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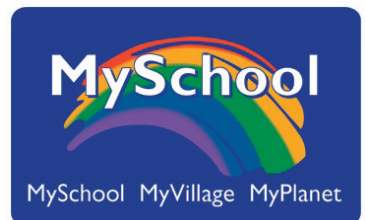
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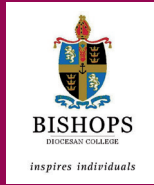
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BISHOPS PRE-PREPARATORY



Oscar Blatch, Cameron Orpen and Antony Smith proudly displaying their Mother's Day gift.

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PRE-PREPARATORY NEWS

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT



Noell Andrews

General:

Our Grade 1 and 2 boys quickly got back into rehearsals for our production, Disney's *Aladdin Kids*, which was staged in August. We hosted a meeting for parents to explain our needs and were overwhelmed by the positive response. It didn't take long for the costume team, led by Joanne Karlein, to get busy sourcing fabrics and start sewing or altering existing costumes from our stock. Others got busy sourcing or making props, building or painting set pieces.

We invited our class representatives to tea in order to thank them for their efforts across the school, and their support of the teachers when necessary.

A meeting was held with all the dads who had so kindly offered to coach Tag rugby this season – the turnout was very encouraging, and we are grateful to our enthusiastic fathers who weekly give up a lunch time on Fridays to assist us with coaching.

Our Grade 2 boys were assessed using the Neale B – an instrument for measuring their reading ability. From this we are able to acquire some important feedback on the progress the boys are making.

Our annual Open Day took place in mid-May. Once again we were supported by College boys who belong to the Public Relations group. They led tours through the school all morning as potential parents (mostly for 2015) came and went. We were very lucky with the weather and had a steady stream of visitors who all seemed to really enjoy the visit; many making specific mention of how impressed they were by the confidence of the College boys and their pleasant engagement with them.

We hosted our Grade 1 parents to a reception evening in our hall. We had lovely weather and those who attended seemed to enjoy the occasion. We thank our two ladies – Sharon Alberts and Ceciline Hendricks – for assisting us on the evening together with stooges from the Prep, and Pardon Kundhlande.

Our sports programme ended with internal tournaments in both hockey and Tag rugby during their normal practice times. We thank parents for all their support. As usual the end of term was very busy with report writing; however, it was a happy term and we looked forward to a three week holiday.

Staff Development And News:

As the term began we were joined by a student, Helen Slater, from CPUT, in grade R. The prep school took a decision that this year we would investigate the possibility of using iPads within the classrooms, as well as privately. This has resulted in a large portion of us signing up for the programme. We attend termly training while also experimenting with apps as to what might work in the classroom. We are beginning to reach the point where some decisions can be made regarding their use within the classroom. The teachers enjoyed a workshop given by a physiotherapist, Bronwyn Greager; on things we can do within the classrooms to stimulate the gross motor system. It was a very practical workshop and reminded us of, or stimulated thinking around activities that

would be suitable. Towards the end of term, we were very saddened to hear of Fr Terry's illness and were grateful to Michael Hampton, our youth pastor, who stepped in to take our Grade 1 and 2 Memorial Chapel family service. Due to Fr Terry undergoing an operation, our Grade R Brooke Chapel service had to be cancelled. We are pleased to have him back with us this term and continue to pray for healing.

News from Grade R



Morning game time is a busy time in Grade R.

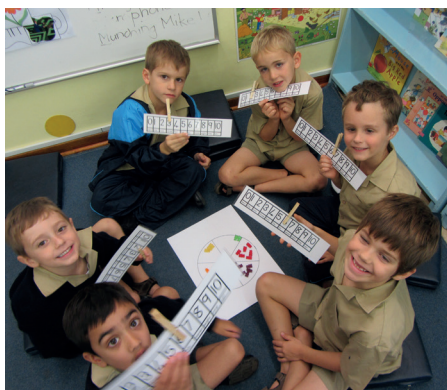
Grade R boys returned from the holidays with greater surety, having spent a full term in their new school. This security has opened the doors to confident questioning of their school environment. 'Why', 'what', 'who', 'when', 'where', are frequent words heard in the Grade R classroom. Term 2 began with all these questions being directed about the teacher's staffroom, which has received a most welcome makeover. Our boys are wonderful detectives and take pride in developing their knowledge about the world they live in. Some were surprised to hear that the teachers do NOT actually live at school, but do

have the occasional cup of coffee and bite to eat during the day - hence the need for a kitchen.

The boys have investigated a wide range of skills in both Mathematics and in Language, and like good detectives they are now capably piecing together the clues that have been set before them to solve the numerous challenges at this level. The wonderful concrete apparatus provided in Grade R allows them the chance to really explore and make meaning of the more formal learning expected of them. It is rewarding to observe their greater independence in their actions, and their excitement in learning the next letter or maths skill.

The numerous group tasks throughout the day have allowed the boys the chance to discover more about the different personality types that they share the classroom space with, and how to co-exist with boys who may see things very differently from the way they do. This is an exceptionally hard skill at any age, but with guidance, the boys are now seeing the benefit of maximizing the diverse talents within their group. It has also given them the chance to connect and create new friendships, and choose how to respond in different social scenarios.

A workshop in developing philosophical thinking skills in young children has led to the introduction of the philosophy question board at Grade R. There are many benefits to encouraging responsive behaviour and deeper thinking skills and the board has engaged the boys and their parents in fascinating debates. 'Do animals dream?'; 'The strongest should always be the leader!'; 'Beautiful people are always kind!'; 'Only clever people should go to school!' Thank you Parents for guiding your sons' responses, and playing devil's advocate when needed. The boys are using these



Armaan Behal, Jean De Villiers, James Robb-Quinlan, Jamie Thomson, Jack Gomes, Rowan Piorkowski: Teddy Bear Mathematics.

Austin: I learnt how long a fireman pole is. It is three quarters long. They use it to get down quickly, to save people from fires. Jack: Firemen can also have fires in their department. A fire pole is very high. Fire fighters have oxygen tanks so that they can breathe; when it goes down to red it means they have to leave the building. Matthew: I learnt the easiest way to get hurt is to hit yourself! I learnt what it sounded like when a fireman went into a fire with his mask on. I learnt the difference between the big, small and teeny fire hoses. They use a ginormous fan to get smoke out of the building. I learnt what the Jaws of Life look like, and I learnt how to spray the small hose. Luke: I learnt about the Jaws of Life. They can bash doors open and that axes can chop doors open. The yellow thing is the fireman's friend. It rings and then the person who has the yellow thing has to go and help the fireman. Michael: I learnt what it is like to be a fire fighter. It is ok. You have to listen to what the commander says and listen to instructions. Then they can do everything correct. They have to run.

As Grade R teachers we often feel like the station commander ensuring that all of our crew are listening to instructions so that they will be able to do things correctly. Fortunately our young fire fighters have the time to learn to 'walk' before having to run! Thank you Parents for helping us to keep your son walking in the right direction with your daily commitment to morning games and the wonderful stories you share with the boys on Fridays. Your boys clearly think the world of you, as reflected in their informative sharing for both Mothers' and Fathers' Days. We look forward to spending more 'running time' with you in the coming terms!

thinking skills to research and discuss our weekly topics; brainstorm; solve problems; and come to a decision in their group work tasks, where peer interaction is encouraged. Our most recent topic, 'Dinosaurs' resulted in heated debates about which dinosaur was the best; what kind of sounds they made; whether they were all cold-blooded; is it good they are extinct? The grade R classroom can be a fiery one!

To cool things down, the boys were taken on an outing to the Salt River Fire Station. The fire-fighters allowed the boys to put their detective skills into action by allowing them to investigate all areas of the station. By the time the boys left, they knew everything there is to know about being a fire-fighter.



Jaan Rinquest shows off his Bear Scales.

News from Grade 1

Our term began with a focus on birds. We studied the characteristics of birds comparing those of the penguin, ostrich and parrot. Our language and mathematical programmes incorporated the theme as the boys learnt about plurals and had fun solving jumbled sentences. The boys used a hand print to create beautiful ostriches that were all fabulously unique. We went on an outing to the World of Birds and the boys thoroughly enjoyed observing the wide variety of bird life. This was also a good introduction to our next theme on mammals: the boys especially delighted in watching the monkeys, fox and jackal. We went on to study wild animals; highlighting the big five, and then finally we learnt about farm animals and the products that we use from them.



Grade 1H at the World of Birds.

Practising began in earnest for our production, *Aladdin*. There was great excitement as the boys were given their parts, costume fittings took place and props were sourced. During our Family Chapel Service, Mike Hampton used the lessons learnt in the story of *Aladdin* and drew parallels to the Bible story of the Prodigal son.

The hockey tournaments and Tag rugby tournament went off well despite the cold, wet weather. We celebrated both Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day, making beautiful gifts to spoil our loving parents. The term ended on a high with a theme on parties - we made invitations; read about different parties; wrote about our dream party; and did poster work in cooperative working groups. Then of course there were the party games - eat the chocolate; musical statues; and pass the parcel, to name a few; not to forget the delicious things that we ate and drank. The boys loved icing Marie biscuits, and a great time was had by all!



Grade 1 Pirate Day!



Grade 1H having fun with the construction toys.

Rosemarie Harris, Ann van Breda and Nazli van den Berg

News from Grade 2



Grade 2F at Groot Constantia.

The second term was jam-packed with lots of exciting events for the Grade 2s! Practising for the Pre Prep's production, *Aladdin*, had begun and the well-rehearsed songs could be heard daily from the hall.

One of the themes we learnt about was, 'Our Rainbow Nation'. The boys were enlightened by Mrs Edwards from Groot Constantia as to our countries of origin, and the influence today that this has had on our people. Tristan Carter surprised Mrs Edwards with his extensive knowledge: "The tour guide was so impressed with me on our outing to Groot Constantia. As I knew that the name

of the Cape thatching reed is called Restio!" Michael Comitis commented: "We learned about the different houses. I loved it!" Richard Alfredo said: "Mrs Edwards taught us about different people and different homes and about history. I want to go back again." Liam Day mentioned: "My favourite part was the tunnels in the old wine cellar. There was a little tunnel about the size of my cat. Here they kept their gold and silver. This kept it safe from the British soldiers who passed by."

Not long after our outing, we celebrated our moms on Mothers' Day. The boys each beautifully decorated tins with colourful tissue paper and planted succulents to give to their moms. William Gibbs was thrilled that, "I got to give a plant to my mom." Ben Norton: "Loved making the pot and planting the succulent inside." Filip Sakota was happy that: "My mom liked the plant and it's still alive today!" Some of our moms were even lucky enough to be served breakfast in bed!

The first half of the hockey season came to a close with all of the hockey boys having learnt many new skills. We put their skills to the test with our end-of-term hockey tournament. The boys were very dedicated and showed excellent sportsmanship during their matches. Nikolaos Augoustatos can't wait until next term's hockey matches: "I really hope we can play another hockey tournament! I scored one goal for our team."

Matthew Brodziak provided excellent defending skills for his team: "I really enjoyed the hockey tournament. I worked very hard to stop the goals, but sometimes the ball just went into the goals through the corner." Sebastien Griffiths remembers helping his team to victory: "During the tournament I scored 2 goals in five games and we won every single game. I felt excited!" Joshua Traut said: "I like playing rugby. It is exciting to play." One of Samuel Berrisford's highlights of the game: "I like diving when you score a try." Thomas Jacobs reminded us of his favourite part of the tournament: "I liked the tag tournament because you get to play against the other teams."

Towards the end of the term, each boy was given an African country to research. The Grade



Internal Hockey Tournament.



Timothy Walsh presenting his African project on Ghana.

2 teachers were bowled over by the high calibre of work that was presented. Nicholas Allison shared his best part of the project with us: "I enjoyed typing information out on the computer and putting together pictures for my project." Athi Vumazonke enjoyed being in the lime light: "We got to present and everyone clapped for us!" Nashe Chahwahwa enjoyed fact-finding and recounts: "I got Sudan and I liked learning a lot about my country."

Last, but certainly not least, we celebrated our dads on Fathers' Day. The dads were spoilt with a picture of their son presented on a clever stand, made up of decorated pegs. Kayan Jaga shared his experience of our Fathers' Day crafts: "I enjoyed making my Father's Day gift, as we got to use gold pens, and my dad said it was lovely." Zayan Koor gave his dad an extra special treat on Fathers' Day; "I woke up and made my dad breakfast with my brother. Then I put my photo frame next to his food. He loved it!"

As the mid-year holidays approached, the boys were ready for a good break. When asked to write about 'My Imaginary Holiday News', Cayden Smith wrote: "I went to Heaven and I saw God and Jesus. Then I became president of South Africa. I had a million rand. I made a law that there will be no more school forever." Lucky for us, school still exists! Term 3 rolls on with many more exciting events to be experienced!

Lindy Brien, Heather Mills and Laurelle Fry



ian burgess-simpson
pianos

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