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BISHOPS PRE-PREPARATORY



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PRE-PREPARATORY NEWS

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

General



Noell Andrews

The teachers, together with the grade 3 teachers, returned to a mini internal conference on the day before school began. We invited Simon Hurry to return and share a little

more with us as a Pre-Prep staff around our natural strengths – it was most informative and entertaining.

Our students from CPUT and those from Varsity College joined us on the first day of term and were welcomed by the teaching staff and boys. Some of us were fortunate enough to get tickets for the Bishops Classic Pops held in the City Hall – an event which takes place every three years and which showcases the best Bishops has in the music department. It certainly was a night to enjoy and remember.

As part of our IQAA process, the teachers visited each other's classrooms to observe lessons being taught while also making other observations within the classroom such as wall charts, the use of apparatus and teaching equipment and the general atmosphere etcetera. The grade 1 and 2 boys completed a survey that was age appropriate and once the results were analysed, open discussions were had with each class to investigate the findings. The boys were able to share quite openly about their opinions, which were taken seriously and will be fed back

to teachers as part of their appraisal this year. Our mentor, Mr Dave Shutte, visited us towards the end of term – the final report should be completed by the end of the year and made



William Heath with his grandparents

available to parents.

Both grade R and the grade 1s and 2s hosted their grandparents for tea. Both occasions were very successful events with grandparents really enjoying the opportunity to 'attend' school for a short while. Desiré Swanich and Tam Speirs prepared the grade 1 and 2 boys for a morning of entertainment which was greatly appreciated. It really was a happy morning! On both occasions parents assisted with the serving of teas for which we were most grateful. The grade Rs entertained their grandparents in the classrooms before tea.

Parent interviews were held towards the end



Luke Reynolds during Readathon Week

of term during which the teachers were able to give them feedback on their sons' progress to date. The teachers find these meetings very valuable.

One week in September we held our annual Readathon Week which Sharlene Groom coordinated. The Travelling Bookshop visited us in the foyer and experienced outstanding sales as boys, teachers and parents browsed through the lovely books. We were visited by the National Theatre for Youth who presented in the Memorial Theatre. A theatre group who present short entertaining skits from books, also visited the school in an effort to encourage reading. We have copies of the books shared and they have been listening to and enjoying them in the library. Boys often take them out again to read at home.

Our combined Grade R-2 Memorial Chapel Family Service took place towards the end of term and it was wonderful to have the grade Rs



Ben Wallace with his cousins, Cameron and Alexander

join us for the first time in the big chapel. A good body of parents joined us, and with the singing and excellent prayers from the boys together with a message about heritage from Fr Terry; it was a wonderful service. Both Greg Brown and Guy Pearson joined us for the service.

Cameron and Alexander Wallace's cousin, Ben, from the UK, shared some of his knowledge and experience of our wildlife one Monday morning in the Memorial Theatre in place of assembly. He had just completed a placement period of time in South Africa on a game farm in the Eastern Cape, travelled in both Botswana and Mozambique, and prior to flying back home expressed a desire to share his knowledge with our boys. This linked in with our theme on heritage as so many of our animals are at risk.

The annual Tag Tournament on Lutgensvale took place towards the end of term one Friday afternoon. This was followed by a braai. It



Jordan De Sousa in full stride ready to pass the ball

was a very successful event as our grade Rs experienced some tag coaching from the association. They are offering coaching during this term to the boys in grade R and this has proved to be very popular. The improvement in the skills demonstrated during the grade 1 and 2 games was very evident. We had wonderful weather and great fun was had by all.

The term ended very successfully with the Pre-Prep Parade which was organised and run by the Prep Parents Association. The boys had enormous fun completing the different stations and activities within each classroom. All the boys participated. A highlight was the lucky draws for prizes at the end together with ice lollies! Thank you to all of the parents who supported this as about R36 000 was raised which will go towards our building fund.

Staff development and news:

Ann van Breda, Sharlene Groom and Geordie Nolte attended the Micklefield Foundation Phase Conference one Saturday called 'Teaching with Heart', which they found, as usual, to be very informative. We held an in-house workshop on teaching handwriting and creative writing together with the grade 3 teachers – we finalised the writing policy for Pre-Prep. Sharlene Groom, together with some teachers from Prep, attended the Roadshow on Educational Trends hosted by RBPS – examining inclusion within classrooms. Nicky van Zyl, Laurelle Fry, Carron Cale and Rose Harris, together with one or two Prep teachers, attended a First Aid Training

Course that ran over two days. Noell Andrews, together with the Deputy Heads at Prep, attended the ISASA Deputy Heads' Conference in White River.

Noell Andrews decided to take early retirement



The Bulls - Avumile, Jack, Jamie, Ben, Luke and, kneeling, Joseph

for personal reasons and so the process began to find a suitable replacement. A rigorous interview process followed and we were all thrilled and excited to hear from Greg Brown that Sharlene Groom, presently teaching grade 2, has been appointed from January 2015. We welcome her as Head and wish her every success as she takes the school forward.

It was decided by the school to appoint Ashleigh Osborne, previously Swartz, to the grade 2 post for 2015. Ashleigh has spent the last four years within our classrooms across the school as a Learnership studying Foundation Phase through UNISA. She is more than ready to teach and manage her own class, and we welcome her onto the Bishops staff and trust that she will enjoy being part of this great 'family'.

Courtenay van Zyl has completed her first year of studying and she will remain in grade



Adam Constant, with the ball, supported by Josh van Wyk, on his left, and Jack Campbell

R next year. Megan Blanckenberg is seeking a place within a university so that she can continue her studies in Psychology. We wish her everything of the best as she leaves Bishops at the end of this year.

We will be welcoming two new Learnerships to Bishops Pre-Prep next year – Miss Fierdous Karriem and Princess Fongoqa. We trust that they will find the school stimulating and enjoy the opportunity of working together with the experienced team of teachers.

Outreach

We continued our extra sandwich day on Tuesdays. We supported Casual Day as well as Bandana Day – both extremely relevant and good causes. During our Readathon Week the boys donated books that were given to schools. Little Libraries also placed a bookshelf with us which the grade R boys filled.



Tiaan Louw ready to make his move during the tag tournament

NEWS FROM GRADE R



Oliver Howie celebrates his South African heritage by plaiting a koeksuster

We started off term 3 with deafening roars, heavy stomping, and piercing shrieks - the 'Days of the Dinosaur' outing was incredible! The limelight was standing next to the T-Rex and realising how small we are in comparison! The subject of their size, their markings, their sounds and their eventual extinction opened the door to many interesting discussions. Our heritage of fossils helped to inform the boys' opinions!

Our next big event was International Food Day where the boys 'travelled' around the world and tasted what food is eaten on the different continents and most importantly, what tasty food South Africa has inherited. It was interesting that while

many boys had tasted pizza, chocolate brownies and sushi, not many had tasted koeksusters, bobotie or pap. With sustenance in their bellies, the boys then 'journeyed' to the centre of the earth - realising that there is a whole new world to discover under our feet! They watched incredible footage of what the world looks like inside. They were fascinated by the deepest-living animal ever to be found - a devil worm. To keep things real, the boys got to do a little digging themselves - earthworms, slugs, beetles and a centipede helped to ground them - no strange worms to be found at these depths!

When they surfaced the boys turned on their

imagination, put on their wetsuits and went diving for treasure in our planet's beautiful oceans. Amazing facts were discovered in this undersea heritage. The boys got to share their finds with their grandparents on Grandparents Day, as well as enjoying a morning of crafts, songs and delicious tea. In return their grandparents imparted their pearls of wisdom. A wonderful morning was had by all!

It was now time to don a suit of another kind for their voyage into space. Their 'journey' allowed for a bit of Bishops' history to be shared. The boys were very proud that the first African citizen in space was a Bishops' boy! Watching Neil Armstrong take his first steps on the moon and seeing Felix Baumgartner's phenomenal freefall inspired a few boys to make their own giant leap for mankind! Mission completed, we returned home just in time to celebrate our own heritage with a mini-holiday and braai at home.

The boys came back to school with stories about their family traditions and with some of

their heirlooms for 'show and tell'. South Africa's cultural and natural heritage sites were explored with how important it is to take care of their heritage. World Rhino Day helped to raise an awareness of how our actions can impact upon our planet and its animals in the future. The boys all went home asking their parents to please keep their nail clippings so that the rhinos' horns could be protected!

A busy term wound down with Readathon Week. The grade 2 boys returned to their roots and read enthusiastically to awe-filled grade R boys. The boys were also treated to a spectacular performance of Charlotte's Web. Charlotte, the spider, showed the boys how the words we spin can make a difference and that the words you choose to leave behind should have a positive and lasting impact. The Grade R team chose a word for our superstars that they could read for themselves - WOW! Thanks for a great term boys!

Carron Cale, Carmen Van Zyl and Geordie Nolte

NEWS FROM GRADE 1

The boys came back feeling refreshed after their lovely winter holiday and were ready for the long term ahead. We started the term learning about plants and how things grow. We planted bean seeds and kept a diary as the boys excitedly recorded the growth of their beans. We visited the Science Centre where the boys dissected beans, enjoyed the science experiment show and had fun discovering the science activities on the floor. In keeping with this theme, we celebrated Arbour Day by learning about trees, their uses and their importance to our environment.

Having discovered our local environment, we broadened our theme work to learning about

our home planet Earth and our solar system. The boys did fabulous art using chalks, and built 3D space rockets. We had started developing creative writing and so the boys were able to write a simple story about travelling into space.

Every second year, during the third term, we celebrate Grandparents Day. Our theme this year was medieval times. The Pre-Prep was transformed with the children's art of shields, dragons and castles. After a wonderful concert, the grandparents enjoyed a delicious tea. It was fabulous to have so many grandparents able to join us for this special morning.

Another highlight of the term was our Readathon Week. The boys were encouraged



Grade 1s having fun building at the Science Centre

to read as much as possible. Mums came to share stories with the boys while they enjoyed delicious treats. The boys also collected gently used books for donation. The class who read the most pages was Mrs Harris's class, and they thoroughly enjoyed their pizza prize!

It was Heritage Day on the 24 September; we explored our heritage with a theme entitled Proudly South African. The boys made posters celebrating our Rainbow Nation, brought special South African food to school and came dressed as proud South Africans. Our chapel service was also centred on this theme, and the boys prayed for our country and sang appropriate hymns and our National Anthem. As it was the end of the winter sports season, we held a tag rugby tournament at Lutgensvale which ended with a family braai that was most enjoyable.

The final highlight of the term was the Pre-Prep Parade. This fun-filled day was well organised by the PA and was a great way to end such a long and busy term.

Rosemarie Harris, Ann van Breda and Nazli Meredith

NEWS FROM GRADE 2

Term three at Bishops has been filled with fun, excitement and the boys have been exposed to many varied learning opportunities. The grade 2 boys started the term off by hosting the grandparents to an entertaining morning of song, musical items and poetry together with a wonderful spread of tea and cakes. The hall looked spectacular as the mums added a special touch to welcome these very special people to our school. These boys had this to say about Grandparents Day. "At Grandparents Day it was great to see my grandparents and to show

them my work and to sing to them." by **Joseph Gilbert** 2M. "I loved seeing my grandparents; it was lots of fun with them. When it was time for the concert, I got stage fright!" by **Arran Muir** 2M.

Our Readathon week took on a slightly different look this year. We made a bold statement by turning the large tree on the playground into a reading tree. We covered the trunk and branches in beautiful orange fabric and hung large books from the branches. Under the tree were cushions to sit on and

some books to read. Many special moments were enjoyed under the tree, despite the windy days! The school foyer was transformed into a fairy tale with bunting and books hanging from everywhere. Some of the boys' thoughts: "I liked how they decorated the tree. I enjoyed that you got to read lots of books." by **Ayabulela Dyaphu** 2g. "My first favourite thing was dressing up for Character Day and the second was that we won!" by **Sebastian Cheminais** 2G. The Travelling Bookshop displayed books for sale. Thank you to those generous parents who purchased books to donate to other less privileged schools. The grade 2 boys were also invited to bring along old books which we could donate to schools and day-care centres that have no access to books. We collected in excess of 270 second-hand books for this worthy cause. Thank you to all who gave so generously. The boys in grade 2 who read the most pages during Readathon Week were: Nicholas Basson (2G) 3012 pages, Michael Kotze (2M) 1226 pages and Ross Walker (2F) 1866 pages. The winning grade 2 class was grade 2G with a total of 14308 pages read! Well done to all the boys for their enthusiastic participation.

During this week we enjoyed Character Day where every boy could come dressed as their favourite book character. We ended the day off with a picnic outside. A wonderful Japanese author visited us and shared fascinating stories that he had written. He showed the boys magnificent illustrations while telling the story. They then had an opportunity to make themselves new hairstyles which was great fun. The National Theatre for Youth also entertained us with an excellent presentation of Charlotte's Web. This was a highly entertaining morning where children were invited to participate in the show and a thoroughly enjoyable morning

was had by all. We were also treated to a lovely workshop by Nicole Levin, author of *Have You Shurped Strawberry Soup?* The children were excited to meet an author and shared these views **Jordan de Sousa** - "I loved pretending to be cooking." **Adam Constant** - "I loved drawing and making our own book." **Avumile Mngxekeza** - "I loved all the acting."

Our outing this term took us to The Magic Classroom at the School of Magic. Here we met the legendary Professor Bayla. He shared many interesting facts about various magicians of the past and showed us fascinating artefacts from past magic shows. This inspired the imagination of the boys and after some investigations with interesting items like mirrors, magnifying glasses, spoons and telescopes, we were treated to a wonderful magic show by one of the training magicians. The boys shared their experiences as follows: "I loved it when Mr Starlight did the magic show," by **Carwyn Davies** 2M. "I loved the telescope and my absolute favourite was the flying hanky," by **Bafokeng Lehloenywa** 2M.

Our hockey season ended off with an inter-schools' tournament hosted by Rondebosch Boys Preparatory. We took 5 teams along and played many games. What an exciting end to a wonderful season. Each team must be congratulated on their great manners and good sportsmanship. Some of the boys commented as follows: "My favourite bit of the tournament was the schools that we faced. I liked our team; it was lots of fun," by **Andrew Betty** 2M. "I liked my team because we worked well together. We won three and lost one," by **Daniel Foulkes** 2M.

One of the highlights of the term is definitely the Tag Rugby Tournament which ended the term off on a high note.

Laurelle Fry, Heather Mills, Sharlene Groom