

NEWSLETTER NO 1 – FEBRUARY 2016

Dear Parents

I am sure you will all agree it has been a really exciting start to the new year, with all the busy things which have been happening here at school. It is hard to believe how much has happened in the 2 years since we first opened. The growth here has exceeded all our expectations. Doors have opened and paths been paved in a mighty way. We feel truly blessed and believe that God has placed His hand over us and is providing for us in a way that we can only marvel at.

NEW PREFAB FOR JUNIOR II CLASS:

Lorrell's Junior II pupils have settled into the new prefab and they are really loving the enormous space and their own playground. We will be developing some outdoor apparatus for Lorrell's big boys to use during break times, but cannot make a start on this until the prefab skirting has been installed. A traverse climbing wall is the first item, and then more to follow. We have a wonderful donation from the Rotary Anns (Hibiscus Coast) for this specific purpose. A big thanks once again to M Projects for so generously donating the prefab classroom. A lot was achieved during the school holidays to get the classroom and playground ready for the start of term and we are so grateful for, and proud of how it has turned out.



BUILDING EXTENSION:

The foundations and slab for our new building were laid before the builders' holidays in December. Since construction was resumed in January, the work has progressed at a rapid rate, and we are nearing completion of this lovely large room.

We have decided to use this room as a multipurpose room ie for music, baking/cooking, Lego club, assemblies, small group/individual tutoring, visiting speakers, teachers' courses, etc. We are looking forward to setting it and up and being able to make use of the space.

DONORS:

We are truly grateful for the generosity of the two donors who gave financial assistance to make this building possible - for their support of our school and the faith that they have placed in our vision and the need for a school such as ours in this area.



We have also had support and generous assistance from a few local companies and private business owners who have been involved in the above two projects which we have undertaken, by supplying materials at reduced costs. Our builder, in particular, has donated his daily time and expertise over the past few months. He has done his best to ensure minimal disruptions to our school routine, and has built, to a high standard, an addition which greatly enhances our current facilities.

NEW CLASSROOM FOR JUNIOR I CLASS:

The Junior I pupils have gone from a tiny classroom in 2015 to the large, beautiful space formerly occupied by the older class. Three pupils moved up from Grade R into this class, and they have formed a happy, productive group with Tansy as their teacher. Pearl Mtembu has joined Tansy as an assistant in this class. Pearl has settled in well and has already proved to be a competent and valuable new member of our team.

PRESCHOOL CLASS:

Skysha, Candy and Thulile continue as an awesome team in the preschool class. Skysha's pregnancy is going well and we are looking forward to the day that we see her with her little one cuddled up in her arms. We are happy to know that Julie Skene will be filling in for Skysha during her maternity leave – Julie filled in as a Grade R teacher at our school in 2014, and often does locum work for us, so she knows the children and routine very well and they are really fond of her.

We are pleased to welcome 2 new pupils in the preschool class – Fuzayl Mahomed and Sumeshan Narainsamy. They have already settled in and are happy in their new school.

VOLUNTEERS:

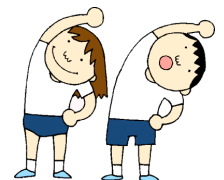
Once again we are blessed to have a team of volunteers assisting us with various programmes and projects at our school.

- **Music:** Carol Nash continues to come to the school every Tuesday morning to do music (movement, percussion and appreciation) using the piano or keyboard. She has got to know our pupils well and prepares a great curriculum for them which they love and respond well to. She has also composed our school song which we are learning and hope to present to you during the course of the year.



- **Music Academy:** Lizanne Nair and her team from the Genesis Music Academy give our Junior Class pupils music lessons, including guitar/drumming according to individual abilities, at a greatly reduced rate which the school covers. Private individual lessons for guitar, drumming or piano are also available after school at the Music Academy should you want your child to learn to play one of these instruments.

- **PE Lessons:** Our former PE teacher, Phil Price, has taken a teaching position at Port Shepstone High School and is therefore unable to continue offering our school PE lessons. In his place Genesis Youth Centre have kindly allowed one of their staff members, Keenan van den Berg, to take our Junior classes for PE lessons this year. Keenan's mom is the owner of Playball on the South Coast, and she has provided Keenan with an amazing PE curriculum developed especially for schools. The children have participated enthusiastically in this programme and are enjoying Keenan's leadership.





- **Friday Assembly:** Trevor Downham continues to come on Friday mornings to play the guitar, sing fun songs and tell a Bible Story to the children. Trevor is an animated story teller, has a natural rapport with children and they look forward to the days when he is here.



- **Home Economics Programme:** Rebecca Carlsen, Jethro’s mom, has so kindly agreed to present a home economics programme to our Junior classes. Rebecca will be teaching the basics of cooking and baking, including hygiene and nutrition, and the 2 lessons that we have had so far have been an enormous success. Rebecca is also helping the children to compile a recipe file, so you should soon be able to put your feet up and be treated to something delicious at home! Thanks also to Pearl who made us a set of aprons for each child to use during these lessons.

If you have spare of any of the following items, please send to school for use in this programme:

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| Rolling pins | Measuring cups and spoons | Baking Trays |
| Cupcake/muffin tins | Graters | Mixing bowls (metal or plastic) |
| Smaller bowls | Chopping boards | Sieves |
| Whisks | Spatulas | Large metal or wooden spoons |
| Plates and dishes | Knives, forks, spoons, teaspoons | |

DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME: Christa Nightingale is continuing to support the teachers as they implement a dental health programme in our school. In January she delivered, on behalf of the KZN Department of Health, new toothbrushes and toothpaste for each child. Many of our pupils struggle with this daily routine for various reasons, and by providing the programme at school, we hope to reinforce your efforts to encourage healthy dental care at home.



Christa came to perform a dental check on each pupil at school on Wednesday 17th February. The children were extremely cooperative and even enthusiastic, giving Christa a chance to examine each child thoroughly. Those children who need further attention would have received a letter to this effect. If your child was absent on that day, please speak to Sheryl regarding a special examination next time Christa visits our school.

LEGO TRAINING: We have had our introductory Lego training which has been sponsored by the LEGO Foundation who donated our incredible stock of LEGO and DUPLO. The LEGO trainer was able to come to the school last week Tuesday for a 2 hour session which we enjoyed immensely. We learnt so much about how to use LEGO in the classroom, and have already started to implement the ideas at school. We look forward to the follow-up session which we will have soon.



SPEECH THERAPY:

Unati Kamanga has started therapy sessions with some of our pupils on Wednesday mornings here at school. Unati was trained at UCT and gained great experience in the Cape, in particular at the renowned Children’s Red Cross Hospital in Cape Town. She gives special rates to Cornerstone pupils. Cash payments are in advance, but claims can be made to medical aid. Please speak to Sheryl for further information. Olivia Luke will continue to provide Occupational Therapy on Monday mornings to pupils whose parents require this service – please let us know if you would like your child to have occupational therapy at school.

OTHER NEWS:

We were given a cheque from the Catholic Women's League (Margate) at the end of last year – this has been used to purchase the new trampoline in our playground (the old one has had its net removed and is being used by the older boys on their new playground), as well as the gazebo which we will only be using on hot summer days.

Thanks to Angelique Bennie who donated the proceeds of school photos to the preschool class - this was used to buy a water cooler with tap for the children to use in the garden, encouraging our children to drink water especially on hot days.

AND LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST:

PICNIC IN THE PARK:

Our quarterly picnic at Bellevue Park will be held **this coming Saturday 27th February from 10:00 until 12:00 am**



Please come and join in the fun, where your children get the opportunity to socialise and enjoy each other's company in a relaxed, stimulating environment.

For those who have not been before, you are welcome to bring bicycles, bats and balls, or anything else which your children will enjoy playing with outdoors. There is plenty to do at Bellevue Park from climbing, swinging, balancing, running etc, to hide and seek and other games they might like to play in lovely safe surroundings. Moms and dads have a chance to sit and chat for a couple of hours while the kids are happy and occupied. Please bring along your own chairs and picnic baskets with snacks for your family. There is plenty shade available.

Hope to see many of our families there.

Regards

Sheryl and the Cornerstone team