



**82 Montclair Road
Montclair
Durban
April 2018**

MONTCLAIR METHODIST SOCIETY

UDOBO SCHOOL – 1st Quarter 2018 - PRINCIPAL' REPORT

Dear Friends of Udobo,

I greet you in the precious name of Jesus! The exciting news is that after 2 years we are now blessed with a minister with oversight! The Reverend Philippa Cole has become the minister at Montclair Methodist Church – she is a young woman who loves Jesus passionately, she is an academic of note but her love of all people is tangible. Rev Phil as our children at Udobo School know her, is totally committed to education. Welcome dear person – we at the school already love you!



The Reverend Philippa Cole

This very warm term has been an interesting one at the school. We still have 3 Grade R (or Grade 0) classes, 1 middle group (Grade 00) – which is a very popular age group and is bursting at the seams and our youngest group Grade 000. We have seen a need to create a space for what we have been calling our rising-3 group, this simply means children in their second year who are potty trained.

The advantages of having these tiny ones are many fold as we find that little ones are like sponges as they absorb new language, learn the school routine, have the chance to develop their large muscles by climbing and digging as well as experiencing the fantasy, cognitive, media, creative and computer rooms. There is a different programme for the youngest children and much more free play. Placing children in a happy, safe space also frees mothers up to find work to improve their financial situations so it is really a win-win situation.

We have had a few fun days – we have named the 14th February, Friendship Day and the children dressed in red, white or pink. We organised lots of fun creative work, games on the church field and a special lunch. Lizette Platjies, our amazing secretary, baked each child a cupcake which was greatly enjoyed.



We did a Promotion at our local mall in March. We have found that the message that our school is a school for those who are of a lower income group has become somewhat diluted. We also have parents bringing their children for the excellent education and are willing to pay a reasonable fee. We spoke to many people and had lots of interest shown – in fact we had a few children starting the next week as the parents had been concerned about cost. Each staff member had an hour each to promote and it was wonderful as our Zimbabwean teachers were able to speak in Shona to the very large population of Zimbabwean people and my isiZulu speakers could chat to the local population ...great fun. I stayed for the day because I enjoyed chatting to the people but by the evening I had numb

feet and no voice!! We would like to this again in November when parents are looking to place their children for January when the new school year begins.



The children are now settled into school and have begun getting homework. At the end of the term we produced informal reports to give the parents an idea of how their children are settling into their class. This year we have the most challenging year we have had in a while – we normally have one or two children who require special help and for whom we search for the school that best suits the child when entering Primary school. However, this year we have had behavioural challenges and little ones who are possibly on the autism spectrum – we are encouraging assessments for these little ones just so as to best know how to best help them. Udobo has become known as a place that seeks to help which is exactly what I believe God wants from us.



We had some beautiful pictures drawn by our children after that were told the story of Palm Sunday by T/Amos – they were put onto the screen for the enjoyment of the church! So sweet.



Breaking eggs



Scrambling eggs

The second last day of school was an Easter fun day – we do tell the children the true meaning of Easter but we also think a bit of fun to end the term is necessary.



Ansuya from our local Pick-n-Pay has taken us under her wing and managed to organise chocolate marshmallow eggs for our egg hunt as well as hen's eggs so that the children were given a chance to discuss the eggs and then mix them and our cook Zanele then scrambled them and the children had egg sandwiches for lunch.



Teacher Daria enjoying the hunt



Rev Phil and T/ Edinah and Manyara with Green group

They hunted in the garden for their marshmallow eggs and were each able to find two as Jenny Eva's wonderful daughter Shelley had donated boxes of eggs as well! Our T/Lisa who is married to Deon who is a Pastor at a church in Durban brought in chocolate eggs with beautiful messages stapled on to be placed in pretty bags to send home with the children. What was such a God-incidence that Lisa brought in, was exactly the number of children who were at school that day. Is our God not wonderful in His provision!



Joy !

T/ Lisa and Mawande with Yellow Group

The parents want their children in uniform so we now have t-shirt and shorts, long sleeve t-shirts and a smart tracksuit. We have had requests for school bags and after going back to the drawing board a few times we now have a strong school bag made especially for our needs which also shows our logo to the community. These bags cost R180.00 which is about the cost of any child' backpack in the local shops. We do have families that cannot afford the bag so if anyone would like to sponsor a bag for one of the really needy children, please speak to me.



We continue to get wonderful support John Sharman and the team from Action Udobo in the UK and words fail me as to how to express just how grateful we are to them – our children are incredibly beautiful and talented and so worth everything we bring to their lives – so many, many thanks to **John Sharman** and his team. A huge thank you to **Jason Perkowski** of Faith United Methodist in USA for the wonderful monetary gift from his church's Christmas offering – many thanks Jason and your wonderful church members, your gift always seems to come just as we need it!

So to all who show constant love towards us, for prayer which is offered for us, for birthday cakes that are baked for each child, for the collection of donated bread and vegetables, for donations which encourage us, to parents who trust us with their precious children – to you all. May God continue to hold you in the palm of His hand and we will keep speaking Jesus over the lives of all who come onto the grounds of the Udobo Pre-school.

A very blessed principal,

Anne Snyders

