

My name is Jeannette Radebe, I am 35 years old. I am a born again Christian. I am working at DCS as the Grade 2 teacher. I am also continuing my studies to gain an education degree in Foundation Phase teaching.

Everyone at DCS is very loving and friendly, hard working and very helpful. Also, the kids are lovely!



**Dieketseng Malimabe**

My name is Dieketseng Isabella Malimabe, and I'm 31 years old. I began studying a B.Sc. in Botany and Genetics, at the University of the Free State but I have not completed it. I am employed at DCS as a personal tutor for one of the learners in Grade 3 who has vision impairment.

I am very happy to be working at DCS. Everyone is so supportive and kind. I have also been helping the girls with their netball each week. Seeing them improve their skills is very heart warming.



**Dimakatso Moitheri**

My name is Dimakatso Pregit Moitheri, and I'm 26 years old. I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Sesotho, and a Post-graduate Certificate of Education, FET phase, in Business Studies and Sesotho. I am a very loving and kind person who likes to help. I am open to trying new challenges and adapt very quickly to new environments and developments. I enjoy interacting with people and learning from others. I am employed at DCS as a temporary class assistant.



**Constance Nyefolo**

Constance graduated in June this year, gaining a B.Ed. Degree in Intermediate Phase Teaching. She is employed at DCS teaching Afrikaans to Grades 4, 5, 6 and 7.

'What I've enjoyed most whilst working at DCS is the way that the children are always eager and excited to hear and learn about God. The staff are also very caring and have made me feel part of the family from the first day'.

## Four New Staff

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## Four New Babies!



**Mme Thakane Ntoko**

Mme Thakane is our Grade 3 class assistant. She and her husband welcomed their new little girl, Lehakoe Faith Ntoko. Born on 4th March 2024.



**Nicholas and Deanne Payne**

Nicholas, one of our Intermediate Phase teachers, and his wife Deanne, were blessed with a new addition to their family. Their little boy Cedar Vincent Payne was born on 19th December 2023.



**Mme Masepetlele Radebe**

Mme Masepetlele is our class assistant for Grade R. She gave birth to her second child, a little boy, Onalerona, on 1st February 2024.



**Mme Favour Fadoju**

Mme Favour, who is our school office administrator, and her husband, welcomed their new little girl, Rehoboth Ireoluwa Njabulo, or 'Joy' for short, on 2nd March 2024.

Many congratulations to these 4 families, we wish them all good health, and all the joy and happiness that little ones bring. We are delighted to have these new additions to the DCS family.

## Other Staff News

All the staff at DCS offer our sincerest congratulations to **Ntate John Mokoena**, who has gained his **Bachelor of Education Degree** in Intermediate Phase teaching. John, who has worked at DCS for many years as our Sesotho teacher, began his training in 2019. He has worked tirelessly, overcoming many setbacks, whilst also teaching full time and raising his lovely 3 boys with his wife, Makatleho. He chose to study remotely, so that he could remain at home, and at work. To train in this way is a huge commitment and we are all immensely proud of him. The cost of John's training was subsidised by donations through the New Life Church sponsorship fund, given specifically for Teacher Training. So, if you are a sponsor who has given funds just for teacher training, you also share in John's success. Thank you.



**Fundraising Focus** In the first half of this year we have undertaken some specific fundraising challenges, and received unexpected gifts from kind hearted, generous people. The children have also been involved in their regular 'FFFF' fundraising activities, as mentioned in Andy's article (see page 1).



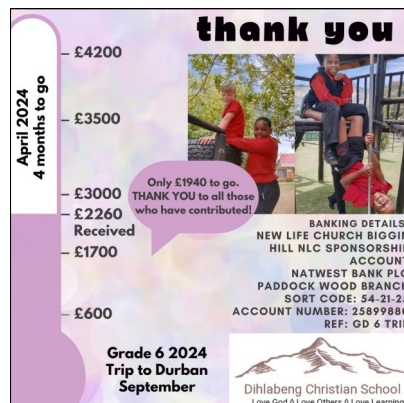
### An Assistant for Rorisang

This is Rorisang, one of our learners in Grade 3. She is 8 years old and registered as legally blind, although she has some very limited vision. She is extremely happy at DCS and would like to stay with us for as long as possible. The options open to her for schooling, and technology, are very limited, and there is no extra funding available for her in SA, as DCS is an independent school. The only alternative specialist schooling for her would be to attend a residential special school, far from her family. Her family feel she is too young.

This year we have successfully fundraised to provide a 1:1 assistant for her, which she needs to help her with her class work, and it is possible that we would need to do the same again next year. We are very grateful to Yolanda Van den Broek for promoting this effort, and to those who have donated for Rorisang.

### Grade 6 Trip to Durban

Margaret Grant has organised fundraising for our up-coming Grade 6 residential trip to the Natalia Centre, south of Durban. The trip takes place at the end of Term 3, from 16th to 19th September. Each student is committed to paying an agreed amount, and the rest will be raised through fundraising events at school and donations from friends and colleagues, mostly in the UK. Grade 6 are well on their way to achieving their target amount, but there is plenty of time to contribute if you would like to support our Grade 6. Please see details on the poster (right) for the UK, or contact the school in SA. A huge thank you to all those who have already donated, and to Margaret for organising this fundraiser.



### Jon Marshall - pictured left, receiving his marathon medal.

Jonathan Marshall, a good friend of Andy, and a supporter of DCS, volunteered to run the Manchester Marathon, in the UK, to raise funds for the school. Jon has done a similar thing before, so we feel privileged that he chose to undertake this challenge again, on our behalf. He was hoping to break the 4 hour time barrier, and managed to complete the run in 3 hours 53 minutes. Well done! He raised just over £1,500.00, which is an amazing amount. The money will be used to update some of our IT resources, and to purchase textbooks and other teaching resources. Jon says, 'It was a long way and hard, but Manchester is a great place for it, with fantastic crowds cheering us on'.

We are incredibly grateful (and very impressed!) with Jon's amazing result, and thankful to all those who donated, mainly through the company for whom he works, 'Tanium'. Thank you.

### Dial Marketing Leisure, Clevedon - [www.dialmarketingleisure.com](http://www.dialmarketingleisure.com)

Earlier this year we received a wonderful donation of 24 black beanie hats which had been embroidered with the school's red DCS logo. These came from **Dial Marketing Leisure**, a company in **Clevedon, Bristol, UK** who supply branded work wear and other customised items. This contact was through our good friend Chris Tuttiett, in the UK.

The hats were distributed to our students who are registered on our **Feeding Scheme**, and others, whose need is great. We would like to thank **Dial Marketing** for their kind donation which will help keep the children warm through the cold winter. We are very grateful.



### Sports Update - Soccer, Netball and Cross Country.

Our students have been participating in local matches for soccer and netball, playing against Clarens Primary School, and Clarens Combined School. Our boys soccer team were successful in two of their matches, but sadly the girls lost their netball match.

Our cross country runners have now competed in 4 qualifying rounds of the national schools cross country events. In round 3 ten of our boys achieved commendable placements in their respective age groups.



Our DCS netball and soccer teams, left and top. Our cross country runners, right.

In round 4, which took place on May 31st, seven of our boys were placed within the top ten of their age groups: **Xolisani Xaba (8y) placed 8th**, **Joseph Mokoena (9y) placed 1st**, **David Clark (10y) placed 5th**, **Katleho Seshoeshe (11y) placed 7th**, **Antrie Mlangeni (12y) placed 1st**, **Mpho Lebasa (12y) placed 10th** and **Michael Clark (13y) placed 8th**. Further rounds, going right up to national levels, will take place next term. We look forward to the boys building on the success they achieved last year. Well done so far!





Afrikaans conversation practise (right) made fun by setting up a shop. You can eat what you buy!



Grade R's artwork display (above) on the theme of animals.

Community Club (see below), is one of our extra-curricular clubs. They took on the task of redecorating one of the rooms at the Disabled Centre, in Kgubetswana. The centre provides day care for children and young adults who have profound needs. Community Club visit the centre regularly.



Our friend and teacher Chamonix brought some small animals into school to help the children learn about what different animals need to grow and thrive, and the importance of taking care of them well.



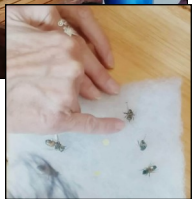
### Classroom and School Activities

At DCS we try to give the children as many practical and creative opportunities as possible. We aim to make academic learning fun and relevant to everyday life. We invite people in to talk to the children, show them things, and set up teaching activities to help with learning. Here are a few photos of some of the many activities that have taken place in the first two terms of this year.

As part of their Design Technology, Grade 7 made simple mechanisms that move by means of hydraulics.



A close look at the bees.



Grade 3 enjoyed the story of 'Stone Soup' as part of their English lessons. So much so, that they made and enjoyed eating their own soup! (Pictures above and left).



Our friend Britta, who keeps bees, came to teach the children all about the life cycle of bees. They got to taste the honey too.



'Family Groups' take place once a fortnight on a Friday. All the children are grouped into mixed age groups, each one is led by a member of staff. Through playing games, art activities and praying together, our DCS 'family' gets to know each other.



In May, Grade 6 made a visit to the local water treatment plant as part of their Natural Science work. They learnt how the water in the local area is cleaned, stored and pumped to the town. Also, the importance of using water wisely.



'Thank You' to all our Sponsors and Friends

