

JUNE 2023

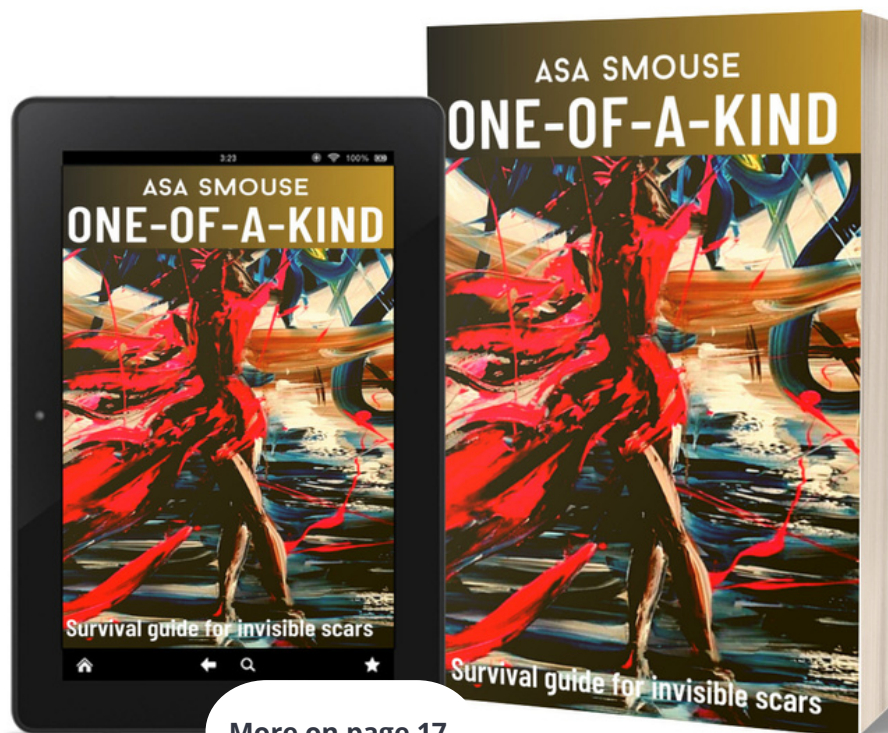
Q2 NEWS



# NEWSLETTER



## WINTER 2023



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## WELCOME FROM THE FOUNDER



### Warm Greetings!!!

Another term comes to an end after a long, busy 11-week 2nd term. The end has come just in time as a cold front hits us and temperatures plummet to 0 degrees, mornings are dark and the wind is howling down our passages - it's time to close for our winter break. The Orange Grove farm has been alive with many activities this term, as you will read and enjoy our journey with us.

Thank you again to all who continually support and pray for us. You are never forgotten and the vision continues to unfold, because of YOU!! Lives are changed, dreams are fulfilled and the Ithemba journey continues onward, forward, ever looking upward to the One, who watches over us and makes it all happen.

To Him be all glory and honour and praise!

Blessings to you all

**Kitty Phillips**

*K Phillips*

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# ITHEMBA NEWS

Source: Wesley Phillips

# Visitors

We are excited to share with you the recent visit of overseas visitors to Orange Grove Schools. The visitors, who hailed from different parts of the USA, were welcomed with open arms by the students and staff of the school. They spent a day interacting with the students, sharing their experiences, and learning about the local culture. The visitors were amazed by the enthusiasm and talent of the students despite the challenges they faced. They were impressed by the dedication of the teachers who worked tirelessly to provide quality education to the students. During their visit, the visitors also donated books, stationery, and other educational materials to the school. This gesture was greatly appreciated by the school and will go a long way in improving the learning environment for the students. The visits were a great success and left a lasting impact on both the visitors and the students. It was a reminder that despite our differences, we all share a common goal of creating a better future for the younger generation.

*Brian and Rachael Spielmann* along with their son, *Connor*, from Wisconsin visited the school for a second time and they brought along their friends, *Scott* and *Christy Jorgensen* also from Wisconsin, as well as *Roger* and *Nadine Nicosia* from Florida. It was wonderful to host them again and to meet new friends.

*Cody* and *Tracy Wilson* along with *Dustin & Heather Hays* from Wyoming also visited Orange Grove Schools and were blessed with songs, scriptures and prophetic art from the enthusiastic children.

We thoroughly enjoyed a visit from *Rick* and *Michelle Ellingson* from Idaho, who brought their son, *Travis* and his new wife, *Jessica* on a trip to South Africa as a wedding present. They have enjoyed their time hunting with Ezulu Adventures and their visit to the school was one of their highlights.

*Lisa Eudaly* and *Aileen Boyd* from Missouri took the day away from their safari to visit us at the school while their husbands continued their hunt with Ezulu Adventures. Both ladies were very touched by the children and especially the prophetic art presented to them by the children.

*Barrett* and *Nicole Kirk* from Houston, along with their two young boys, *Hudson* and *Hyland*, also took a day off from hunting to visit us. It was wonderful for their boys to interact with children from another culture and to see how school is done in a remote part of South Africa.

*Kirk* and *Jacquie Wehby* along with their children, *Mia*, *Luc* and *Kye* from Houston visited Orange Grove Schools after their quick hunt with Ezulu Adventures. We so enjoyed connecting with them and know this is the beginning of a wonderful relationship with them.



# Visitors







# OCGS NEWS



# PRESCHOOL NEWS



This term has been so much fun at the preschool.



Some of our main themes were senses, animals, special days, Winter and Autumn. We do such fun art when we learn a new theme and Autumn was definitely a favourite amongst our little ones. We did an art activity using Autumn leaves, the pre-schoolers loved this activity.

We had so much fun doing Fathers' and Mothers' day cards for our moms and dads too. We had special visitors from America coming to our class this term, we always sing to them and show them our art.

We learnt how to use a tennis racket this term and some basic hockey skills such as holding the hockey stick, stopping the ball and hitting a hockey ball.

The preschool also participated in the regional cross country event where they had to run a 1 km mob race. Well done to *Liam*, *Fiana* and *Lingomso* for winning their races. We are so proud of all of our preschoolers who finished the 1 km race! We look forward to doing athletics with our little ones in term 3.





# ABC

# 123





# ACADEMIC NEWS





# Classroom news

It has been a quiet, but productive term on the academic side of school life. I would like to congratulate *Ellie Kew* on achieving her ACE Supervisors qualification, for which she completed the training during the Easter holidays. Her commitment to her students is already bearing fruit, with her class all doing well in their reports this term.

The Grade 9 IEB students had a busy term, competing in the SA Old Mutual Maths Olympiad, with *Lara Hood* qualifying for the second round. They also wrote their mid-year exams this term, and are waiting for their results to be issued with baited breath!

Aunty Rose's class had fun with all sorts of art and science projects, but we're most proud of their Solar System Collage Posters, which were absolutely beautiful! The Grade 7 and 8's started a Ministry Apprenticeship for Life Orientation, and have grown and learnt many new skills as each student put in up to 20 hours of service working in various areas of our community, from sports coaching to administrative work. The other classes continue to enjoy all the extras we are privileged to offer, such as learning coding, online chess tournaments, science labs, and art projects.

## Media news

Our youngest have mastered the basics and continue to broaden their knowledge and creativity on their screens. Our coding courses have continued to challenge our older learners. This however, has been a challenge that many of our students have risen to and conquered. Our online chess platform has been busy. Our learners have been engaging in many inter-house matches and were able to participate in 1 SACSSA chess tournament.

*We are excited for the challenges of Term 3.*

## Skills program

Our skills boys have once again had a busy term. Our nursery tunnel has been put up in time for our winter. Their help and skill in this project was invaluable. We had many sport events this term. Our skills boys have risen to the challenges and hard work if setup and preparing for these events. We look forward to Term 3 as they begin new and exciting personal projects.

# SPORTS & CULTURE







Term two is always a busy and fun filled sporting term . We focused on hockey, netball, occasional rugby and cross country.

We played many hockey and netball matches this term . We competed against schools like Hangklip, Cradock Primary, Bedford, Winterberg School Trust and Balmoral Primary school. We achieved excellent results in all of our matches regardless of our limited teams.

Well done to our U13 netball team who remain unbeaten this season as well as our U8 hockey team. These teams have yet again proved that " dynamite comes in small packages".

Our senior boys played a touch rugby game against some of our parents. Unfortunately they lost this game , but learnt many skills from the parents and had lots of fun.

Our last event for term 2 was hosting the EPCSSA regional cross country event. The cross country is a highlight of the year for many of our athletes. We competed against Alexandria, Winterberg School Trust, Kowie Foundation and El Shaddai from Port Alfred. Our athletes all ran so well and a huge congratulations to *Amo Smouse, Liya Mayedwa, Khumo Smouse, Junior Smouse, Ngcwali Maweni* and *Lelethu Gqibisa* for qualifying for the SACSSA Nationals in KwaZulu Natal on the 29th of July, we are so proud of you!

We look forward to an exciting athletics season coming up in term 3. Well done to all our students for training so hard this term for your sport matches and cross country and never giving up even when you are exhausted !



**Always remember:**

**" All progress takes place outside your comfort zone "**







# OUTDOOR NEWS



# Horse riding

We had a successful term of horse riding. We had quite a few new children who were initially nervous to ride and ended up cantering confidently. All the kids managed to achieve their level one certificate.

Level one requires them to master a basic general knowledge of the anatomy and horse tack, to manoeuvre the horse through an obstacle course and to be able to control the horse correctly and stop when instructed to do so. Riders also need the right basic techniques when riding in order to achieve level 1. We look forward to training for level 2 next term. Well done to all of our riders, you make us so proud!

A big thank you to the Mzuri Wildlife Foundation for sponsoring many of our horse riders and giving them this amazing opportunity to be around and on horses.



# Adventure Race



We hosted what we called an Adventure Race at the beginning of June. It was a trail run with a little bit of a twist as it had a few obstacle challenges along the way including climbing over a cargo net and up a rope ladder, going across a pool of icy water on a zipline and shooting a warthog (not a real one) with a paintball gun. Runners had the option of a 5km and a 10km route. We had a great turnout with over 50 entrants.



The day was both a community event and a fundraiser for OGS staff and while the runners were out and about, their families could enjoy trying to shoot a balloon with a bow and arrow and climbing our bouldering wall. We had an absolutely fabulous array of prizes to be won and are hugely grateful to our generous sponsors for their donations towards the event. They were *Rip Miller* from the USA, *Donkin Brokers*, *Splitting Image*, *Twizza*, *The Story coffee shop*, *Tarka Butchery*, *Ithemba Trust* and *Kevin Phillips*.

Thank you all!



# Back 2 Nature

Back to Nature is an extra-curricular subject which aims to foster an appreciation, curiosity and wonder for the things of nature in our children. Some of our students who are not great at normal academic subjects, absolutely love nature and show great interest and empathy for things natural. There is actually a term for this and it's called 'Naturalistic Intelligence'. We couldn't find any formal way to test for this type of intelligence, so we made one up. It's really quite a challenge to remove the obstacles of language and the normal logical way of testing to try to see beyond that to how good a child really is with animals, plants, classifying things and understanding the patterns in nature. Nonetheless, we devised a test and our students had great fun attempting it. During the term we also started a project where students have to design an imaginary plant or animal that they are the first to 'discover', we learned about the organs of the human body and discussed our solar system and our very small place in it all.



*Test your own naturalistic intelligence by seeing if you know which of these objects belong to carnivores, and which to herbivores.*



## Archery

During the second term we introduced our new archers to the Feathers and Arrows program and gave everyone an opportunity to try for some of the qualifications associated with the program. Some of our archers got to learn how to make up arrows from blanks and make nocking points on strings and they all practiced shooting at further distances than they are used to. We ended the term by watching an inspiring video about Deepika Kumari, an Indian archer who was ranked number 1 in the world and made it to the Olympics against the odds of her culture and background.

# Alumni news

Ithemba has launched a subset of its Skills Development program, in order to provide employment readiness for its alumni. Asa Smouse is pioneering this program. Our first beneficiary is *Loyiso Gxothiwe* who is our alumni, he has been selected to join the YALI program. YALI stands for Young African Leaders Initiative—it's an USAID funded leadership program, in partnership with the University of South Africa (UNISA)'s Graduate School of Business & Leadership, *Loyiso* will be trained on Civic Leadership.



Well done Loyiso!

# Staff news



We would like to congratulate *Ntombi*, our longstanding housekeeping staff member, she has been graced with twin girls.

We thank God for a successful delivery and wish *Ntombi* and her husband more joy and happiness as they welcome new members in their family.

Asa Smouse—who has been instrumental in shaping our Skills Development Program has released her debut book (as seen on the cover page). It speaks about how to survive adversity, hold on to hope and build resilience in order to overcome life's challenges. The overarching theme of the book is simple, "your background does not get to define who you chose to become". Her book is available for purchase on Amazon in the following formats: ebook, paperback and hardback. Click on link below should you wish to purchase a copy.  
<https://www.amazon.com>







Wishing you and your families  
warm and happy  
holidays

From the  
Ithemba & OGS Family



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