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## **1st Term Newsletter March 2022**

Dear Friends of Udobo Pre-Primary School,

The start of the new school year was much easier this year as we had done reregistering of children who were returning to us in September and the used October and November to enrol new learners. So our children came in to school ready, with their uniforms, stationery and first school fee paid. We are still serving families who are struggling – many people lost jobs or were retrenched over the Covid19 pandemic and many of our families still pay between R100.00 – R400.00 and we have ‘scholarship’ children who don’t pay anything. We remain very committed to giving our children a sound education, a nutritious meal and most importantly reminding them of how much God loves each of them.

We welcomed a new teacher, T/ Simphiwe – Simphiwe had served 18months to complete her ECD course, had then assisted T/Lisa for a few months and then placed into a middle group (we offer contracts for a calendar year), Lisa Govender continues as HOD and attends our Governing Body meetings, she has an assistant, Mzamo. We have a student – we are often asked to allow a student to compete their studies by spending 18 months at our school. They are volunteers but we do pay transport if they have a distance to travel.

This year our Aftercare Class just took off – we have kept the price at R400.00 per month for years but usually have less than 10 children – this year there are 26 children! We had to invest in 15 extra mattresses! We kept to alternating between A and B Groups for the first term as our classes are very small, the Aftercare children come every day. We managed to

keep our youngest class attending every day as we opened a space that was our Fantasy Room as a classroom.



We still had some fun days – Valentine's Day or Friendship Day as we call It was great – the children dressed in red and white and made cards and had a special meal. Our chef makes lovely vetkoek with mince – quite a task as she made it two days running for our two Friendship days...it was delicious!



We also had a jumble sale – we sell our goods for R5 or R10 and managed to make R2000.00! We did have some dealers who were keen to buy stock but also had some mums and grans who stocked up on the bargains – besides clothing there were curtains, table cloths, crockery and shoes. Eric Manicom who is our Governing Body treasurer gave up his morning to receive the money.



We are in the process of being moved over to Education Department and this has involved much paperwork which mostly affected Pat Bayley, the secretary. We had calls to Photostat all our children's birth certificates –by the next day! Photocopying 117 birth certificates while other work has to be done was just not possible, but that is the kind of challenges we have been facing.

We are really grateful to the Market who continue to supply us with vegetables and fruit with which our chef makes delicious meals – the lovely smells from the kitchen have us guessing what the children will be eating!



Faith United – Rev Jason blessed us with R12 558.84 – we are so grateful for their support every year. Many thanks to that great congregation!

We had a lovely visit from the Methodist Church South Africa's mission unit. What a blessing that was the Rev Musi Losaba introduced Mrs Annekathrine Buchold from Germany – she will be spending 3-5 years in South Africa and one of her giftings is in using music to alleviate trauma. We were one of three Methodist organisations they had visited that day and it was great to share not only a cup of tea but the vision for mission.



As always we are so overwhelmed by the ongoing donations from Action Udobo without which we would have had to close our doors – it has been an especially difficult couple of years with the pandemic adding to the problem of unemployment. I take heart in that in which we are able to offer our children, trusting that their lives will be better because of what they learn here. We have such devoted teachers, the youngest class are just loved and

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encouraged and doted on, the middle groups begin to be slightly more formal and the Gr R children are taught in the same method as the local schools so that when they leave us they can continue to learn in the same method as we taught.

Next term I will be taking a step of faith and opening the school to all our children – that would mean 20 children in each class. In order to open we need to install extra fans to ventilate our classrooms. We will have to refill the sandpit – half full will be R6000.00 but this is the first time in many years that we will replace sand. Our lighting has also been upgraded – David Scott our fantastic maintenance man installed the lights without charging us for his labour. So much is going on here in this little corner of God’s vineyard.

I am looking forward to the children returning and a new chapter opening for us – looking forward to bringing visitors in and perhaps a visit out, please pray with us that God’s will, will continue to be done

I remain a very grateful principal,

Anne Snyders



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