

DECEMBER 2021



4TH 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

SPRING 2021

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





MERRY CHRISTMAS

*Wishing our readers a very Merry Christmas & a
wonderful festive season with your friends & family*

AN INTRODUCTORY WORD

A note from Kitty Phillips

Our year has come to an end and our hearts are filled with thankfulness and hopefulness. There is so much to be grateful for -

Grateful for our sponsors and the friends of Ithemba who have never stopped supporting and believing in us.

Grateful for happy children.

Grateful for no covid cases in the school.

Grateful for the rain.

Grateful for an incredibly generous donation for a solar system installation to be able to generate our own electricity.

Grateful for a sponsor, who gave more, so we could bless our staff with a little extra at the end of the year for their dedication.

Grateful for this family which God has placed us into, that continues to grow.

Grateful that we can find rest in His presence as we close the year.

So, we end this year with thanksgiving in our hearts and always see God's hand and favour over our vision.

Ephesians 3:29 “ He does exceedingly, abundantly more than we could ever ask or imagine...”



ITHEMBA NEWS.

ITHEMBA TRUST

VISITORS

We were incredibly blessed to be given a sizable contribution towards taking Orange Grove School completely off the grid in terms of our power supply. The generous donor was **Traci Haws** from Dallas, who is an old friend of Ezulu's. She has been to South Africa on safari twice with them. Traci truly is an inspiration! She is a very successful entrepreneur in a male dominated industry and she has worked extremely hard to take her business to where it is today. We are very excited to partner with her on this new adventure. Our power is very erratic and often causes extreme frustration for our students, for example during online exams when the WiFi fails due to power cuts. Construction on the building that will house all the solar equipment has begun and should be completed before the end of the year. Installation of the electrical controllers, inverters and related electrical panels will start during the December break. The solar panels will be installed early in the new year and we look forward to free energy by the end of the first term! We feel extremely blessed as God takes care of every need of the Vision.

In other news, we had a very emotional visit from **Jeff Holmes** from Oklahoma who along with his wife Lori, sponsored Pololo Cwayita many years ago. Pololo was one of our very first sponsored children. They have been a part of the Ithemba Vision since day one! They met Pololo for the first time on a safari in 2009 when she was 14, and ended up supporting her all throughout her schooling career. Pololo went on to major in Economics and Organisational Psychology at College, as well as achieving a post-graduate's certificate in teaching. The Holmes family hold a very dear place in our hearts, and it was a joy to see them this term.





OGSNEWS.

ORANGE GROVE SCHOOLS

ACADEMIC REPORT

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM



After two years of unexpected changes to our school calendar due to COVID-19 related closures of schools in South Africa, it feels as if we are finally settling back into a regular calendar and timetable. Many of our students have struggled to maintain high academic standards during this time, but I am proud to say that, overall, our students have worked hard and achieved well in spite of the many challenges they have faced.

In the 3rd term, our Grade 3 and 6 students wrote the *National Curriculum Linked Assessment*, which is a measure of their relative literacy levels. Our students did very well, with Imi Frans (91.5%), Geoffrey Hattingh (87.5%) and Katherine Hattingh (87.5%) achieving the top marks for OGS. Overall, our students scored above the national average, and we are very proud of them.

Two of our Grade 7 students, Sabelo Mabece and Lara Hood, were accepted into the IEB (Independent Examination Board) Grade 8 class through the Online School, with excellent results in their Diagnostic Tests. They achieved an average grade of 71% and 90% respectively. We are grateful to AEE for the excellent Comprehend Africa curriculum, which prepared them so well for this challenging test.

We welcome Dieter and Carol Lubbe to our team for 2022. They have already become invaluable members of our family, with Dieter setting up and running IT classes for all our students, and Carol taking on the role of librarian. Every afternoon, you can find her in the library surrounded by a crowd of children who are excited to read! In between fostering a love of books, she has somehow found time to re-organise our entire library collection, making it both welcoming and user-friendly!

Carol, will be stepping into the role of Intermediate Phase Supervisor next year, taking over from Mrs Nyengeterai Midzi, who left unexpectedly this term, to take up a work opportunity in Dubai. Our Grade 4 and 5 students are already excited to have her as their Supervisor!

Dieter will continue to develop our IT department and take on the responsibility of our social media platforms. He has some wonderfully creative ideas for us so, watch this space!

Finally, we congratulate Dewald van Tonder (our mechanic and general handy man) and Leonie Greyvenstein (monitor in the senior learning centre) on their upcoming wedding this December! We wish them all the best, and look forward to having them both on our hostel team next year.

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Our final term proved to be an exciting and educational one. Our Grade R's were introduced to the new and improved computer room. Here they have started learning the foundations of using a computer. They were able to put their letter learning into practice while writing their names with the keyboard as well as letting their creative sides come out with various art projects on the screen.

We then had our very anticipated Back 2 Nature outing. There was great excitement from the class when they were told that they would need to forage for their food like springbuck. Their teamwork was put to the test when they were also told to be on the lookout for a hungry lion in the area! Uncle Dave was very informative along the journey as various tracks, trees, birds and animals were spotted.

Our young students have been working hard to get ready to move on to their new grades. The term has been filled with excitement from the Grade R's going to Grade 1 and likewise for the Grade RR learners moving into Grade R. While the year has seen some friends leave to new schools, we were lucky enough to welcome some new faces too.

Our learners are growing in leaps and bounds and we are so excited to be able to watch them move onto their new adventures!







SPORTINGNEWS.

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS FIELD

INTER-HOUSE & INTER-SCHOOLS -

2021 has been a year filled with fun! We have participated in multiple interhouse and interschools events. We are proud of all the students for always putting in their absolute best efforts at sports practices and for always keeping up good spirits when it comes to sport.

We are hoping to have a very competitive 2022 against other schools if COVID restrictions allow, so let us hope and pray that next year most things will be back to normal.

With regards to the interhouse cup, both Kudu and Gemsbuck have had highs and lows in 2021. Kudu started the year off strong, winning the cup in the first term. Gemsbuck fought back winning the cup in the 2nd and 3rd terms. After Gemsbuck earned the winning title for the interhouse athletics day, they gained the overall Interhouse Trophy for 2021.

On October 23, 2021 our junior cricket teams were invited to participate in a mini cricket tournament hosted by the Bedford Country School. Our U/9 year old team were the stars of the afternoon, beating both Bedford Country School and St Andrews Preparatory School. Our U/10 year old team gave their best efforts, beating Kingswood, but unfortunately losing to Bedford Country School and Yellowwoods.

While the tournament was called off early due to weather conditions, our players had a wonderful day filled with fun and healthy competition. It is always rewarding for the players to see their hard work from all their practices pay off.

On November 12, 2021 we hosted an interschools athletics event at Orange Grove Farm, competing against Bedford Country School and the Winterberg School. The day was filled with both field and track events such as high jump, long jump, javelin, 1200m, 80m, 60m sprints and relays. All three schools put in their best efforts and showed admirable sportsmanship. At the end of the day, Bedford Country School won with 270 points, and OGS came in second with 221 points, leaving third place for the Winterberg team. We hope that interschools athletics will become an annual event in the future with even more schools participating.

We just want to say well done to our students and coaches on a great year of exciting sports. We look forward to coaching you in 2022!

2021 SPORTS AWARD WINNERS:

Junior Sportsmen of the year: *Inathi Mabeca*

Junior Sportswomen of the year: *Amkhita Ncitha*

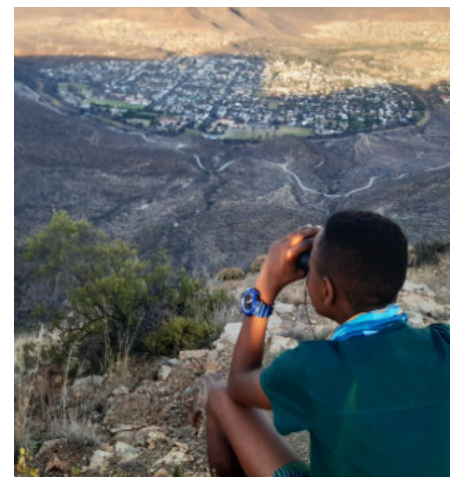
Senior Sportsmen of the year: *Ethan Wait*

Senior Sportswoman of the year: *Samkhi Mkencele*



OUTDOORNEWS.

NEWS FROM ADVENTURES BACK TO NATURE



VALLEY OF DESOLATION, CAMDEBOO NATIONAL PARK, GRAAFF-REINET



#GRAAFFREINETTOURISM #LIVEYOURWILD #EASTERNCAPE TOURISM

BACK 2 NATURE

During the fourth term, we focused on our horticultural projects and got excited about seeds germinating and growing into healthy plants. We also learned some tough lessons about how too much or too little water can be bad for plants. Many of the groups managed to grow plants from cuttings as well as seeds and parts of succulents. We were also able to get up close and personal with a Rock Agama and a Water Scorpion. The highlight of the fourth term for most were the field trips. Some of our students got to visit a game reserve outside the nearby town of Queenstown where they saw a range of antelope and got up close and personal to a journey of giraffe. They also got to see some White Rhino! For many of our students, it was the first time they had ever seen some of these animals. The grade 1's and R's took a drive around Orange Grove farm and saw Gemsbuck and Zebra among others and had a picnic where they could run wild and climb the magnificent Wild Olive trees on the farm. Nine students who showed an interest in tracking got to go on a 2 night trip to the Karoo town of Graaff-Reinet where we visited the 'Tracker Academy' at Samara Game Reserve and where we were able to spend some time learning about tracks from the pros. We also visited the beautiful Valley of Desolation and the Library Museum which had a very interesting collection of local fossils and a San Rock Art display.

ARCHERY

In archery, this term we have been following a program called 'Feathers and Arrows' which guides our recurve archers from the basics through to the more advanced techniques of Olympic style target archery. Nine of our archers achieved the first of five Arrows qualifications, the White Arrow. Four went on to achieve the Black Arrow and one student the Blue Arrow. Without knowing what these represent, you can be impressed! We are excited about our archers' progress and looking forward to taking a few of the team down to shoot at a National competition (shot remotely around the country) in Grahamstown in January. We also had a lot of fun this term with our log challenges. Well done to *Amo Smouse* and *Laikyn Niemand* for ending the term at the top of their respective logs.

ORANGE GROVE NURSERY

This term we hosted visitors in our nursery where we set up a tea garden and had cakes and scones on sale. The area has received some magnificent rain and consequently the kudu and duiker that feasted on our plants during the dry times have not bothered us again. It has been wonderful to see plants flowering and growing with the warm weather and we look forward to increasing our plant collection and hosting more events next year. It has also been great fun to watch our students learning about how to grow things in a very practical way during Back to Nature lessons at the nursery.





IF YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN JOINING THE
ITHEMBA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT
ANGELA AT ITHEMBATRUST@GMAIL.COM - WE HAVE
A NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON OUR WAITING LIST
AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT.

ALTERNATIVELY, VISIT **WWW.ITHEMBA4HOPE.ORG** FOR MORE INFORMATION



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@orangegrove_schools



KITTY PHILLIPS
FOUNDER & TRUSTEE



ANGELA PRICE
CO-FOUNDER & TRUSTEE



TANYA JERNIGAN
TRUSTEE



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