

MARCH 2023

Q1 NEWS



NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN 2023



Our Alumni *Caroline Price*
tied the knot...more on
page 14.

WELCOME FROM THE FOUNDER



Easter Greetings!!!

Already we are at the end of Term 1 of 2023. Time waits for nobody! I feel in my spirit there is an urgency to keep building, keep establishing, keep hearing the shout or whisper of our King, "Run with the vision set before you and establish the Kingdom of God in your part of the world!" and "do not grow weary in doing good, for in due season you will reap a reward".

We are a wonderful team heading up this vision. I want to encourage you, our sponsors, those who pray, those who support, you too are an integral part of this team, establishing the Kingdom of God in Tarkastad. We all play our part and I want to thank you as you co-labour with us, you are doing this as unto the Lord.

Our term was a busy one, full of sport, camps and activities at the school. The rain has been beautiful but the electrical storms have caused some havoc, this has kept Duncan and the skills boys navigating their way, replacing and repairing. The "going off the grid", was the best gift we received, as this has allowed our students to continue with their work without interruptions of power outages, and the farm can keep running in all segments and areas.

Blessings to you all over the Easter season.

May we remember the reason for the season.

Kitty Phillips

C Phillips

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Ithemba news 2

Visitors 3

Pre-school news 5

Academic news 7

Media news 7

Skills program 7

Sports & Culture 8

Outdoor news 11

Outdoor centre 12

Back 2 Nature 13

Archery 13

Alumni news 14

Staff news 15



ITHEMBA NEWS



Visitors

It's not everyday that we get to meet someone who travels thousands of miles just to volunteer their time and skills to help those in need. But that's exactly what happened when a kind-hearted visitor all the way from Montreal Canada visited Orange Grove Schools.

Manon Dubuc was on a mission to give back to society and make a difference in the lives of children who are less fortunate. Upon learning about the school's needs, she immediately jumped into action and began volunteering her time.

Manon quickly became an integral part of the school community and spent time working with students.

Her efforts did not go unnoticed. Teachers and students alike were grateful for the time and energy she put into making a positive impact on the school. Her kindness and generosity touched the hearts of everyone she met and left a lasting impression on the school community.

Her actions remind us that there is still so much good in the world, and that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in the lives of those around us.



OGS NEWS



Pre-school news

This term was so exiting for the Grade R's as they started their PACE work. We had a water sports day, and a water fun day with the rest of the school. They also had their first camp which was a blast. All of them had been literally looking forward to the camp for years, as they were in the pre-Grade R class, envying the older kids year in and year out.



"Life without adventure is like pizza without cheese." **Global Castaway**



ACADEMIC NEWS



Classroom news

Our students and staff arrived back at school in January ready to dive into the new year with great enthusiasm! We have successfully transitioned to the Comprehend Africa curriculum in the Intermediate and Senior Phases, with students from Grade 4 to Grade 8 working both Online and in the new workbooks. Although sometimes challenging, this curriculum has added plenty of fun through Science Labs, Creative Writing tasks and Sensory learning activities. Our Foundation Phase continues to build strong foundations in literacy through the ACE curriculum, and our high school students are constantly challenged to achieve excellence in their work through the Hatfield Online School.

Ethan Wait (Grade 12) has been inducted as our new Head Boy, and has risen to the challenge of student leadership, earning the respect of our younger students.
Well done, *Ethan*!

Once again, our senior students competed in the Old Mutual South African Math Olympiad, with *Lara Hood* qualifying for the second round.

"The beginning is the most important part of any work" –
Plato

Media news

The media centre had an exciting start to the year. While some students were introduced to a computer for the first time, others have been excelling in their coding courses. Our students are back on our online chess platform and are preparing for a few matches in the coming terms.

We look forward to our second term and all it has in store for our students.

Skills program

Our skills course is in full swing! Our students have had a busy start to the year. *Liya*, with the assistance of *Linomtha* has built a grandstand for the school. This will be used next to the athletics track for all to enjoy.

Next term promises to be even more enriching with many new skills being introduced and mastered by our students.

SPORTS & CULTURE





This term has been filled with many exciting sporting events . We started our term off with participating in the Cradock Athletics event at CVS in Cradock . Our runners all ran so well and well done to *Bastie* and *Lexi* for making it into the finals for the 60 m sprints. Unfortunately the finals were cancelled due to heavy rain .

We had our annual fun day/ gala at OGS for the first time this year. The learners all had such fun and they participated in many fun games in and out the swimming pool. Well done to Kudu who accumulated the most house points at this event .

We had a very fun-filled cricket season. We welcomed *Uncle William Moolman* to the cricket coaching team. He taught many cricket skills this term; batting , bowling , fielding and learning to catch the balls. We played cricket against two schools, namely: Hangklip and Bedford. We lost to Hangklip and drew to Bedford . Well done to all the kiddies for always playing their best, regardless of the end results.

Our Mini Cricketers travelled to Cradock to participate in a Mini Cricket tournament. Our little ones all played so well , winning , losing and drawing some of their matches . It was some of our students' first cricket matches they have ever played but they were fearless and determined to win .

We also played some tennis this term with our senior girls . We focused on correcting our forehand and backhand shots. Next term we will start to focus on serving the balls.

Aunty Leonie has been doing some cross country/athletics fitness with some of the students at sport practises . They have been doing long and short sprints, lunges , squats and burpees on a regular basis .

We look forward to a fun filled, busy and active term 2 in which we will be focusing on netball , soccer and occasional rugby.





OUTDOOR NEWS

Outdoor Centre

We started off the term with a weekend leadership and teambuilding camp with the prefects from our local Tarka High School. They were challenged with games that demanded they work together and it was clear that not everyone had the same idea of what that looked like. Many braved their fears on the obstacle course and a short abseil and in the end the prefects managed to outwit their teachers in their final paintball challenge. Maybe they did learn something about teamwork after all!

Later in the term, we hosted all the Orange Grove learning centres from grade R up on their annual class camps. The topic was what it means to be brave and how fear is often there for a very good reason. Each class got to face age-appropriate fears, whether it was balancing on a high pole, walking that pole blindfolded or abseiling down a cliff. We made fires, braaied marshmallows, did an obstacle course and laughed quite a bit. On two of our camps, the weather played along with dramatic thunder and lightning, which for some was quite scary in their little canvas tents. In the end they all made it out alive, if a little short on sleep.





Back 2 Nature

Our first B2N lesson involved a hunt for the Ringbum Millipede Muncher which we located in the thick bush down by the river under a fallen archery butt. This giant ant really does munch millipedes and although it looks ferocious, was not aggressive towards us at all. We started setting up our new paludarium (an aquarium with a terrestrial/arboreal element) and in the process talked a lot about keeping wild pets and when it was appropriate. We successfully translocated all our guppies from the old tank and they are now breeding happily and much better than before in the new one. We also collected crabs, tadpoles and water insects for the new tank. After a spot of autumn birding, we used our paludarium to practice recording nature like a scientist – quite a challenge when you have an imagination that wants to run wild but have to stick to what is really there!



Archery

We began the year with a whole bunch of new archers in our Monday group which has been focusing on the basics again. It looks like we have some promising young archers in our midst. Archery tag and the opportunity to shoot their buddies was a welcome relief from the discipline of normal shooting, which isn't easy for all our little ones but helps tremendously with their ability to focus. Our more experienced archers continue to hone their skill and although they missed out on shooting each other, they challenged themselves to shoot further and those that could shoot the line and make the biscuits drop got a nice little reward. Every Orange Grove archer got to shoot for their house and Kudu got a thorough walloping by Gemsbok this time.

Alumni news

Join us for the opening of



Monday 13 March
51 African street



Another alumni student *Brittany Phillips* adds a coffee shop to her existing business *Skin4Life*.

Well done on your entrepreneurship spirit Britt!

We are thrilled to share the news of the wedding of one of our former graduates, *Caroline Price* to *Jonty Fletcher* (*picture on cover page*). It was a magical day with the ceremony held under a canopy of trees where heartfelt vows were exchanged and there was not a dry eye amongst their family and friends. It was a day filled with joy and love and we couldn't be happier for the newlyweds. We wish them a lifetime of happiness as they embark on this new journey together.

Our alumni *Pololo Vusani*, has followed her passion and is now a grade 8 Teacher at Koa Academy— one of the fast growing online schools in South Africa. Koa is a work-at-your-own pace-school, a lot like Orange Grove schools but online. *"What I do is very fulfilling and I can confidently say I'm happy here."*



Another alumni *Nolinki Blandile*, has enrolled for a Bachelor of Education degree at Varsity College. *"To think that before I came to Orange Grove Schools, going to college was a far fetched dream for me? I have specifically went for Teaching as my career of choice because without the quality education I received, I wouldn't be having such possibilities today."*

Staff news

Our staff had a blessed stay at *Amblewood Manor* in Kenton, for their Christian Educators Convention. The blessing is this place belongs to our alumni students, *Kristin Vorster* and *Johnie du Toit*. Amazing how our lives stay connected and we are all blessed!



Aunty Mia participated in an endurance riding event in January in Colesberg . Her horse successfully completed 80 km and she came 2nd in her category .

In February she competed in another endurance event in Hofmeyer along side 40 other horses . She entered in her very first 120 km race with her horse and they successfully completed, coming in 2nd place in her category . *"Doing 120 km on a horse is really tough . It took us 7 and a half hours. Your body aches, your horse's body aches, you both exhausted but when you cross that finish line it's all worth it ."*



Goodluck to Aunty Mia and her horse Ramon-Ji who will be competing in a 120 km competitive endurance race at the National Endurance Championships in May at Louvain Guest Farm in George, WC.

Leanne Phillips, with her baby, *Nicholas*, has taken up the Media Centre, teaching Coding and other Computer related skills to all our students, as well as various media and admin tasks. Our students are loving learning more about coding, but for many, having *Nicholas* around is the highlight of their day! Not many babies have the privilege of being loved by so many!





*Happy
Easter*

*From the Ithemba &
OGS Family*





IF YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN JOINING THE ITHEMBA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM, PLEASE
CONTACT [ANGELA AT ITHEMBATRUST@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ANGELA@ITHEMBATRUST.COM)

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON OUR WAITING LIST AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP AND
SUPPORT.

