





REPORT FROM THE **HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

When we were asked as teenagers what we thought school would be like in 2020, I can assure you we would not have described what we experienced this year. To imagine that children would attend school with masks covering their noses and mouths, keep a 1.5m distance between one another, spray sanitiser at regular intervals and wash hands, would have felt like a horror movie. Yet we found ourselves living through exactly that. Keeping ourselves safe was top priority, while trying to fashion a hands-on curriculum with small children to suit the regulations.

It was not easy, and I know every teacher and parent will agree. To flip to an online platform in a matter of hours, from being a live teacher to an online presenter, developing skills we had to learn in an instant, were no small feats. I want to acknowledge every teacher and contributor to our online platform and thank them all for their remarkable efforts. From our editors to our IT team who worked day and night to get us up and running, we are indeed thankful.

But we have learnt and merged some of the wonderful online goodness into our classrooms too. Keeping the days varied, busy and exciting has been something we have tried to implement since our return. Boys have been used to being indoors or at home, and so coming back to school where much was expected was quite a challenge. Moving back to uniforms, limited play time

and academic expectations was tricky for some, and yet they have emerged victorious. Yes, 2021 will be a challenge for some and we again will need to tailor our education to accommodate the changes, but we have proven that we can achieve this successfully!

Coming back to school with such strict limitations brought another set of challenges as we had to look for an alternate-day workspace for those parents who needed to return to work. This was to provide boys with a supervised area to complete work during the days they were not in the classroom. The Woodlands Pavilion provided us with the much-needed space, and we made the most of the outdoor fields too.

Everyone at the Pre-Prep made an enormous contribution, from early-morning scanning of boys in the cold and rain, to managing groups at staggered break times with little to no free time at all. My personal thanks to you all. As a team you deserve to take a bow!

Despite the limitations, we tried to accommodate exercise for the boys and attempted to utilise space without putting anyone at risk. Our protocols of no visitors on the property helped to keep our children safe and, although it was not what parents wanted, it was a necessity. The introduction of drop-and-go mornings was a huge success and is something that we will continue from now on. Mr Mtinsilana and Ms Baninzi,

our two security personnel at the entrance gates, have been truly amazing and we really appreciate their extra efforts.

Not hearing the boys singing was one of the things we missed when coming back to school. As this pandemic eases, we hope to hear the voices of the boys fill the corridors and our chapel once more. Desiree Swanich was able to prepare some boys for their recorder exams and we are extremely proud of their achievements!

Although the end of this year paints a different picture to the beginning of 2020, we end with a joyful heart. We celebrate the successes, and we commend all those who have made huge sacrifices and worked hard at school. We trust this year will be one that can be remembered as the year in which we all grew stronger and wiser.

When choosing what to say at the final online Carol Service, only one thing came to mind –the story of How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr Seuss. I adapted and rewrote it to appropriately sum up the year:

No, Covid CANNOT steal Christmas.

*This Covid, with masks all over the place,
hooked on our ears and over our face
Hiding our smiles, how could it be right?
It tried to contain us, to keep us at home,
to stop us from learning but we used the phone.
It came into homes, was all over the earth
but nothing can steal the gift of the birth,
of a little boy Jesus who gave so much more,
than things we can buy at a mall or a store
On Christmas we remember the day of His birth,
He lives up in heaven no longer on earth.
He helps us to live a life full of grace,*

*that no mask can ever hide from our face.
It shines from our eyes, it's seen in our deeds,
We all have it in us, just try it and see,
this Christmas may really be one quite absurd
with things that are different with things seen and heard.
So, this Christmas we raise our hearts in a toast –
to kindness and love, the things we need most!*

Sharlene Groom



STAFF NEWS

What a year to start at a new school! We welcomed Emily Venter to our permanent staff; she had taken on a temporary post for the last half of 2019 and fitted in perfectly with the Grade N team. Liz Daames joined our staff in January as a Grade 2 class teacher, bringing many years of experience, a calm and consistent presence, as well as many fresh ideas we have implemented into our Grade 2 curriculum. One term into the year, and things changed considerably!

Salma Ahmed joined the team as an intern in Term 2, bringing a calm, mature and peaceful demeanour. Salma will move across to the Prep to spend a year in Grade 3 as part of her training, and we welcome Yi-Yi Lin back for her final year at Bishops. Lulu Gedu joined us as a teacher's assistant in Grade N right at the beginning of lockdown. This bubbly, vivacious and wonderful lady slotted in well, taking things in her stride and gathering momentum as time went by.

Nicole Soames stepped into the role of Learning Support Co-ordinator and Counsellor at the Pre-Prep to fill in for Juante Di Trapani, who was on maternity leave. Juante and her husband, Stefano, welcomed little Luca to their family in March. Congratulations to Melody and Craig Green on the arrival of their baby, Anna Green. Not only did they have a baby, but they added Samson Green, a Staffordshire bull terrier puppy into the fold!

I could not leave out two very important ladies who have been wonderful this year. Catherine Rheeder and Nureen Maged stepped in to monitor and facilitate our

alternate-day learning during Term 2. They managed the boys, and learnt how to cope in a strange venue with little apparatus. Mrs van der Horst, too, is thanked for her tireless efforts with the little ones during alternate-day care.

Farewell to Ms Elizabeth Snyders

We cannot believe that we are saying goodbye to a great lady who has been a part of Bishops for 27 years. Elizabeth Snyders started out at Bishops as part of the cleaning staff in 1995. She then went on to study and became a teacher's assistant in Grade R to Mrs Mitchell, Mrs van der Horst and Mrs Hanley. An assistant across three classes, Elizabeth shone like a star! Her boys have always been the centre of her time at Bishops. She was a real school mom, caring for them, helping them, encouraging them and praying for them. Thank you, Elizabeth, for your undying loyalty and dedication to enriching our boys' lives. Each one of them remembers you doing something – whether building fire engines, making woodwork zebras, tying laces or packing out the play equipment with them. Our Grade R staff are so sad to see you go – but we know you deserve your time now. Put your feet up (if you can, because we know you don't rest!), and relax. You are one in a million!

Sharlene Groom



Carmen van Zyl and Elizabeth Snyders



Anna Lara Green





GRADE 2

Grade 2 started off with a bang!
We got stuck into all our hard work
From academics to songs we sang
Being the heads of the school was a great perk!

We visited The Animal Sanctuary
For our theme on insects in Term 1
The Bearded Dragons were scary
Seeing the butterflies was fun

In Term 2 we had the dreaded lockdown
We all had some quiet time at home
Our smiles turned into frowns
Our minds started to roam

But then ONLINE LEARNING began!
We saw our teachers on the screen
Most of us became huge fans
Some of us weren't so keen

We said goodbye to Mr Pearson
Who was going on his way
He was a very special person
We miss him every day

In Term 3 we got to come back to school
Only half came on one day
Being back was so cool!
We got to run and play

Online learning continued on alternate days
It was great to see our friends
We got to learn in lots of interesting ways
We hoped lockdown wouldn't extend

The Readathon in Term 3 got us reading
We'd never read so many books
All the classes were succeeding
We were all hooked!

In Term 4 we all got to come back
We had fun events like a gala and sports day
We got to jump in a sack
We made Christmas decorations out of clay

Our time in Grade 2 was coming to an end
We had our last chapel service to say goodbye
Our surprise song 'Just sing' was on trend
We received our new Prep tie

Four years at the Pre-Prep has been a blast
We're sad to leave the fun times behind
We can't believe the years flew by so fast
But special memories will forever be in our minds

Heather Fraser

GRADE 1

It is always wonderful to welcome back the boys after a long holiday and to witness their excitement at the beginning of a new year. It's the first time the boys come to school wearing khakis and a school satchel!

We started with the theme 'Me, Myself and I'. As the boys were in new classes with new friends, we encouraged them to share a little about themselves and their families, which helped them to get to know one another better. We discussed similarities and differences, diversity and different cultures, and this helped them to appreciate and show respect for one another. Our next theme was about where we live. We explored the beaches and marine life that Cape Town offers, and also visited the Two Oceans Aquarium. We were lucky this year to be given an informative presentation on the importance of recycling and how that impacts sea life, particularly turtles. In keeping with this theme we usually do a trip to St James beach but, unfortunately, we were not able to this year due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

This led us into the nationwide lockdown, and teaching from home through the Windows application of Teams. The mantra for Term 2 was certainly that of Dr Suess, 'I will teach you in a room, I will teach you on Zoom, I will teach you in your house, I will teach you with a mouse, I will teach you here and there, I will teach you 'cause I care, so just do your very best and do not worry about the rest!' The teachers and boys all improved their computer skills – the teachers even became YouTubers – and so we were able to keep up with our Grade 1 curriculum as we met with each boy every day via Teams. The parents luckily helped to navigate the boys through our online web page, where they could learn through videos the teachers had made.

The little boys were pleased to come back in the third term, to see their friends and share their news. The classroom looked a little different, as we had only 12 desks, and the boys were coming to school on alternate days. It was also the first time we had to wear face masks,

but the boys adapted well and adhered to Covid-19 protocols. We continued to learn to read, explore new phonics sounds and work with numbers. The boys learnt all about farm and wild animals. We focused on our Big Five and spent some time talking about conservation. The highlight of Term 3 was Readathon Week, for which the theme was that of kindness and that, although we are all different, together we make the world a better place. The Grade 1s chose to teach this through reading the book, *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. The story teaches an important moral of giving and giving, without needing anything in return.

In the fourth term, we learnt about our South African currency, and our annual Trading Day was reinvented into a Make-and-Bake sale. The boys had an opportunity to bring home-baked goods to sell to their peers. We

explored different careers, including those of female pilots and scientists, the engineer Temple Grandin who is on the autistic spectrum, and Lonnie Johnson, an African American who invented the Super Soaker. The boys competed in their classes at the Pre-Prep Fun Sports Day in sack races, egg-and-spoon races, a dress-up race, a tug-of-war and relay races. The cheering from the parents was sorely missed this year! During the last week, each boy was given a special Christmas Book to work in and the classrooms were decorated with Christmas decorations and art. The boys were enthralled by Experi-Buddies as they explored flying machines, and were also lucky to be entertained by an amazing storyteller, Gilly Southwood, who had them in stitches.

Nazli Meredith





GRADE R

The boys started off the year learning about Bishops, and getting to know their friends, with the focus being on inclusivity. They each made a Valentine's Day treat for a friend and drew a picture to go with it. The boys were encouraged to play with new friends and were teamed up with a classmate for a day. A highlight was the outing to Green Point Park, where boys were encouraged to use their senses to make discoveries – they had a picnic and were allowed to play on the variety of climbing equipment.

Just as the boys had settled into their new grade and routine, Covid-19 changed things for the second term. The boys adjusted well to home schooling, and parents went above and beyond to make learning fun and practical using MS Teams. This was a challenging term for everyone, but the Grade Rs managed to learn some amazing life skills at home. They made obstacle courses; included their family members in their Physical Literacy activities; they got creative and used their imaginations to invent amazing theme-related art, and they did practical maths using sticks, leaves, stones and Lego. The teachers enjoyed watching the boys' orals on reptiles and seeing them for online-class story time. Some of the favourite themes for this term were 'Mini Beasts', 'Patterns in Nature' and 'Recycling'.

The third term brought back some normality. Half of the boys were welcomed back on alternate days, with sprays of sanitiser and masks. The boys adjusted well to a new class routine that included extra washing of hands, spraying down of equipment and social distancing. They

had to learn to become independent – walking into school on their own, and looking after and packing up their belongings. During Readathon Week, boys were thrilled to dress up in crazy socks and as their favourite characters from books. Some of the themes for this term were 'Oceans', 'Under the Ground', 'South African Symbols', and 'Continents of the World'.

The Grade Rs returned to their classes in Term 4 and it was wonderful for the boys to see all their friends. 'Castles and Knights' was one of the favourite themes, and allowed the boys to make swords, shields, castles, knights and horses. They also learnt about wild animals, science experiments, and Christmas. A highlight for most boys was playing tag rugby on a Monday.

Carmen van Zyl



GRADE N

It was in January 2020
that our year in Grade N began
We were almost five and ready to go
And so off to Bishops we ran.

We felt excited but nervous
And sometimes even sad
But our teachers were so loving,
soon school didn't seem so bad.

We had a whole new environment
to discover and explore
Sandpit, swings, jungle gyms
Crafts and construction toys galore.

We had music lessons and morning rings
We learnt new songs and rhymes
We were taught to try and find out 'why?'
And be kind to our friends at all times.

In Term 1 we attended chapel
It was the first time that we went
We learnt all about Ash Wednesday
Which is the special day before Lent.

We also had a puppet show
With puppets hanging from strings
They taught us about how our bodies work
And a lot of other things.

Mr Brown turned 60 in February
And he got a huge, big card from us

We also painted him a birthday banner
That was almost as long as a bus!

Our first term was filled with fun and games
But who could have foreseen
That at the end of March our world was struck
With a virus called Covid-19.

Now we had to stay at home
That's what our President said
This seemed strange and not much fun
And we entered our LOCKDOWN with dread.

We couldn't go to school anymore
And we couldn't play with our friends
Our parents tried hard to keep us busy
And we wondered when it would end.

Term 2 of school was not the same
But we could see our teachers and peers
Although on a screen, we enjoyed the chats
Which eased our worries and fears.

There were parts of LOCKDOWN that were good
Spending time with mom and dad was cool
But in July it was decided by all
That we could finally return to school.

Now it was Term 3 but things were different
It was winter and the weather was cold
Mom and Dad couldn't walk us to class
And we had to be brave and bold.

We listened carefully to all the rules
About sanitising and wearing our mask
Our teachers said we were AMAZING
For a small boy this is no easy task.

We also got some nice new teachers
Mrs Gedu and Mrs Ahmed joined the team
But we only had 10 friends back in each class
Small groups were better it seemed.

Each group had their own class now
Where we would play for most of the day
We learnt about water, bugs and transport
And how to pack our belongings away.

After that we went on holiday
and returned for term number FOUR
It felt like the year was flying by
But we needed to learn much more.

This term our class groups had certainly grown
We had all of our friends back together
Our teachers were pleased online teaching was over
And we even had sunnier weather.

Now we could play with water outside
The new mud kitchen was a hit
With buckets and spades we went to work
We had missed having fun in the sandpit.

We had Gilly come over for story time
She's always so lovely to see
She plays her drum with a rum-pa-pum-pum
And we listen to her stories with glee.

In November we had our fun Sports Day
On our field with the mountain view

There were races with beanbags, hoops and hats
Followed by a picnic and dancing too.

As December approached we were getting close
To the end of our Grade N year
Our teachers were proud of how we had grown
And 'WELL DONE' they said with a cheer!

'Our Grade N boys have given it their all,
They've been brave and true shining stars,
We will miss them all dearly but we wish them the best
As they start the new year as Grade Rs.'

Emily Venter







Intern staff members



Luca Di Trapani

ART

Art at Bishops is an important part of the curriculum, as the art room is a place where the Grade 1 and 2 boys can create freely and be guided and inspired. Our walls have been covered with fantastic creations and colourful representations of growing minds. The enthusiasm of the boys as they approached the art room, eager to see what they would be drawing or painting that day, reflects the passion they put into their creativity. The children enjoyed experimenting with different media and subject matter, and had fun in a nurturing and supportive space.

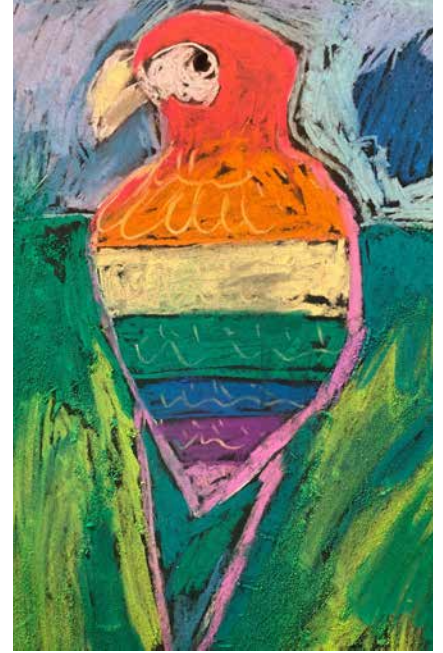
Deirdre Harris (Art specialist teacher)

Art club

Our first term in Art Club was abuzz with boys who were so excited to explore a world of creativity. Having an hour to let their creativity flow is just the thing our boys needed after a busy day in the classroom. With gentle encouragement, those who felt they needed some help really blossomed and found their creative niche, and those who felt more comfortable with expressing themselves reached even greater heights!

Carmen van Zyl





READATHON

'Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are.' - Mason Cooley

The theme for our Readathon was about being kind and about how, even though we are all different, together we can make the world a better place. A range of books with diverse characters and value-rich topics was sourced and added to the library's growing collection. Although the boys were back at school on alternate days, the Readathon still needed to be adjusted to meet Covid-19 protocols and social-distancing rules. We adapted to it by inviting storytellers to read to the boys online, including Prep Headmaster Greg Brown, our secretary Babalwa Manyela, the College Deputy Head

Boy Adam Suliaman, and our intern, Micka Schubert. All the stories related to kindness and diversity in some way. The principal, Tony Reeler, read his story to the boys in person at the Pre-Prep, wearing crazy socks.

The boys in Grades 1 and 2 participated in the Readathon Challenge and a prize was awarded to the boy who read the most pages over the week. Dress Up Day and Crazy Sock Day were held over two days to ensure that each alternate day group experienced the fun. The boys also donated books to institutions representing the less privileged.

Karin Wallace



SPORT

ATHLETICS

The competition at Sports Day was fierce as the boys were pushed towards the finish line by the force of their parents' cheering. Congratulations are due to Isma-eel Domingo, Oli Naylor and Luke Eedes for their first-place wins in their respective age groups. The athletics team is selected from the outcome of this event. The team participated in two events in Term 1 – the Bishops Quadrangular and the Pentangular hosted by SACS. The boys had quick and powerful starts, while good teamwork in the relay events and competitive spirit won them accolades from many of the onlookers. Oli Naylor, Ben Smolders, David Ebbs, Angus Hofmeyr and Daniel Twycross represented the U7s in impressive displays of power and speed. The U8s were represented by Tariq Eskinazi, Alex Reeves, Luke Eedes, Matthew Arkcoll and Faiq Joseph, who also all played a vital role in adding points to the Bishops scoreboard.

Fun Sports Day

This wonderful late-afternoon function is usually held at the end of Term 1, but Covid-19 put a stop to our plans. We had to think about how we would do it differently, and decided to go ahead in the last term, with no spectators. What a fun and exciting morning for the boys, despite no parents watching. The races were fuelled by Grade N to 2 energy which, if bottled, could power Cape Town's electricity for a whole weekend!

The teachers got involved too, taking part in sack races, soccer-ball dribbles and baton relays.

Carron Merrick

SWIMMING

[grit] noun

'Possessing imposing indomitable spirit. Having a drive for achievement, regardless of upbringing or situation. Earning success in the trenches through hard work.'

Our Pre-Prep squad set a high standard of perseverance and passion from the starting block. During the first term they took part in numerous A and B league galas held at Bishops Prep, Rondebosch and SACS. The squad proved they had **G**uts to take on the unknown as novice gala swimmers. The boys displayed **R**esilience and **I**ntegrity throughout their races, with a remarkable amount of **T**enacity. As always, the ladder relay was the highlight of each event, in which the Prep and Pre-Prep boys swam together with camaraderie. After the long lockdown, the boys were delighted to be back and, although we could not dive straight back into squad training, we could hold class swimming sessions, which helped to streamline the boys' strokes

Chanelle Haumann



Grade 1 and 2 Fun Gala

The final swimming session of the fourth term for Grades 1 and 2 took the form of a fun swimming gala. The boys participated in a variety of races that included kicker boards, bandanas and marshmallows, to name a few. It actually is possible to swallow a marshmallow whole without choking, especially if you're in a hurry to get to the other end of the pool and get first place! There was also an opportunity for some of our boys to swim a few lengths. It became evident that the boys' and coaches' hard work during swimming lessons had paid off, since many of the boys were able to swim a length effortlessly.

Liz Daames



TAG RUGBY

This year provided many challenges for our budding young sportsmen. We managed to facilitate Tag Rugby for the boys for eight weeks. In this time, the boys showed why Tag Rugby has one of the highest learner-participation rates of all the sports offered to the Pre-Prep boys. The coaches ensured that the boys learnt the basics of rugby through innovative interactive skills and activities. Although we couldn't hold the annual Tag Rugby Festival, the boys still played games against one another in their brightly coloured T-shirts, in teams that were carefully selected to ensure there was a balance in ability and skill.

*Stuart McConnell (Tag Rugby, South Africa) and
Geordie Nolte*

