

JULY 2021



2ND QUARTER NEWS

I T H E M B A T R U S T ' S Q U A R T E R L Y

NEWSLETTER

W I N T E R 2 0 2 1

"Hope sees the invisible,
feels the intangible, and
achieves the impossible."





ITHEMBANEWS.

ITHEMBA TRUST

AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE

A NOTE FROM KITTY PHILLIPS

As the gentle breeze begins to gust and the autumn leaves fall to the ground, exposing bare trees, life at Orange Grove continues. The cold winter days seem to have come with a vengeance.

The vegetable garden is full of new plants like cabbages and spinach, both of which are being harvested to sell.

Students and staff, although confined to masks and Covid restrictions, are full of hope and joy, anticipating a new season, while also finding contentment in the cold winter days.

A rainbow hangs over the school. We know 'gold' is buried in this place - in each child and in the ground. As staff we continue to mine it out - to find the gold and encourage each other to see it, even anticipate it.



Sport starts and stops due to restrictions, but we continue to adapt. We had a word from the Lord a while ago to remain flexible and adaptable. This has helped staff and students to adapt to what we are calling a 'Covid pace'. I am encouraged and amazed to see how children can adapt so quickly to a 'new normal'.

How long will this all last? We do not know. One thing we do know, however, is that the Lord is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is our sure foundation; rock solid and immovable. We trust in Him and stay focused.

"THE KAROO"

A POEM BY LARA HOOD, AGE 12, JUNE 2021

The colours
Reds and browns
Green of the grass
Blue of the sky
Yellow
Dancing Daisies
Beside purple, poisonous lilies

The beautiful green-brown mountains
Acacia trees, a soft green carpet
Covering the mountain
And hiding the animals

The cliffs
Deadly in their beauty
Seeming, at any moment,
About to collapse
Trees clinging at impossible angles
Dassies hiding in crevices, sanctuaries
To many living things

Beautiful green valleys
Home to many,
Domain of the majestic Kudu
Home of the determined warthog
Who kneels in prayer to eat

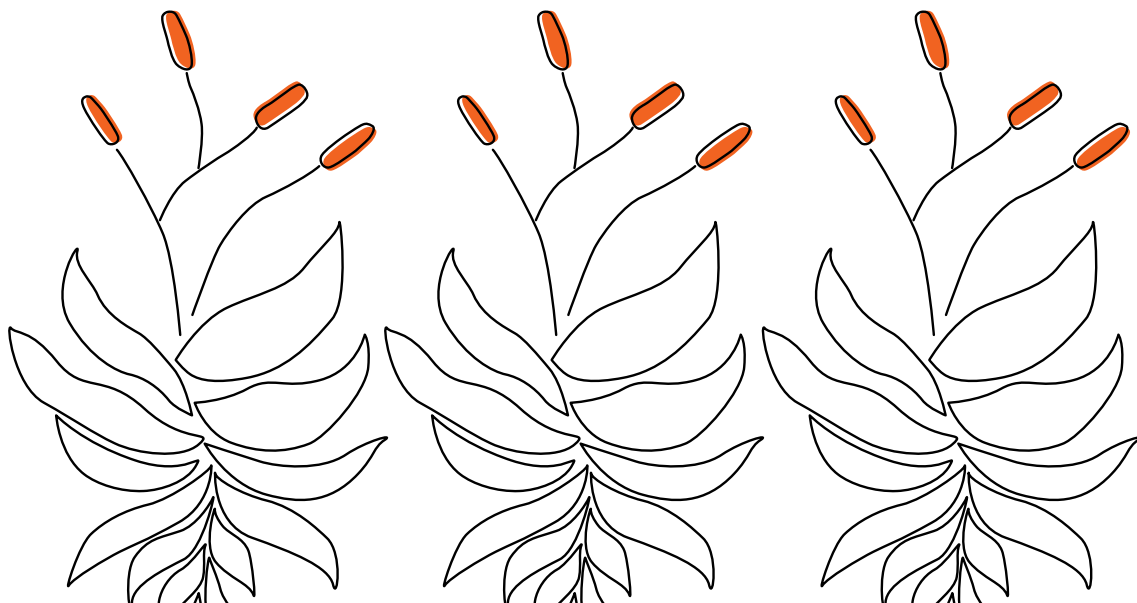
Hiking from valley
To mountain
One hears
The thudding of animals fleeing
The rustling of the grass
A bird in a tree
Calls for his friend
And is answered by many

Baboon barks
From the hills
Warthog grunts
In the grass
And in the valley
Jackal calls

Springbok and Blue Crane
Our country's symbols
Travel here

At night
It is not dark
The stars shine
Like the sun
And when
The moon is full
Caracal prowls
And lamb cries
And in the distance,
You can see the lights
Of civilisation
A glowing fire
Behind the hills
And all night long
Jackal calls
And caracal prowls
Hunting lambs and
Each other
Kudu jumps fences
Two meters high
To get to the lucern
In the farmers field

The Karoo
The Karoo
All around me
I see beauty



VISITORS

CARL RENSTROM & HANNE BRODIN

We were thrilled to open our arms to the first visitors in over a year! Carl Renstrom and Hanne Brodin travelled all the way from Sweden to do a safari with Ezulu Adventures. They popped in for a visit by helicopter and graciously allowed our Grade 1 class the privilege of sitting inside the helicopter. On their arrival, the children were waiting on the lawn singing and dancing to their favourite song, *Jerusalem*. This certainly was a highlight of the year so far! We hope to welcome many new visitors over the next few months.

NEW DEVELOP- MENTS

WE NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE.

Not only are we facing Covid challenges at Orange Grove, but electricity outages on a daily basis seem to add unnecessary additional concerns. We have Covid waves hitting us like huge dumpers, first, second and now third waves. Lock down levels from one to five, electricity outages, levels 2, 3 and 4 - who wouldn't be confused by these ever changing, turbulent waves and levels?

Our electricity provider, Eskom, continues with its different stages of shutting down our power for hours at a time. Chaos reigns as the students are left hanging in the middle of tests and exams, as the internet shuts down unexpectedly. Our families who live on the farm are left in darkness as they try and prepare the meals and do homework. Cold days and nights without electricity is not for the faint hearted. With all of this in mind, we have decided that it is time to invest in a large generator to give us some 'light'. This is going to be a significant expense, but a long-term, worthwhile investment into the life of the school. If anyone feels moved to help us cover the cost of this generator, please do make contact with us.

We also have a number of students on our waiting list for sponsorship. Families are struggling more than ever with this pandemic wreaking havoc on lives causing it really hard to make a livelihood. If anyone would like more information on our sponsorship program and 'adopting a child', please see the last page of this newsletter for more information.



Our first visitors
in over a year -
Thank you for
coming, Carl
and Hanne.





ACADEMIC REPORT

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM



We are grateful to be able to say that this term was “back to normal” as far as our academic calendar was concerned. We were able to complete the full term, with all the students at school, and were not directly affected by Covid-19.

I am proud of our Grade 1 class, who all successfully completed the ACE Reading Readiness Test, and are now ready to begin working independently in their PACE's next term. Well done to Aunty Mia and her students!

We welcomed Mrs Nyenge Midzi from Zimbabwe to our Academic Team. Nyenge is a qualified Intermediate Phase Teacher, with experience relating to Special Needs students. She spent three weeks this term working alongside Cathy Hood and Leonie Greyvenstein in their Learning Centre, and will be stepping in next term as Intermediate Phase Supervisor.

Dewald van Tonder has been a great addition to the Skills Development programme, working alongside Duncan MacTaggart, and taking time to teach skills such as welding, grinding and bicycle repairs to several of our older students. We hope to grow this programme further in the future, to include as many of our students as possible.

During our winter break, some of our staff will be attending the ACE Supervisors/Monitors Training course. This course is done by all ACE Supervisors and Monitors every five years to keep them all up to date.

In all, the first half of 2021 has been a positive time of growth, and we are looking forward to seeing what God has planned for us in the second half.



OGS Kudu House, 2021



OGS Gemsbok House



OGS girl's Netball team, 2021



Orange Grove Schools Staff, 2021



OGS Archery team, 2021



OGS Hockey team, 2021



OGS Soccer team, 2021

**GROUP PHOTOS
FROM THIS TERM
REPRESENTING
OUR LEARNERS,
TEACHERS &
SPORTS TEAMS.**

FROM THE PRE- SCHOOL

"Our Weekly Art projects are not only fun, but also reinforce our themes and teachings."

Term 2 in the preschool has been filled with many lively activities, wonderful art and growing friendships. Our young students jumped right into sports practices with some of our Grade R learners participating in hockey matches against Bedford. All of our students were also involved in our Interhouse events at the end of the term which caused great excitement! Ball skills practices started in the middle of the term with students joining in for the fun afternoon activities and games.

Our weekly art projects are not only fun, but reinforce our weekly themes and teachings. We are fortunate enough to be have access to multiple art mediums for our classes to experiment with. The Grade R class have joined uncle Dave for his back to nature classes. It is the talking point of every Monday as they can't wait to see what is planned and what interesting topics they will discussing.

Our young classes continue to bond together and blossom individually. This is such a great pleasure to watch and nurture.





ART AND ACTIVITIES IN THE PRE-SCHOOL CLASSROOM: TERM 2, 2021



SPORTINGNEWS.

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS FIELD

HORSE RIDING

The children really love and adore the horses and their lessons. This term we focused on teaching the children to walk around in the paddock by themselves with no lead rope and to do basic exercises while on the horses. Many of our horse riding students can finally trot and canter alone. Our lessons consist of learners ranging from age 3-15 years old. The horses grow on our children even though they look big and scary, but they are nothing but lovable and friendly! We look forward to more fun filled and exiting horse riding lessons in Term 3.

FIELD HOCKEY

We had a very exciting 2nd term competing against others schools for the first time in a very long time due to covid restrictions. Our hockey teams travelled to Bedford to play the Bedford Country School. Our teams did very well and did not lose a game. One of the highlights of the day was the staff/parent match. The match was drawn 3 – 3. Well done to Kitty for holding the OGS flag high and competing as the oldest player by at least 15 years! Next year we will host Bedford and hope to make it an annual festival of sport against each other.

NETBALL

Our netball teams travelled to Tarka High in the local town to play against their very competitive and experienced teams. Tarka High clearly underestimated us and we gave them a run for their money. Our girls B team won their game but unfortunately our girls A team lost. We are very proud of both of our teams. Congratulations to Esinako for being chosen as woman of the match.

SOCCER

Our soccer team played against Tarka High soccer team as well and we beat them 5-2. Well done to our boys for not only playing well but portraying such good manners on and off the soccer field. Congratulations to Simba for being chosen as man of the match.

TRAIL RUNNING

This year we had 2 pupils and one staff member participate in the 2021 Blanco Guest Farm Epic Trail run hosted on the 8th of May. This event takes place annually as a fundraiser for Blanco Guest Lodge which is situated in the Winterberg area about 15 km outside Tarkastad. This trail run is known to be rough and tough but nevertheless they all completed the trail successfully. Congratulations to Lara Hood for coming in the top 10 woman in her 10 km race. Mesuli took 2nd place in the Mens's 10 km and Dave Hood, our Back 2 Nature teacher, completed his 21 km race in 2 hours and 23 minutes.



FROM THE SPORTS FIELD. TERM 2, 2021

INTER-HOUSE SPORT

This week we participated in various interhouse events at school. We started off with some fun games for our little Grade RR and Grade R classes . At the end of our fun day for the little ones, Gemsbuck took a 20-11 lead.

At interhouse hockey, Gemsbuck continued to impress, winning their first two games. Fortunately for Kudu, our senior team managed to catch up with many goals being scored, ensuring a victory for Kudu, winning with a 14-9 lead.

Our last activity was interhouse soccer. Gemsbuck once again won the first two games and Kudu the senior game. Was it enough to put Kudu in the lead?

After adding all the scores for the week we came to a final score of 41-39. Our term 2 winners with 41 points beating Kudu by 2 points was Gemsbuck.





OUTDOORNEWS.

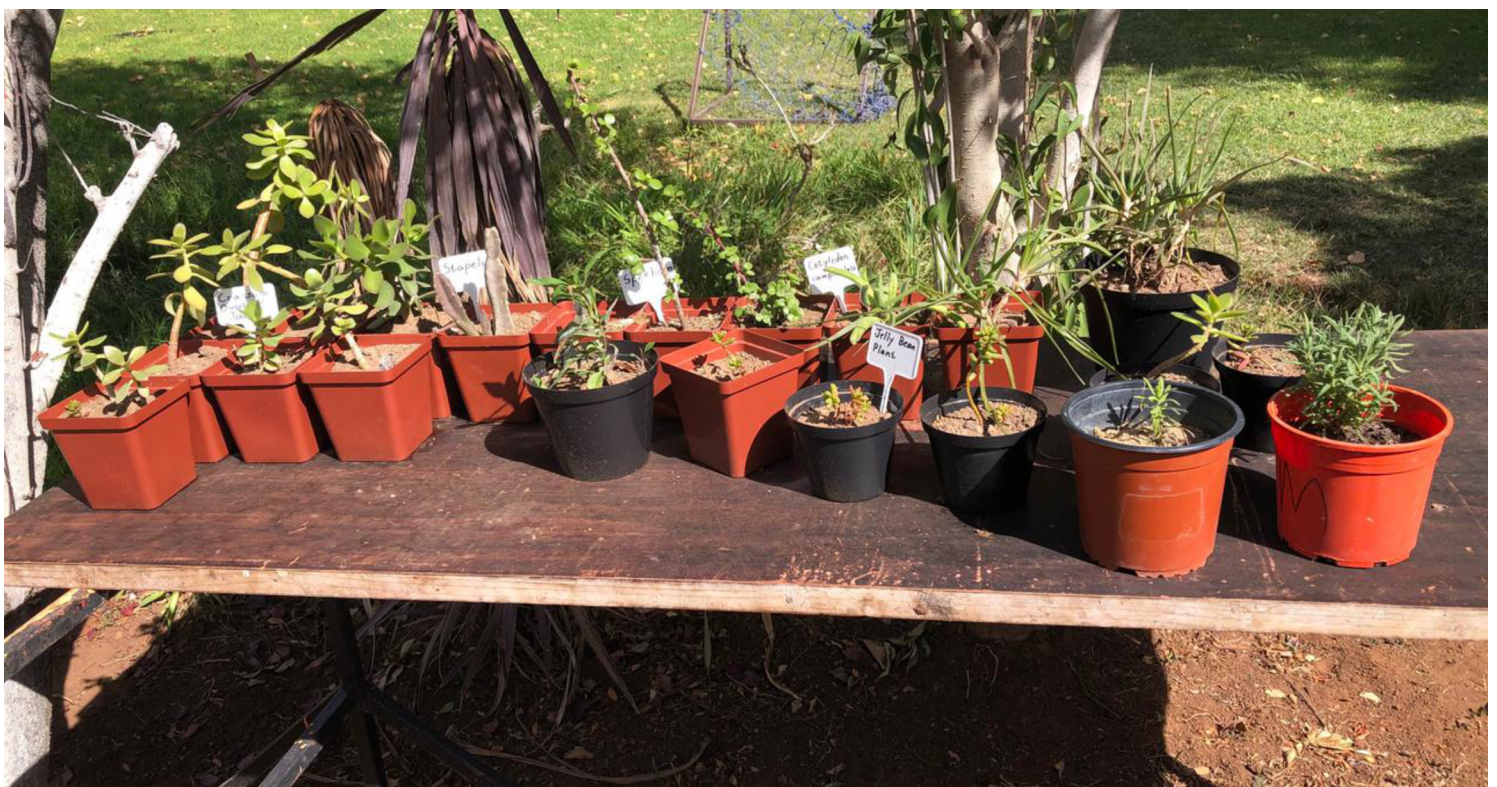
ORANGE GROVE OUTDOOR CENTRE

ORANGE GROVE NURSERY

The nursery at Orange Grove is a new project that we are working on and plan to open to the public in the coming spring. The nursery is situated on the property just below the boy's hostel and we are in the process of potting and cultivating a number of beautiful tree and garden plant species. The focus will be on indigenous plants but we'll also have a selection for the enthusiastic gardeners in our area.

The nursery will also have a section dedicated to our Back to Nature classes where our students can learn, in a very practical way, how to grow and cultivate plants and in the process we hope they will develop their own passion for planting things and learn a little bit of botany too. The Mzuri Wildlife Foundation has partnered with us in this and has generously donated the funding to set up a tunnel where our students will conduct their horticultural experiments.

We hope that this new project will not only provide a source of beauty for our local gardens and a source of education for our students, but also provide a reason for visitors to come and see our wonderful school and enjoy it's surrounds.



BACK 2 NATURE

In B2N this term, we got out and about with our binoculars and learned a bit about how to identify birds – it's not as easy as you might think! As we are going into winter, we talked about how plants and animals adapt to the changing weather conditions, why plants lose their leaves, how hibernation works and other strategies to survive the cold. We've already had a few sub-zero mornings, beautiful when the frost sparkles on the grass, but deadly to many living things. We talked about what happens to rubbish that gets thrown out and how some of the things we throw out will not have decomposed by the time our great-great grandchildren are born!

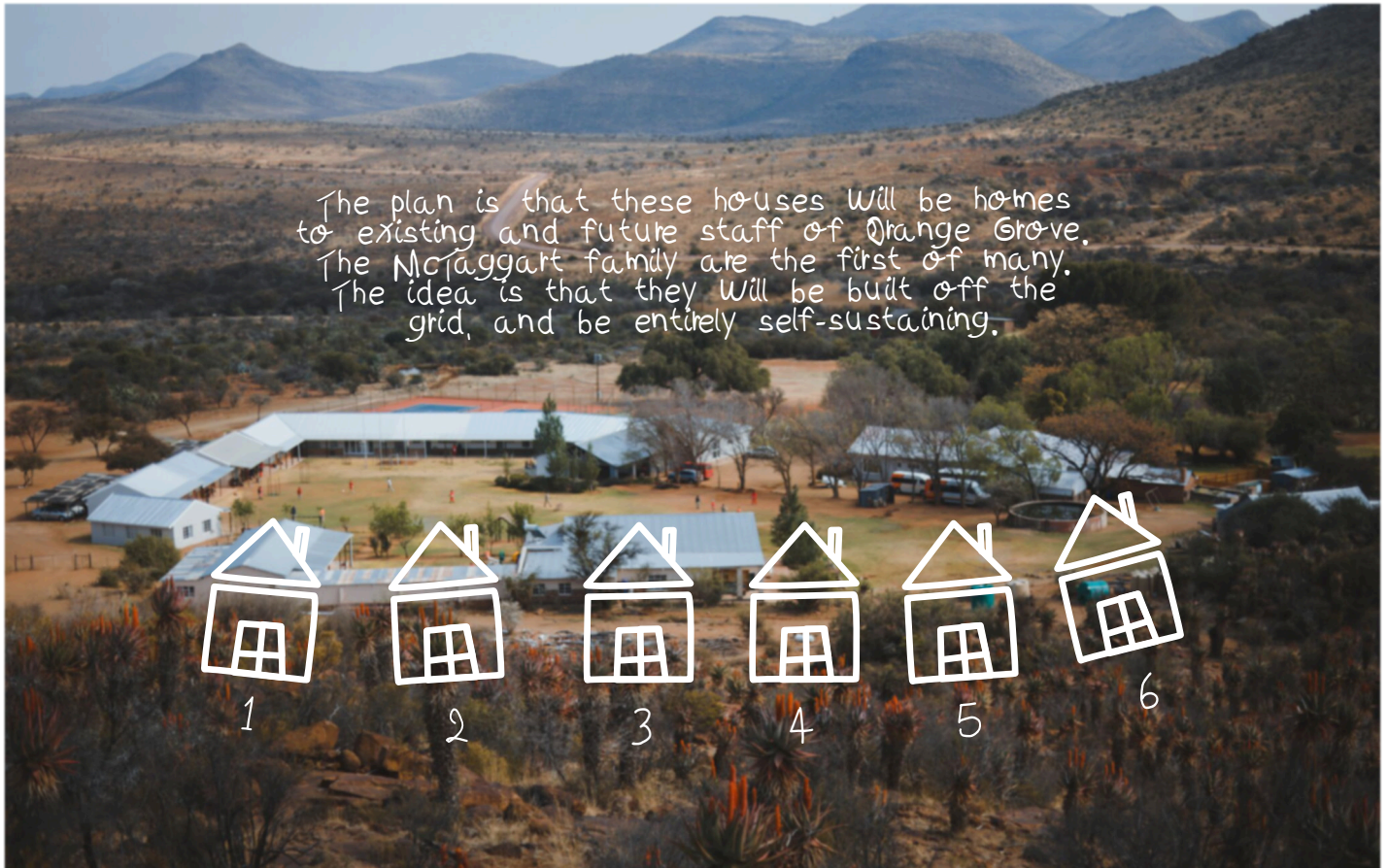
In archery we've been focussing on our indoor distances of 10 and 20 yards and many of our archers have come a long way with their groupings. We have also been able to upgrade many with better equipment and a few of our recurve archers have started using sights for the first time. We hosted our own competition this term and had 17 archers participate. Many of our young archers found it a lot tougher than they thought but it was a great experience and some of them produced very good scores. Laikyn Niemand, Candace Du Toit and Lara Hood, in particular, all shot fabulously. Boys, you'd better start practicing, the girls are showing you up! After the morning shoot, we had a barbecue with the archers and some of their parents, and ended the day with a fun shoot on our 3D animal targets.



NEW BEGINNINGS

A HOUSE FOR A HOME, ON THE PROPERTY

Progress is being made on the first house being built on Orange Grove Farm. Duncan (our operations manager) and his family hope to move into their new house before the end of the year. The vision is to have six houses built for existing and future staff in the coming years. This will be the first steps to establishing a vibrant community of families living on the property. The houses are designed to operate off the grid, relying on solar power for energy.





TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
OUR SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM,
VISIT **WWW.ITHEMBA4HOPE.ORG**

OR EMAIL **ANG PRICE** AT **ITHEMBATRUST@GMAIL.COM**



Meet Imi and Ngwali, best friends and cousins who have been a part of the Orange Grove family since the beginning of this year. Imi and Ngwali's enrollment at OGS has been, in a sense, life saving for both of them, in that they have both faced deeply trying family circumstances over the past year. Half way through last year Imi lost her father due to Covid-19, and Ngwali's mom was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Their aunt, Vuyo, has been taking care of them. This incredible woman, with her deep faith, has insisted that her niece and nephew attend Orange Grove Schools and live on the farm in the hostel in order to get, as she says, a "good, healthy, Christian background" and education. Both children are in need of sponsorship. Their family has asked us to reach out to our broader iThemba community to find out if anyone felt moved to help house and educate these two, in order that they would be able to stay in a consistent, healthy environment, while things are temporarily unstable at home. In the words of their aunt Vuyo, "we as a family are so happy and so grateful to God for the improvement and growth we see in the children's lives - we give all the glory and all the honour to God for what He is doing through Orange Grove Schools".



@ithemba_trust
@orangegrove_schools



KITTY PHILLIPS
FOUNDER & TRUSTEE



ANGELA PRICE
CO-FOUNDER & TRUSTEE



TANYA JERNIGAN
TRUSTEE



**ORANGE GROVE
SCHOOLS**

www.ithemba4hope.org
www.orangegrove.org.za