

MARCH 2024

Q1 NEWS

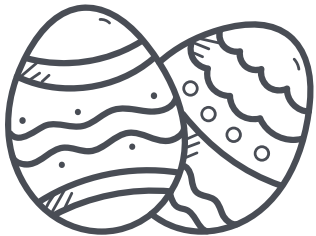


NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN 2024

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www.ithemba4hope.org

WELCOME FROM THE FOUNDER



Easter Greetings

This term has been marked by remarkable blessings and favor. Upon perusing our newsletter, you will witness the abundant goodness bestowed upon us by God, evident even in the early stages of the 1st Term.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Ithemba and Orange Grove family for their unwavering support through sponsorships, contributions, love, prayers, and assistance. Your generosity has left us speechless, allowing us to reside in the opulence and abundance of your kindness.

Anticipation for the forthcoming year fills us with excitement. The steady increase in the number of children each week mirrors the unfolding of the parable of the wedding feast, as depicted in Matthew 22:8. Inspired by the Lord's call to extend invitations to those beyond our immediate circles, we have witnessed a growing influx of applicants and inquiries. The evolving composition of our family, though unexpected, has brought about its own unique beauty, warmly embraced and cherished by our dedicated staff.

So we continue to see the vision unfold and grow. We celebrate life in abundance on this place called Orange Grove!

We express our deepest gratitude.

Kitty Phillips

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"For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

Habakkuk 2:3-4 (NKJV)

We dream of an athletics field...
... watch this space!

1 2 3 4 5

S T A R T

ITHEMBA NEWS



Visitors



This month, our school had the honor of welcoming *Stuart and Cherie Farnsworth* from Montana. Their longstanding support for *Imi Maweni*, one of our students, culminated in a heartening visit, offering a meaningful occasion to meet the bright recipient of their generous sponsorship. The visit was characterized by joy and unity as Stuart and Cherie engaged with Imi in her classroom, where she and her peers showcased their insightful artwork, leaving a lasting impression on all participants. This visit underscored the profound impact sponsors can have, resonating deeply with both Imi and the entire school community.

In March, we were thrilled to receive a visit from the *Sjostrom* family, dedicated long-distance supporters of our school, notably *Kathy Sjostrom*. *Joshua and Arin Sjostrom*, accompanied by their son *Justin* and friend *Jack*, traveled from the United States to visit us. The *Sjostrom* family has steadfastly supported our school for the past two years since their previous visit. Their presence granted them firsthand exposure to the vibrant classroom environment and engaging outdoor activities featured in the school's term-end festivities. This visit exemplified the power of community and showcased how international connections can significantly enrich the lives of our students.



We extend a heartfelt round of applause to our sponsors and donors for their steadfast support of our mission. Your generous contributions have played a pivotal role in advancing our team, enabling our students to accomplish extraordinary achievements.



O G S NEWS

PRESCHOOL NEWS





The term was engaging and enriching. With the addition of new students, *Nandi's* learning centre now comprises 12 children, while Grade R has 7. A new Joy program was initiated for Grade RR, introducing activities like show and tell, which was well-received as students shared about their favourite toys.

Grade R students embarked on an excursion with uncle *Dave* to explore Bushman tools, resulting in a fruitful discovery. They also enjoyed a camping trip where they relished the experience of cooking sausages over an open fire in the wilderness.

Art sessions proved to be creatively stimulating, utilizing various mediums such as puffy paint for crafting rabbits, bubble wrap for beehive creations, and crafting a moving worm on a leaf. Sporting activities included running, swimming, and cricket matches. A memorable Water Day was organized, featuring a slippery slide adorned with bubbles for added excitement.

"People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"

Mark 10:13-16



ACADEMIC NEWS



Skills program



Ayola Siquhaza has assumed leadership of the girls' skills department. The girls commenced with Hospitality sessions, followed by engaging in Arts & Handcraft classes that introduced them to sewing fundamentals along with a hands-on project. To support their department, they have initiated a fundraising initiative by crafting and selling ice cream and desserts, aiding in honing their entrepreneurial abilities.

Our boys swiftly delved into practical woodworking projects with uncle *Leon*, balancing hands-on tasks with essential theoretical knowledge. Working with a variety of woodworking tools has enabled them to enhance their portfolios significantly. Additionally, they actively participated in caring for our cattle at Orange Grove, assisting uncle *Dave* in herd management activities such as inoculation and dipping. Looking ahead to term 2, the boys are poised to delve into welding and metalwork, emphasizing safety protocols while operating equipment. Furthermore, they will delve into construction practices as they embark on a new building project on the school premises.



SPORTS & CULTURE





This semester has been marked by a series of exhilarating sporting events. Our journey commenced with active participation in the Cradock Athletics event at CVS in Cradock. The performance of our runners was commendable, with special recognition to *Bastie Bryant* for securing the 2nd position in the boys 80m final and *Junior Smouse* for achieving the same in the boys 60m final.

Moreover, we engaged in the annual mini cricket tournament hosted by CVS in Cradock, eliciting enthusiasm from our young team. While we emerged victorious against Bedford and Gill, the match against Michausdal ended in a narrow defeat. Notably, for many team members, this tournament marked their inaugural cricket experience, displaying courage, determination, and exceptional sportsmanship throughout.

The recurrence of our annual water day was met with enthusiasm as learners participated in engaging water activities and enthusiastically navigated the water slippery slide. Kudos to Kudu for amassing the highest number of house points during this event.

In a bid to diversify our senior athletes' experiences, they were introduced to rounders this term, showcasing their enthusiasm through spirited competition. Additionally, our sports coaches have prioritized fitness training in preparation for upcoming events in term 2, including cross country, netball, and soccer.



Remember, "Gold medals aren't really made of gold. They're made of sweat, determination, and a hard-to-find alloy called guts." — **Dan Gable**



OUTDOOR NEWS



Class Camps



March is camp season, when the weather (theoretically) cools off! Students in grades R and above have come to anticipate spending a night out and engaging in various excursions. This year uncle *Duncan* took them all out into the veld where they braaied sausages over an open fire and the IEB students got to stay out and sleep in the veld.

The others went back to our outdoor centre and spent the night in tents. Everyone had the opportunity to take a stroll through the veld and the majority got to ride our makeshift zip-line that crosses the river. The older kids had a lot of fun blasting paintballs at each other, and everyone got to play games like obstacle courses and pillow-bashing your friend off a pole.

One of the highlights of this year's camps was the number of attempted pranks, mostly by various staff and students. Many crashed and burned but the mystique around who the culprits were and the plots for revenge continued on.

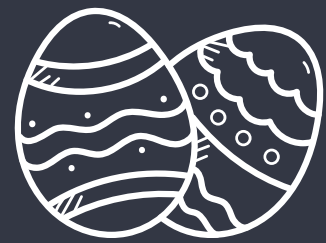
"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."
—**John Muir**





We'd like to say a huge thank you to the Mzuri Wildlife Foundation who sponsor our B2N course and have made it possible for our students to learn the things they have and enjoy the experiences they've had.

Back 2 Nature



Throughout this term in B2N, our study with microscopes delved into a variety of objects, including our blood samples and the vibrant microcosm within pond scum. We engaged in discussions on the correlation between form and function in leaves, undertook bird-watching activities to expand our Orange Grove bird inventory, and witnessed the growing proficiency of some students in bird identification. Emphasizing the value of experimentation in acquiring knowledge, we initiated experiments involving plant cuttings.

Moreover, a remarkable discovery unfolded as we stumbled upon a ground area on the Orange Grove farm adorned with an abundance of stone tools reminiscent of those crafted by the San people. In our exploration of this site, we encountered intriguing rocks seemingly utilized for sharpening purposes, alongside an upper grinding stone. While the precise historical context of this location remains enigmatic, our pursuit of further insights into its past underscores our collective fascination with the enigmatic allure of exploration and discovery within our immediate surroundings.

Archery

We had a lot of new, young and very enthusiastic archers join up this term. Our older archers practiced shooting at further distances and although we had a few casualties in the arrow department, they are getting the hang of it. We have however realized that the bows we use are limited in their ability to shoot the further distances of up to 60 metres that our senior archers are required to shoot in outdoor competitions but thanks to an incredibly generous grant from the Mzuri Wildlife Foundation, we are now able to upgrade a lot of our equipment so that we can compete at more events in the future.



Staff news



Congratulations to our co-founder and CEO, *Kitty Phillips*, an occasional bowling enthusiast, for winning the Border Mixed Pairs Championship, with her husband, *Kevin*.

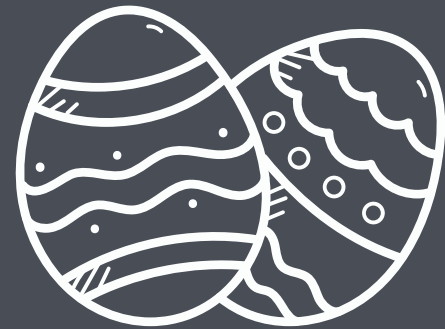
Alumni news

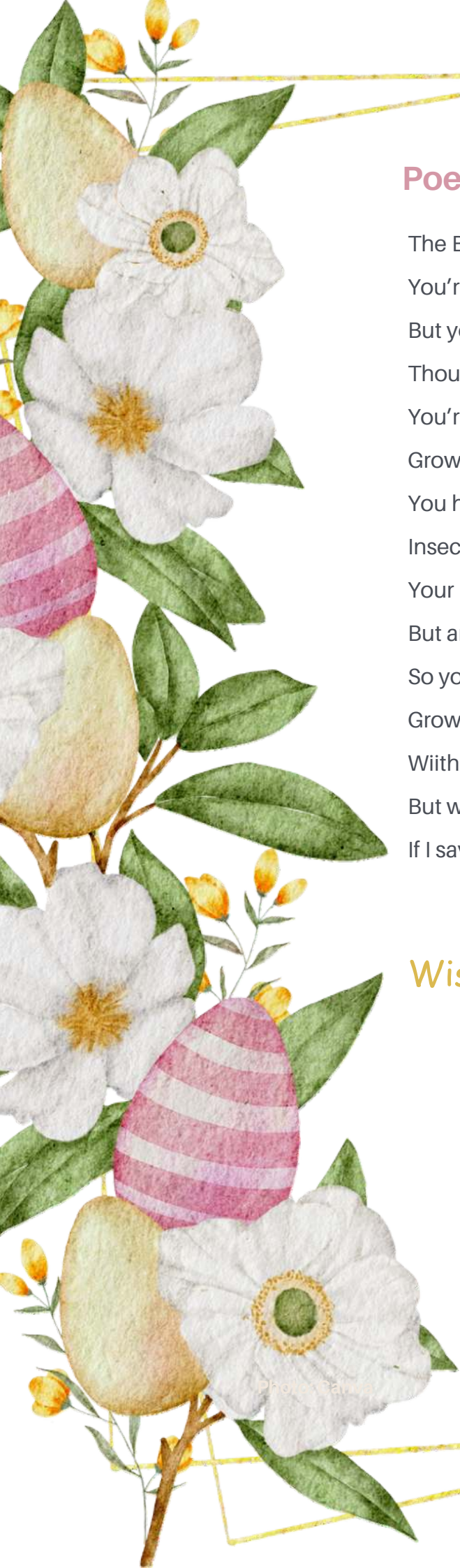


Liya Mayedwa, a former student of the skills program, has selflessly dedicated a year of his life to IThemba. Renowned for his exceptional riding abilities, he participated in the barrel racing competition at our community's local Agricultural show. We trust God to continue directing Liya's path.

We express gratitude for the chance to witness the fruits of our labour. This sentiment resonates with the scripture in **Galatians 6: 9-10**, "And don't allow yourselves to be weary in planting good seeds, for the season of reaping the wonderful harvest you've planted is coming! Take advantage of every opportunity to be a blessing to others, especially to our brothers and sisters in the family of faith!"

None of this, would be possible without the generosity of our sponsors and partners.





Poem by our Grade 8 students

The Black Rose

You're a black rose

But you bring vibrant colours to the roots of others

Though the shade of red has faded

You're brighter than all flowers

Growing up was tough

You had it hard since you were born

Insecurities cover you but every rose has it's thorn

Your petals have torn

But are perfectly embedded with everyone else

So you sit in solitude

Growing leaves until it helps

With the pain you go through on a daily

But we could help each other

If I save you, you can save me....

Wishing you Happy Easter Holidays

Kitty, Ang, & Tanya



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.



KITTY PHILLIPS
FOUNDER & TRUSTEE



ANGELA PRICE
CO-FOUNDER & TRUSTEE



TANYA JERNIGAN
TRUSTEE



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