



BISHOPS PRE-PREPARATORY



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PRE-PREPARATORY NEWS

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT



Noell Andrews

General:

The year began with a mini staff conference where we were welcomed back and addressed by Guy Pearson together with Marcus Bizony who took us through the excellent Matric results. Staff then met within their own schools and our Grades held meetings and spent time in their classrooms preparing for the start of the year.

All the Parent/Teacher meetings were held within the first two weeks of term, and our new parents in Grade R and across Grade 1 and 2 joined us for a reception in Greg Brown's garden where they were once again welcomed to the school and addressed by him. The boys all settled down well and during the second week of term we carried out our Baseline assessments on all the Grade R boys to ascertain their strengths and areas which needed stimulation or support. This has proved to be a valuable exercise for the teachers with regards to their planning and teaching. It also provides an opportunity for Nicky van Zyl, our secretary, and me to get to know the parents a little better. June Charlton once again visited Grade 1 classes to assess their school readiness.

Mike Hampton, our youth pastor, began visiting the boys on a regular basis and joined us for two assemblies during the term – one while hosting the Independent Schools Scripture Union team. Each week Father Terry met with one of the Grades in the Brooke Chapel. The Grade R Family Service held in the Brooke Chapel towards the end of term was well attended by parents – creating much excitement for the boys with this being their first chapel service at Bishops. The Grade 1 and 2 boys enjoyed a special Ash Wednesday service in the Brooke Chapel, together with all the teachers. Those boys who chose to, received the ashes on their foreheads at the end of the service. On Founder's Day, a special service was held in our school hall during which some of the interesting history of the Pre-Prep and whole school was shared. The Pre-Prep celebrated 52 years, while the school celebrated 165 years in total. Afterwards the boys enjoyed cupcakes and juice before going home early.

Parent/Teacher meetings were held towards the end of term replacing a written report, and giving everyone the opportunity to find out how their sons had settled into school.

Our Fun Sports Day took place in the last week of term when every boy has the opportunity to participate in fun activities. This is always followed by the Moms' Race and then the exciting tug 'o war with the Dads really competing against each other in their class teams! Fortunately we don't keep any scores!

Staff development and news:

We welcomed Sharlene Groom into Grade 2 at the start of the year – she has settled in well and appears to be very happy in her classroom. Mandy Kowarski went off on maternity leave at the

end of January to have her twin daughters – they are all doing well. We hope to have Mandy rejoin us soon; however, we are very happy to have Claudia Ranoszek on our team, supporting the boys who are experiencing difficulties. Claudia's sons both came through the Pre-Prep so she is familiar with the school. We also welcomed Megan Blankenberg and Courtenay van Zyl to our Learnership Programme – Megan has completed her studies in psychology and is spending this year in Grade 1 gaining experience within a classroom. Courtenay is spending her first year of studying in Grade R with Carron Cale as her mentor. Before the start of second term, Ashleigh Swartz, who is in her final year of studying, got married to Grant Osborne – we wish them both every blessing for a happy future together. We held an English Language workshop, led by Nazli Meredith, during which we had a closer look at learning through play; the focus was on phonics and various games, both digital and concrete, which can be used to consolidate sounds and spelling. Rose Harris, Sharlene Groom and Noell Andrews, together with Anne McDonald, attended an excellent and thought provoking workshop on ADHD presented at UCT on a Saturday morning.

Sport:

As the first term is a busy one, we held swimming trials for our Grade 2s on the second day of term in an effort to give the swimmers an opportunity to receive some coaching before the galas began. Results of the B League Relay Gala held at Wynberg Boys Junior School and in which six schools participated are as follows: Backstroke 2nd place; Breaststroke 3rd place; Medley 3rd place and Freestyle 6th place. Results of the A League Relay Gala held at SACS in which five schools participated are as follows: Breaststroke 3rd place; Backstroke 3rd place; Medley 4th place and Freestyle 3rd place. Results of the final Pentangular Gala held at Rondebosch Boys' Preparatory School are as follows: Medley relay 2nd place; Freestyle relay 2nd place; U8 Freestyle swum by Reuben Truter 4th place; U8 Breaststroke, swum by Michael Kotze, 4th place; U8 Backstroke, swum by Reuben Truter, 3rd place. Overall Bishops were placed 3rd. A good start to the season!

During the second week of the new year, we ran heats across the three grades in order to select the final eight boys in each grade to participate during Sports Day. Track eliminations were held one morning at Lutgensvale and the boys who qualified began preparation for Sports Day which was held on the first Friday afternoon in February. The results are as follows: U6 75m **Reve Tuscher** 1st and the trophy, **Tristan Thirion** 2nd, **James Gordon** 3rd and **Luke Hofmeyer** 4th place; U7 75m **Rowan Piorkowski** 1st and the trophy, **Simon Greager** 2nd, **Cayden Mushonga** 3rd and **Jaden Bosch** 4th place; U8 75m **Arran Muir** 1st and the trophy, **Adam Constant** 2nd, **James Kotze** 3rd and **Carwyn Davies** 4th place. The team selected from these results then began practicing in earnest for the Southern Suburbs Quadrangular which was hosted by Bishops at Lutgensvale. The schools participating were Bishops, Rhenish, Western Province Prep School and Wynberg Boys Junior School. The results are as follows: U7 50m **Rowan Piorkowski** 1st, **Simon Greager** 3rd; U8 50m **Arran Muir** 1st, **Adam Constant** 3rd; U7 4 x 50m Shuttle Relay 2nd place; U8 4 x 50m Shuttle Relay 3rd place; U8 100 m **Arran Muir** 1st place. Early in March we participated in the Pentangular Athletics Meeting, hosted by Western Province Preparatory School, in which the following schools competed – Bishops, WPPS, SACS, RBPS and Wynberg Boys' Junior School. The results are as follows: U7 50m **Rowan Piorkowski** 3rd; U8 50m **Arran Muir** 3rd;

U7 4 x 50m 2nd and U8 4 x 50m 3rd. Our Fun Sports Day was held in the last week of term which is always great fun for the boys, giving them all an opportunity to participate in fun activities within their class and grade. Once again we had excited parents and families who gave the boys plenty of support.

Outreach:

We continued our 'extra sandwich' day on Tuesdays. We have a team of dedicated parents who deliver these each week to Athwood Primary where they are gratefully received.

We supported the Animal Anti Cruelty Organisation by collecting food and other items for cats and dogs. This tied in nicely with the grade 1 theme of Pets.

News from Grade R

Part of our vision statement reads, "Inspire individuals to open their minds and hearts, and to reach their dreams." Term 1 began with the reading of Eric Carle's "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." In Grade R the boys are exposed to an array of experiences to help them discover what it is that will help them emerge from hungry little caterpillars into multifaceted butterflies flying towards their dreams. The boys started their journey by sharing their families and home backgrounds with their new class, and the teachers sharing the Bishops' family and school grounds with the boys. An early introduction to Chapel and Father Terry allowed the boys to see that spirituality can be celebrated in many different ways, and that laughter is an essential ingredient! He also explained that taking care of their physical bodies is important; linking in cleverly with the weekly "Body" theme, and making good use of George, the Biology labs' skeleton, for good visual effect. Our hungry little caterpillars need LOTS of feeding at the start of the year to keep their bodies healthy and growing. One of our favourite events is the Moms and Sons Picnic, where the boys get to test their Bishops gentleman manners, and eat, and eat and eat! The beaming faces were evidence that both parties got it right! Part of the journey in Grade R is also shared by the dads. This is mostly during



Anne Ddamulira and Carla Antoni playing at being tour operators at Green Point Park



Grade R does the bee food dance

morning game-time which is usually followed by vigorous exercise outdoors, or engineering time with the construction equipment indoors. It is always interesting to see how much fun the dads have with these games! Discovering the wonderful world we live in is a part of the caterpillar's journey. The Grade Rs went on an outing to the Green Point Urban Park, where their parents acted as tour operators, encouraging the boys to use their five senses to explore and enjoy the biodiversity of this amazing park. Discovering the beaded animals proved to be the most exciting part of the outing,



Finn Moran – Buzz about Bee show



*Noah Souter and Odin Aspinall –
Happy Birthday Bishops!*

while exploring in the San and Khoi-Khoi beehive-shaped huts, the most interesting. The boys were introduced to beehives of a different sort, when FANSA visited the school and entertained the boys with an informative show, 'Buzz about Bees.' A remarkable fact is that bees can communicate to other bees where to find food - the boys LOVED doing the communication dance! We concluded our term with the theme 'Lifecycles'. Comparing different creatures' lifecycles allowed the boys the opportunity to discover how amazing life is. We celebrated our school's cycle of life as it turned 165 - the boys made MANY candles for our cake! Mr Hampton also visited the boys during this period and gave the boys a glimpse of another type of life-cycle - that of Jesus. In preparation for Easter, he illustrated to the boys, in the gentlest and most creative of ways, how life can be renewed. From the cocoon a creature of flight emerges. In Grade R, to keep it meaningful for the boys, much of our learning is based around stories and is context based. Our hungry little caterpillars are still foraging and finding many new and wonderful things to gobble up and try out every day while discovering along the way what it is they truly desire. We will continue to provide an array of delicacies in the hope that we will get the mix just right, so that minds and hearts are opened to the possibilities that life holds in store for them. Happy foraging Grade Rs!

Carmen van Zyl, Geordie Nolte and Carron Cale

News from Grade 1



Daniel van den Heever, Fletcher Irvine-Smith and Muhammad-Zayd enjoying the Grade 1 picnic with their mothers.

2014 got off to a great start! All the little boys were so eager to get back to school; the teachers were not too sure if it was to settle down and learn to read and write or to see their friends again! We happily welcomed the new boys to the school: **Joe Bolus, Massimiliano Hunt, Luke Reynolds** and **Luke Carter**. Our themes for the year are child-centred and therefore we always start with the theme, 'Me, Myself and I'. As the boys are now in new classes

with new friends, we encourage them to share a little about themselves and their families. This helps them to get to know each other better. We discuss similarities and differences, as this helps them to appreciate and show respect for each other. At the end of the first week, we invite the mothers to come and picnic with their boys and new classmates on the Frank Reid field. This affords them the opportunity to meet the teachers and their sons' new friends. To end this theme, instead of having our normal Grade 1 chapel service, Father Terry conducts a special 'Blessing of the Pets' service on the field outside our classrooms. Our next theme is about where we live. As we are so lucky to be surrounded by the sea, we explore the beaches and marine life that is right on our doorstep. We visited the Two Oceans Aquarium where we started in their classroom exploring and learning about the sea life in rock pools. We then went into the Aquarium and spent the rest of the morning watching the fish, the penguins and of course the sharks move around in their natural environment. The little boys thoroughly enjoy this outing and were mesmerised by the abundance and diversity of sea life in our oceans. Another outing that we do in keeping with this theme is a trip down to St James beach. Seventy-two excited little boys and their parents board the train at Rondebosch Station armed with buckets and spades, fishing nets and all the equipment needed for a happy morning on the beach. It was a beautiful day and much fun was had by all – swimming, building sand castles and exploring the rock pools. As only the top eight runners compete in the Bishops Sports Day, we end the term with the Pre-Prep Fun Sports Day. The boys compete in their classes in sack races, bean bag races, tug-o-war and relay races. To finish off the evening all the families join their classes and have a picnic on the field. It is a lovely way to end a very busy term.

Rosemarie Harris, Ann van Breda and Nazli Meredith

News from Grade 2



Grade 2s waiting for the fun sports to begin

What a great start to 2014 for the Grade 2s! Seventy-three excited boys arrived on the first day of school ready to learn and embrace the challenges that come with Grade 2. They quickly settled into their new routines and have been very busy working, learning and playing hard. Valentine's Day was a highlight for the boys as they all came dressed in red and white. The teachers felt so spoilt and loved as we were showered with flowers and chocolates in celebration.

Friendship cookies were made by each boy for one of their classmates. Mrs Groom's class also made Fuzzy Wuzzy hearts. A fuzzy wuzzy feeling is that feeling you experience when someone gives you a big hug, or when someone says something really nice about you. **Ambethe Liwani** received beautiful fuzzys when he was told by his classmates that he is friendly; the best in the world; very handsome; caring and fast. The class agreed that **Brett Jenman** was confident and kind, as well as funny and caring. He is, apparently, the best cousin in the world too! The Brilliant Dog Show visited Bishops Pre-Prep as well in the first term. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all. These dogs had us so intrigued and in fits of laughter as we watched them show off their clever skills. **Arran Muir** could not believe that, "the dog jumped on the man's shoulder". **Daniel Foulkes** was amazed that, "the dog, called Play, tapped the letters and managed to work out the word goodbye". **Yusuf Ahmed** remarked that, "the dog trainer talked dog language". Once the show was over, Hero, the dog took the chance to visit Miss Mills' class in hope of finding some little treats as a reward for all his clever tricks. We have learned much this term about insects and bugs; our outing to Butterfly World in Stellenbosch was a fantastic experience of everything we have been talking about this term. **Adam Constant** loved the parrot that danced 'Gangnam-style' when he sang to it. **Christopher Gray** said his favourite part was seeing the python because it smelt him. To end off this busy term we invited Uncle Leo, our friendly bee keeper, to come and talk to us about bees and beekeeping. We all got to taste the special honey his bees have made. So, when your sons want to save the little, tired bee by giving it some sugar water; you now know where they learnt this from.

Laurelle Fry, Heather Mills and Sharlene Groom

The term had quickly come to an end and we all looked forward to our extra-long holiday.

Noell Andrews



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Anthony Peter
+27 82 777 7077

Phil Brilus
+27 72 757 6091

E: polished@ediamondindex.com
www.ediamondindex.com

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Cape Town

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