

JULY 2022

Q2 NEWS



# NEWSLETTER



## WINTER 2022

"Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future."

Photos: Dieter Lubbe





## WELCOME FROM THE FOUNDER



Dear all,  
Welcome to our July edition of the iThemba Trust newsletter.

Just as the moon emerges over the horizon and a glow falls on Orange Grove, so our Heavenly Father watches over us and continues to touch our lives and the Ithemba vision with His glow.

The term has been full of activities. We are so grateful the Covid rules have been lifted so we can play sport against other schools again. Hence the busy term of sport matches, Regional Cross Country, IEB exams, solar project completed and switched over.

Dave Hood also organized a great day of team building for the staff at the Outdoor Centre. Read all about it in our Newsletter.

We are continually grateful for all our sponsors and visitors who believe in us and the work we do in our community and for the children. God continues to amaze us with His faithfulness in moving hearts and hands to accomplish what He called us to do.

As I write this in my office, the cold wind and blizzard is hitting the windowpanes. The snow is falling on the high-lying ground and it is time for the long awaited winter holidays.

Thank you to everyone who reads our newsletter, who prays for us, who sponsors and donates, for gifts, and most importantly, to the team we have around us to make it all happen!

**Kitty Phillips**

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# ITHEMBA NEWS

# Going green

A little over three years ago the idea was planted to move the school over to renewable energy. Solar to be more specific. At the time there were continuous electrical disruptions and outages due to load shedding and storm damage. It was also predicted that the situation would get worse. Fast forward to today and indeed the loadshedding has got worse. Amazingly we are no longer affected by the disruption. The reason. We have installed a full solar system including batteries and a backup generator.

The idea was to install the system over time as funds allowed. Phase 1: Load reduction. Phase 2: Backup generator. Phase 3: Solar system, starting with the inverters, then solar panels and finally backup batteries. We expected the complete roll out to take place over a 5 to 10 year period (as funds allowed). So you can imagine our complete amazement and gratitude when a single donation was made to cover the cost of the entire system. What an amazing blessing and "problem" to have.



Phase 1 started by replacing all the fluorescent globes with low wattage LED. The backup generator was installed. Building on the small room to house all the equipment began late last year (Nov 2021) and was completed in Jan 2022. Dewald and the skills students began with the solar panels and the equipment was installed. The school was officially switched over to the sun on 25 April.

Since then we have been tweaking the system and balancing the load. We are still reliant on a little grid power to get through the night but the plan is to be completely "off grid" by the end of July. The load shedding has continued but thankfully we have been unaffected by this.





Building on the Mac Taggart's house had to take a pause during the solar installation project, but now continues with renewed vigour. The house frames are complete and the roof trusses and sheeting is scheduled to arrive any day. Duncan (our operation manager) expects to finish his house and be moved in by December of this year. This is the first house and we have plans for 5 more staff houses to be built in the coming year.

# Visitors

Rachael Spielmann along with little Connor spent the morning at Orange Grove all the way from Wisconsin, USA. Rachael was in South Africa with her husband, Brian, on a hunt with Ezulu Adventures. Connor made friends quickly and spent most of the morning playing in the sandpit at the preschool with the toys that he had brought all the way over for his new friends, while Rachael visited the various learning centres.



We are always so grateful for visitors who come and encourage us in what we are doing.





OGS NEWS



# Preschool news

As we reflect on another wonderful term in the preschool, we are so thankful for the opportunities and experiences it brought. We had a wonderful term growing friendships, exploring various art avenues and continued learning. The hard work our students have put into sports practices paid off with many of our young students playing in various hockey, netball and soccer matches against other schools.



Horse riding started this term, which was the cause of much excitement throughout the classes. We ended our wonderful term with our annual cross country event. This was the first for most of the students in our preschool. All the students gave their very best efforts.



# Academic news

The second term of the year is always a quiet term, with students who are new to the school this year settling in well, and becoming comfortable here. I would like to congratulate all our students who achieved Honour Roll this term, and who are showing incredible commitment to their academic work.

Our Grade 8 Online School students wrote their first high school exams, and, although it was a challenge for them, having not had to write exams previously on the ACE curriculum, they rose to the challenge and gave it their best!

As our High School begins to grow again, we are proud to be able to award two students with an Academic Scroll to wear on their blazers. *Ethan Wait* received this award after achieving excellent results in the first cycle of Grade 11 through the Online School. He managed to achieve subject averages 20% higher than the grade average in 5 of his six subjects. *Lara Hood*, Grade 8, also studying through the Online School, placed 2nd in her grade nationwide! Well done to both *Ethan* and *Lara*, these are both remarkable achievements, and we are very proud to have you representing our school.



# Media news

This term we started out having upgraded the media class to windows 10. This enabled students to be exposed to new design tools, thinking in digital ink and enjoying the advantages of the new software comparability more generally. We are thankful to both Microsoft and Adobe for assisting us in this regard. Our major learning objective for the term concentrated on basic colour theory implemented in 3D design. The major concentration was on the important connection between computer literacy and execution working across software platforms. All this is to develop critical thinking skills and creativity, improved concentration and memory



# Skills program

Magda Greyling has joined with Orange Grove Schools and 3 of their young men to implement a skills training program. Liya completed a composting workshop with about 20 people from all over Tarkastad attending. They collected compostable materials that were simply lying around and someone came from Kenton to do a demonstration. Simba did a soccer clinic for the primary school boys and girls in the local townships. On Monday the 20th June, close to 60 children gathered and from there 26 were selected to do 3 days of intensive training. It was extremely cold but they still came - such a commitment. Everyone loved it. Linomtha will be doing a bee-keeping workshop in September with uncle Clyde. They already work together and will train people on that day about how to start their own bee-keeping business.



Asa Smouse has also become involved in skills development training. She's a qualified Business, Executive and Life Coach. She provided individualised education programs according to each child's personal discovery through coaching. This included an 8-week Business Coaching program, whereby the requirement was for each learner to come up with his own business concept from the inception of the course in order to bridge the gap between theory and practice. Simba has established Young Stars—a junior soccer academy aimed at ages 5-12. Linomtha has completed a short-course in Hotel Management.







sports



This term has been one of our most exciting and busy sporting terms. We started off by playing netball and hockey matches against our neighbouring school just over the mountain, Bedford Country School. We won 3 out of 5 hockey matches and we lost 1 netball game and won 1 netball game. Playing against Bedford is always such fun as the competition between our two schools is always neck on neck. We also travelled to Queenstown to play against Hangklip Primary school. They are currently the best hockey school in Queenstown with many of their teams unbeaten during this hockey season. OGS played spectacular hockey. Even though we only won 1 match, we certainly gave them a run for their money.

Towards the end of the term we played hockey against Cradock Primary where we won 4 out of 6 hockey matches. Soccer and netball against Tarka High is always our toughest competition but nevertheless we gave them good competition. The highlights of the day were our U8 and U12 netball teams. These teams played excellent netball, with our U8's drawing and our U12's losing by 3 goals.



OGS mostly competes with schools that have 30 to 50 children in each grade to choose hockey players from. In some of our grades we only have 5 learners but our children always give it their best and never give up! Despite this we have had a very successful hockey season which proves that each individual learner in our teams are equivalent to 3 other players in the others schools.

With regards to the inter house points this term, cross country, archery and honour roll counted towards the final scores. The archery was closely contested but once again Kudu showed Gemsbok who the better and bigger buck are, winning the archery with 658 points to Gemsbok's 615 points. The cross country score was even, 72 for Kudu and 72 for Gemsbok. At the end of the honour roll points Gemsbok had 46 points and Kudu 41.



# Cross Country



At the end of term 2, we were fortunate enough to once again, after a 2 year break, host our annual regional cross country event. We had an exceptional day joined by Alexandria Christian school, the Winterberg Trust school and some home schoolers. Every student from OGS participated, including the preschool. We woke up to a crisp but clear winters day! Much excitement was in the air for an actual event and good competition for the runners.



The visiting school slept at our outdoor centre for the night, and survived a very chilly, below 0 degrees, temperature. This did not deter their enthusiasm! We are proud to mention that every student from OGS participated, whether they were good runners or not, they all tried their best! Even our little pre-schoolers ran their 1km with guts and determination. While all our athletes gave it their all, we had 3 students, *Liya Mayedwa*, *Imi Mayedwa* and *Amo Smouse*, who ran fantastic qualifying times for the National Event to be held later this month in Ermelo. A great day was had by all and we look forward to hosting the event in 2023 again.







After adding all the points the final score for the term is 733 for Gemsbok and 771 for Kudu!

Well done Kudu on winning the second term.





# Outdoor news





# Archery

This term in archery we continued with our Feathers and Arrows development program and we are very proud of our archers who managed to attain new Arrows qualifications. We selected a handful of archers to attend a competition next term and they had fun fundraising by selling candy floss and sweets at the interschools cross country competition hosted on Orange Grove.

Our archers competed in their own interhouse competition and as usual, it was a close call but in the end Kudu House managed to take the win. Well done Kudu archers!



# Back to nature

During the second term in B2N, we looked at forces and how they affect us with some object lessons involving arrows shot vertically, skateboards and shotguns. We expanded and studied our skull collection and discussed how different types of teeth are suited to different diets. We also continued our discussions on why creatures become extinct and students in grade 3 and up, did a poster project on an endangered species of their choice. We conducted fun quizzes with objects from nature, went for walks and discussed why the sea is salty.





# Horse riding

The children have done tremendously well with the riding lessons and we are very proud of their progress. We have been working on improving a number of techniques such as trotting and cantering and ensuring they get into a good rhythm when riding as well as maintaining a good posture. They have also done some bareback riding and have recently started some jumping. We have also introduced some theory about horses to broaden the children's knowledge of horses. They also learnt how to groom and tack up the horses.



It has been wonderful to see how they enjoy the lessons and how they bond with the horses, overcoming many of their fears in the process. We are very grateful to the Mzuri Wildlife Foundation for sponsoring some of the children who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to ever ride or bond with a horse.





# Staff news





# Team building

Orange Grove Schools staff got together on a Friday afternoon to have some fun together and share their visions and ideas for the school and the farm. We had a look at the houses that Duncan is building and heard how Orange Grove Farm is a place where staff could have their very own home if they decide it is where they would like to grow old. We talked about our hopes and dreams for the kids and every staff member got to participate in a game. Some braved the climbing wall, while others participated in a paintball challenge where the penalties for not backing up your partner involved getting shot at yourself.



Lastly some had to direct a group of blind-folded 'sheep' into a designated area using only animal sounds. After some good laughs, we had a barbecue together and talked some more about where we are going as a school and as Ithemba Trust.



# Staff news



Leanne Phillips, our preschool Supervisor is expecting her first baby in August. Asa and Kitty organized a baby shower as the OGS staff and parents, celebrated with her.



Our grade one Supervisor, Mia King successfully completed 80 km on her horse Ramon-Ji in an endurance competition in Colesberg, Northern Cape in May 2022. He is an Anglo-Arab youngster and she is excited to see what the future holds. "Endurance horse riding is hard work, I spend at least 8 hours on my horse every week but hard work definitely pays off, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."



Leonie van Tonder, our Senior Phase Monitor, started studying towards a Bachelor's degree in Education at the beginning of this year, from the Alphacrucis University College, in Australia. She completed two subjects last semester namely, Foundations in Christian Education, and Introduction to Academic Writing and Research. She received 76% and 79% respectively.





[www.ithemba4hope.org](http://www.ithemba4hope.org)

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