



UDOBO SCHOOL
 82 Montclair Road
 Montclair
 Durban
 4004
 Tell: 031-4690029
 Email: anneudobo@gmail.com

1st Term Newsletter 2019

Dear Friends,

The new year began with less staff but an almost full school – Praise God for all our new families who have joined us! Our teacher Amos and his wife, who was an assistant teacher returned to Zimbabwe with their two children. A second teacher, Mrs Daria Hayes left us for a more lucrative position. This has now streamlined the staff without us having to make the decision to retrench.

Miss Edinah Pasipamire took over from Daria as my second in charge and has already stepped up and made the position her own. This helps tremendously with lesson planning and generally helping to oversee the teaching staff.

I thought it would be good to introduce the staff again through the year as we have not done so in a very long time!



The message from Edinah: My name is Edinah Pasipamire. I joined the Udobo family as a volunteer in 2010 before being employed as an educator. My passion is quality education- an, education that empowers and inspires learners, an education that can change a community and a country. I am blessed to be part of the Udobo Team as the school also nurtures the children's spirituality.

Over the years we have made a mark in the community and our students continue to fly and make us proud wherever they go. Working with these precious souls made me realise that it is the only job where you can never get enough hugs and 'I love you' declarations throughout the day! May God continue to bless the school abundantly so that we can continue to send confident little ones who know the love of Jesus, into our community.'

The other staff members who I would like to showcase this time are:

Ntombi Gontsana, Simphiwe Zulu and Lizette Plaatjies.



Ntombi Gontsana



Simphiwe Zulu

Ntombi who is our cleaner, has a very responsible position as she keeps our school to a high standard of cleanliness. She says: "My name is Ntombi. I am a pretty girl grown up in the rural areas, fetching water from the river, gathering woods from the forest. It was nice, I enjoyed those times because it makes me strong as African woman.

When I passed matric I came to Durban to seek a new life. And I came to Udobo School where things started. I met lovely staff, it is nice to be here, we work like a team guided by

the Holy Spirit. I am glad you are our partners. Thank you, God for letting you choose Udobo School, you are so sweet. God bless you more, you are so important to us and to the kids and our community. God bless you all. You are the best!

One of our in-service trainees, Simphiwe Zulu wrote: 'When I came to Udobo School they welcome me in a way that shows the school was open hands with me. I am continuing my in-service training at the school where they give us education in using the skills of teaching the children. As well help us to get involved in many activities.

I only things I notice and make me feel comfortable about Udobo School, we are always sharing different ideas and co-operating. Udobo school knows how to respect each other. So at Udobo I am feeling that no one will take advantage of me or criticize me but will help me. This is all teaching me how I will work in the future'



Lizette Plaatjies – who wears many hats!

Lizette Plaatjies, my secretary, began by volunteering in the classroom, then drove our school bus and when we had to sell it became our very able secretary! She is full of energy and ideas and truly my right hand! Together we plan fundraisers and she is usually at the forefront of menu planning – not my forte. Lizette often spends her afternoons sourcing items we need for the school at the best prices. She shares my enthusiasm for 'new' fundraisers and developing new ideas to excite the children. She is a wife and mother to two teenagers and together we are part of the dance ministry at our local church MMC. I put these few words together but there is so much more to this precious person. I am

thankful to God for every staff member as each person brings something different and valuable to the mix.



Grade R children ready for a picnic!



Lisa Govender and some of her class

We celebrated 'Friendship Day' on the 14th February. The children dressed in red, pink and white or their uniforms. We planned a fun day for them, we had a picnic, games on the field, special treats and ended the day with some short movies in the media centre. The children pay a small amount which covers what we buy for them and we made about R1500.00 in fundraising.



Treats – curtesy Shelley Eva's contacts!



Lizette made each of us a chocolate treat

We had planned an open-air movie night but rain threatened and as I had borrowed the projector and sound system I did not feel as though I could take a chance on getting the equipment wet, so we chose to postpone. For those who do not live in KwaZulu-Natal, a short explanation: we have had an extremely hot and humid few months but we are also a summer rainfall area so we often have thunder storms and rain in the evenings. This does not make it any cooler but at least keeps this Province green! We are also very grateful for every drop of rain!

The Udobo Pre Primary School is funded through parents' contributions, fundraising and donations from charitable organisations.
Telephone & Fax +27 (031) 469 0029 E-mail: anneudobo@gmail.com Website: udoboschool.com Fund-raising No. 031-161-NPO

We will now move our movie evening into May when it is usually dry in the evenings – watch this space – should be fun!



This seems to be the year when the school building has decided it needs some TLC – we have had plumbing issues, a few of our door handles have broken, we have had part of our wooden jungle gym fall down, Social Development came in and instructed us to change our gas bottles to two smaller ones as well as asking us to replace all our direction and warning signs to ones that are S.A.B.S approved (a bit expensive). The big signage at the bottom of our driveway as well as the big sign at the top gate need to be redone - In fact the top sign as faded away to white! These are all things that we will try to work on gradually, but it is all expensive so will take time.



Plumbing repairs following a major water leak

Our cook Zanele Mbele lost her mom less than a year ago and in February her brother passed away. Lucky was her only sibling so Zanele had to plan and prepare everything for his funeral. We moved our cleaner, Ntombi, into the kitchen and she planned with Lizette and did the cooking while Zanele was away. Zanele was just back home when she became ill and Ntombi continued in the kitchen. One of the mothers of a learner from Udobo School came in to clean for us and did a wonderful job!

The end of the term has come very quickly we have worked through the themes of 'Me', 'My senses', 'my family', 'my extended family' and 'homes'. The little ones in Gr00 and Gr000 followed the themes as well in order to develop language and necessary skills. They worked on shapes and colours as well. All our children spend time on the jungle gym and trampoline donated by our wonderful 'Action Udobo' in the U.K – I send up prayers of thanks every day as I watch the children growing in confidence as they climb and explore. The trampoline is one of the favourites at playtime and the teacher on duty has her work cut out in keeping small numbers of children jumping as well as making sure that everyone gets a turn!! We have had assemblies in the church and celebrated birthdays with cakes and singing. A very full term.

We break up on the 15th March and come back to school on the 2nd April 2019.



With love from all at Udobo Pre-School

I continue to be so grateful to everyone who contributes to the school in any way – without you we could not continue to provide a quality education for our precious little ones.

God bless you all,

I continue amazed at the hand of God over the school,

Anne Snyders

Principal