



# Good Shepherd Newsletter

March 2017

We are on the web:  
www.goopherdgrahamstown.com

## Report from the principal desk.....

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Good Shepherd School prides itself on a 132 year old tradition of educating learners from disadvantaged backgrounds. So far the emphasis has mainly been on academics and sports codes; it has always been difficult without a sports field, yet the learner numbers has grown to 305 at the beginning of this academic year, probably one of the highest in our school's history.

Learners now are presented with a wide variety of options and opportunities to become involved in extra-curricular activities. More and more matches are requested from different schools. The lack of coaches is a challenge as there are teachers not equipped to coach sports. Volunteers could assist, now that VG shares their fields with us, it will make running sports at the school so much easier.

Discipline issues are dealt with in an on-going manner and with a healthy code of conduct as well as the implementation of Religious Education, we aim to inculcate good values and the notion that everyone matters.

There are many classrooms that are doing great things. I think, as always, it comes down to dedicated teachers who work so hard to meet the needs of their learners.

In certain areas I feel that we're not making substantive progress. Our goal is to improve learners' outcomes and the fact that there are pockets of success, in my opinion, we are failing learners that are not academically inclined, on the other hand there might be the argument that learners' cognitive, emotional and emotional well-being is a far bigger social issue than the score a child gets on a test.

This one-size-fits-all delivery system is killing the potential of many of our learners.

We are not making desired improvement because more so now than ever, learners are showing up in the main stream classrooms with varied abilities and teachers are not equipped to teach these learners. Learners with learning barriers remain an enormous challenge.

On-going teacher and leadership training through gADRA take place. The school remains grateful for all the volunteers that assist in the various reading groups, netball coaching, library services etc. It is sad to lose our LSA as the Department of Education did not renew the contract.

The school celebrates a number of achievements amid the daily running of the school. The School Improvement Plan at the end of the year included an emphasis on improving Mathematics, Natural Science and English. The June examination results have shown a significant improvement, with more learners passing different subjects. I attach scanned results.

Here I wish to express my genuine and heartfelt thanks to the Good Shepherd Trust, all the trustees for what they do to make the school as the special place it is. It has enabled learners to have an exceptional year with many opportunities which I will explain below.

Since the School Governing Body (SGB) of the Victoria Girls High (VG) gave permission for Good Shepherd School to use their sports fields up to 11:00 every school day; we have adjusted the school's time table to fit an extra mural, 1 hour period every morning. We have had volunteers assisting with coaching. The school day has been lengthened to accommodate the extramural period. A timetable has been drawn up for this purpose.

Four teachers attended the Teach conference

last year. The Trust subsidised the conference fees. Teachers returned excited and invigorated.

The learners participated in the Shakespeare festival, the production, Romeo and Juliet was very well portrayed and the group won a trophy.

The Admin post has been advertised by the department, this is the post that was paid by the Trust before.

Siphothando Fundamental, our grade 7 Deputy Head boy has received a scholarship to St Andrews College for the 2017 academic year. We are all grateful to the headmaster and staff at SAC.

Mr Aaron Accom has started volunteering in the maths class since Mrs Prudence van der Linde indicated her intention of not returning after her leave.





Valentines  
day  
2017



## Good Shephard family welcome Miss Jade Botha

Miss Jade Botha

I became a teacher because I've always been passionate about creating opportunities for transformation. I am enthusiastic about helping other fulfil their potential and helping them realise their dreams. My motto in life is that if you can dream it, you can achieve it. Anything in life is

possible with hard work and determination.

Good Shephard welcomes Miss Botha to the English Department.



## Good Shephard welcomes Mr Accom to the Maths Department.

Mr Accom

Originally from Grahamstown (born and raised), Mr Accom has been fortunate enough to have an array of schooling experiences. His Educational journey started off at Oatlands Preparatory School. He later moved to Graeme College where he spent a couple of years. He completed the rest of his primary schooling at St. Mary's – before moving back to Graeme College to complete his high schooling. Mr Accom attended Rhodes University where he

pursued a degree in Journalism and Media studies. He later entered the world of education by obtaining his PGCE at Rhodes University.

Education and teaching has always been in my family. I love working with children and I am passionate about education. Everybody has a desire to make a difference in the world, to make a change. I believe that there is no better way to make that difference than to start with the little ones. I

want to inspire children, motivate them to do great things – shape their young minds; mould them into leaders that our country and the world need"





## Grade 7 Leadership Camp 2016

Grade 7 Leadership Camp at Hobbiton, Grahamstown.

A highlight in 2016 was the Grade 7 camp at Table Farm. St Andrew's College boys accompanied Grade 7 learners to Table Farm for a night of camping and some outdoor activities. The Grade 7s also went on a Leadership Camp at Hobbiton just outside Grahamstown. Mr Mata, Trust-funded teacher of NS and Technology, has put a lot of effort into developing and running a Leadership Pro-

gramme for Grade 6s. The 'Cool to be Me' programme was also run with Grade 6s in 2016, with support from Ntsika Kitsili of GA-DRA Education.



**Grade 2's dramatization on a book they are reading about weddings. It was a fun day.**



Our Little  
Brides &  
Grooms

## South African Police Service Visit

South African police service visited our school at the opening of the 2017 academic year. The SAPS did awareness on bullying, drug abuse and child protection. We would like to thank the South African Police services for talking the time to visit our school.





# Memories



*Ash Wednesday service*

*1 March 2017*

## Chinese club 2017



## Grade 2's Ready for Rugby 2017



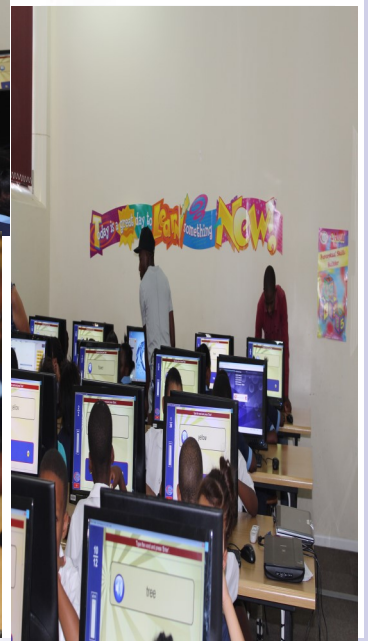


# Memories



At our School we respect all  
Cultures....

## Sifunda Kunye Computer Lab at Good Shephard....





# Thank you



Volunteers from St Andrews Collage  
Zukisani Makhaba and Ncedo Msamo offer Cami English &  
Cami Maths in our Sifunda Kunye computer Lab.

## Photo Gallery





# Funny Corner



## Photo Gallery



Guest speaker. Ms Sharief Hails (centre)

