



UDOBO SCHOOL
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4th Term Newsletter 2021

Our last term has been very busy as always and the school is full for 2022! I have been conducting interviews since October and have met wonderful people who will be bringing their children to us next year. It does not matter what the social-economic background, each parent wants what is best for their child. I am not a good sales person but the school is doing great work so I am able to happily promote it!

This coming year we will once again have an extra Grade R class and will have 120 children in the school. This is wonderful but also a problem at the same time as we must use classrooms that were play areas to house this extra class. We need an extra room and would probably have to extend or set up a container to use for a creative room and then use our creative room as a cognitive area ... While Covid 19 is still doing the rounds we still have to keep our classes operating as A and B groups.



Grade 000 Getting ready for their concert

The Udobo Pre Primary School is funded through parents' contributions, fundraising and donations from charitable organisations.
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We have had an ongoing mission to have our uniforms made for the new intake of children. We have been let down twice but have finally found a company who make the uniforms for many schools, and they were quite sure that we could have uniforms and bags done by the year end.

We have had the new POPI documents to fill in – basically, we reassure our parents that their information is stored in locked filing cabinets and is kept private. We already had an agreement with parents concerning our taking of photographs of the children – I don't use the child's name in the newsletter but if our local newspaper – 'The Southlands Sun' takes pictures they do use names. The parents are quite happy with that.



We began our Concert week with the youngest children who are 3-4 years old, they were amazing – we had decided that if some didn't sing or do the actions, we would be okay with that – well, every little person sang their hearts out and did all the actions! I was also so happy that all 20 children arrived and took part!



The two middle groups – Grade 00 had their Concerts on Tuesday, Pink Group in the morning and the Green group, later in the morning – once again the children were great, an added bonus is as each child is allowed two guests the parents were much cooler in our hot summer weather as we spread the chairs out for social distancing.



Grade 00 children presented their concerts on Tuesday

Wednesday was a very special day for our graduates – the girls wore white dresses and the little boys wore white shirts and black trousers – the combination of the singing of the National Anthem and the white outfits and innocent little faces of the graduates, tugs at the heartstrings! The handing over of graduation certificates followed the Concert and as each child's name was called, I could call to mind the progress they had made while with us. Some of the children had been with us for the three years and I remembered the tiny tots they had been and how far they have come.



The last two days of term were fun days and the children were given McDonald Happy Meals and a jumping castle – just not in that order! They then received their end-of-year

reports and the year for the children was done...suddenly there were no excited giggles or little ones keen to chat.



This little boy is one of the children of the Methodist church – we have been praying for him since he was a tiny baby as he was born with challenges, he has progressed through the school from Gr 000. He has done wonderfully well and is ready for Grade 1 in the new year. He is a real example of answer to prayer, and we thank God for him.



The jumping castle was great fun for all!



Praying over their food



Enjoying the treat

I decided to release the staff from their last days with the understanding that they would have plenty to do before the children begin the new year in 2022.

My secretary, her assistant and I stayed for the extra days and rounded off the year!

As always, a huge thank you to the Montclair Methodist Church – our Governing Body members are all drawn from the church. The Reverend Philippa Cole is the minister with oversight, Joan Prenger is our amazing Gov Body secretary, Eric Manicom our treasurer and David Scott our maintenance man as well as other members who attend the meetings faithfully. I must mention our chairman, Vusi Khumalo, who has not been well this year – he has served so faithfully, and we continue to pray for him.

I am especially grateful this year to Action Udobo who have been such faithful partners with us over many years and at times have helped us to keep the doors of the school open.

To the KZN Market who supply us with fresh fruit and vegetables which allow us to present healthy meals to our children.

To Social Development who, after a change in staff, are now rewarding us with the money we deserve, and we are so grateful!

Special thanks to all our prayer supporters and those who donate goods or money.

Thank you to the Rev Ansie Liebenberg in Australia and the Rev Jason Perkowski in America – thank you for all you mean to us.

So, at the end of a challenging year, I once again can delight in the fact that this is God's school, we have seen so many miracles this year, both large and those small flutters that could be missed and yet are so special.

From a very grateful and very blessed principal,

Anne Snyders

Some of our graduates





Some of the Graduates in 'cap and gown'

END