



Good Shepherd Newsletter

March 2018

We are on the web:
www.goodshepherdgrahamstown.com

- SCHOOL REPORT
- SAPS VISIT
- OUR LAB
- ASH
- WILL
- GRD 7 CAMP
- OUR LAB
- PHOTO GALLERY



Good Shepherd School Report

February 2018

Our year started without a Principal and hence the SGB appointed me in an acting capacity for the interim. Thank you to the SGB for their confidence in me and their continued support.

We welcomed Mrs Green as our Grade 1 Educator and she has brought with her a positive and friendly demeanour.

We were blessed by Infundo : Charmaine and Gail who spent two days workshop to revisit the goals and objectives for the new school year.

Our learner total presently is 304.

Back to school service was conducted by Revd Dr Claire Hunter on 24 January with the Induction of our Monitors.

We are also blessed by her Wednesday visits and much needed spiritual guidance and counselling to learners who have special needs.

We are privileged to have Mrs Suzanne Sievwright a Therapist who assist learners with emotional and phycological barriers. This is done voluntarily.

Our school is blessed in so many ways.

We have an exchange student from the UK Will Dadd who is spending 6 months with the school visiting various classes across the Grades. He is able to assist with Life Skills activities outside with the Foundation Phase.

Our Computer lab is up and running under the care of Zukhisani Makhaba. This most definitely is a highlight for our learners both present and new.

There are many activities offered to our learners that enhance their holistic development.

Basket Ball at SAC is enjoyed with our senior boys under the supervision of Mr Tim Barnard and his coaches.

Clubs are on Mondays under Ms Pretorius from SAC for Grades 4 to 7

Homework Club takes place at school on Thursdays supervised by Victoria Girls High School and Educators.

Chinese clubs are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the lab.

Learners find this as an enriching experience.

From the Claude Leon Project the school was able to do the following:

Leadership Camp happened on 2nd February at Hobbiton on Hogsback for the Monitors accompanied by two Educators. This most probably will be a lasting memory. It also enhanced their important roles in the school and how to assist Educators with discipline.

Cool to be Me for Grades 3 and 6 are continuing

Crafts happen at school on Thursdays and Fridays and learners are taught different skills.

Arts at Carina's will continue.

Books were bought for Foundation Phase as well as Phonics in a Box.

The Foundation Phase is also planning a Drama Musical from Grades R to 3 for the fourth Term.

GADRA engagement at school will work closely with the Foundation Phase spending an hour per week in each Grade.

They started with a baseline Assessment to determine the competence of our learners. This was greatly embraced by all the Foundation Educators because at the end of the day we would love to see all our learners excel.

Rugby Ready for Foundation Phase is geared at skills development for little ones and this gives the learners more exposure. Mr Elton Jeggels is the Coach and this is an initiative of the DOE. This is a most enjoyed and fun filled experience for the learners who display their various skills.

On 14th February we observed and celebrated Ash Wednesday service conducted by Bishop Ebenezzer Ntlali and Officiated by Rev Mzizi Dyantyi in the Cathedral of St Michael and St George. We believe Christian values need to be instilled and upheld as a school under the church.

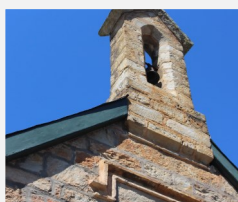
A Mathematics competition took place at Education Dept at Rhodes by Mr Andrew Stevens. The aim of the competition was to stimulate interest in Mathematics and to participate in problem solving activities and to assist schools to identify hidden talents in their learners. A positive outcome of this competition was experienced by learners who attended. Weekly sessions will take place. This will help learners to develop their mathematical abilities and also in preparation for the Mathematical Olympiad (SAMO). Five Grade 7 learners participated from our school. We were delighted at the outcome.

SGB election process took place and new members have been selected to serve for a three year period.

Without the support of the TRUST both in planning, time and finance none of this would be possible. Mention of Mrs Cathy Meiklejohn who puts in endless hours unconditionally has helped in many ways. A heartfelt appreciation and our deepest gratitude to all the members of the TRUST.

Katie Appollis

Acting Principal



SAPS VISIT



Various speakers from the SAPS under Sergeant Visa, visited our learners. The focus was drug and substance abuse. We at Good Shepherd would like to thank the SAPS for taking the time to visit our learners.





Sifunda Kunye Computer Lab at Good Shepherd...



Grade R learners in our computer lab during Cami Perceptual lesson. We learning how to use the mouse.....

CAMI Perceptual

- The only program of its kind that deals with all areas of early childhood development.
- Addresses all eight areas of perception: colour, shape, spatial orientation, associative skills, comparative skills, mental retention, auditory skills and numeracy.
- Focuses on whole-brain development to increase the brain's effectiveness and ensures that learning is more integrated and structured.
- Can be used for children and adults with learning disabilities and attention deficits.
- Also used by therapists in hospitals for the rehabilitation of brain-damaged patients.
- Has text and voice assistants and sound, which can be individually selected according to the learner's needs.

Features :

- Associative skills
- Language development
- Auditory perception
- Motor skills
- Sequencing
- Spatial orientation
- Memory retention
- Numeracy and quantity
- Body awareness



This Zukisani Makhaba, originally from Sterkspruit, EC. He is currently a teacher intern at St. Andrew's college. He is studying Bsc. in Life sciences with Geography. He did his high Grades at Tlokweng Senior Secondary school, now he is helping at Good Shepherd primary school.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is a holy Christian day of prayer, fasting and repentance. The learners from Goodshepherd primary school together with the Teachers went to the Cathedral to celebrate ash Wednesday on the 14th of february. The service was conducted by Bishop Ebenezar, he prayed and made cross marking on everyone who was there. The parents also joined this service.



Will is a gap year student from England. He will be spending time at Good Shepard School for the first half of 2018 before returning home to study at University. Will has been taking P.E. lessons, helping in class and covering lessons for teachers that are ill. He is enjoying experiencing life here in the Eastern Cape and says that the enthusiastic and playful learners of Good Sheperd School have made his time in Grahamstown enjoyable.



Welcome!



Grade 7 Camp

2018 Leadership camp took 16 learners on a journey through rolling hills and high reaching mountains. Hobbiton on Hogsback was an expedition of self-discovery and personal growth, of overcoming fears and seeing your true potential for greatness.

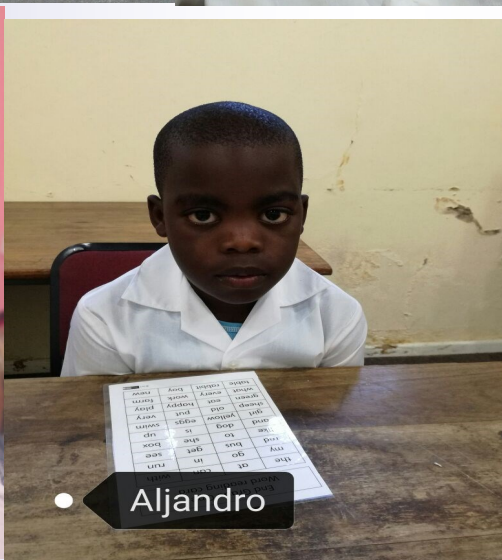
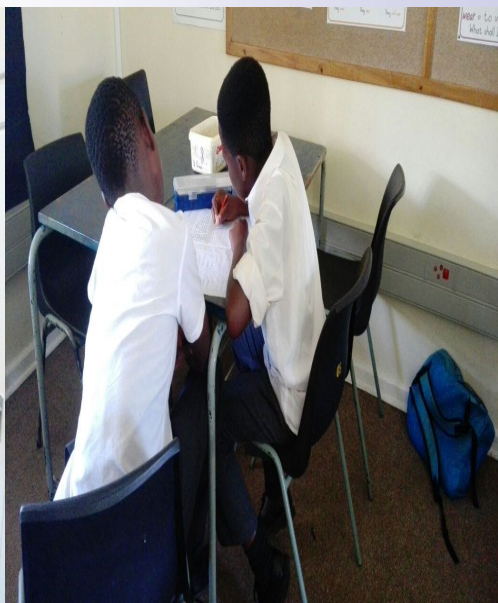
Good Shepherd Primary monitors, as well as Ms Botha and Mr Mata, were accommodated in neat and spacious dormitories that overlooked the majestic Swallow Tail Waterfall. We were treated to many activities that were designed to expand the tight comfort zone we often find ourselves in. High rope courses, zip-lining, team building activities, hikes and games nights not only entertained but enriched the learners understanding of themselves and their potential to overcome challenges as a team and as an individual. Learners were dared to rethink the way they see themselves and communicate and interact with each other as a team – which proved to be whole heartedly rewarding.

Our Hobbiton experience was shared with a church group who welcomed the learners warmly to share in their worship service on Saturday evening – after a reflective and meditative night hike through the forest. Learners were constantly encouraged to push themselves and support each other to see past their fears, opening themselves to new understandings and gaining confidence in themselves and their team.

Hobbiton on Hogsback facilitators were intricately involved in guiding and directing learners through terrifying and exciting physical activities as well as redirecting their thinking to accommodate the new found reality that they can do anything they put their heart to.

It was a truly heart-warming opportunity to bear witness to these young people growing and expanding, gaining confidence and control of their ever expanding minds. The gratitude and love (and snores) emanating from the learners on the beautiful bus ride home was testament to an incredible weekend of shared laughs, tears and joys.

2018 MEMORIES





Good Shepherd Newsletter Term 2 2018

MESSAGE FROM HEADMISTRESS !

This Term has once again been full of activities in and around the school. Every day unfolds differently from the one before. As much as it is planned, it brings about its own surprises. We thank God for our school and all we play a vital role within the school environment. A huge Thank You must go to all Trustees for the amazing work done to uphold and support the school.

We have concluded the SGB process and this had its own challenges. The school needs good governance with an SGB that will serve the school to the best of their ability. The applications for the Principals post has been concluded and the school awaits the response from the DOE as we continue to pray for a leader for our school. Grade 1 still needs to be filled and needless to say the TRUST is currently paying Mrs Green in the interim. A new meal server has been appointed with an existing one as from the beginning of April. We also received a visit from the DOE to monitor the Nutrition programme. They are very impressed with the present situation.

Foundation Phase

We are as busy as bees with many activities happening. Grade R has received new Library books from Lebone because Ms Hillier attended a Library course. The Grade R learners also participate in Rugby Ready, an initiative of the DOE under Mr Jeggels. They always enjoy the computer lab.

Grade 1 has a student teacher for this term. Learners are also engaged in the lab, Rugby Ready and library visits. Reading Eggs have started.

Grade 2 has a volunteer as well as student teachers. This has been most helpful. They are also involved in one on one student support with Language, Mathematic groups, Rugby Ready, Computers, and English lessons with Ms Nesi from GADRA.

Grade 3 has a Reading club, Rugby ready and Library visits.

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SIFUNDA
KUNYE
TOGETHER IN LEARNING

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Grade 5 Amakhala Game Reserve Visit	2
Rugby Ready Day	3
Maths Club	3
Ascension Day Service	4
Computer Lab	4
Shakespeare Auditions	4
Reading Eggs	4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- New members of staff at Good Shepherd
- Sports at school and the Rugby season
- Clubs happening during term 2

Intermediate Phase

There is much activities that provided the necessary support to our learners;

SAC clubs under Ms Pretorius, Homework clubs supervised by Ms Botha, Mathematic clubs under Mr Accom, museum visits, A Shakespeare play is on the cards under Ms Botha, Marimba band under Mr Mata, Environmental initiatives

General

We have regular visits from SAPS, Revd DR Claire comes on a weekly basis to council and support many learners. Mrs Sue Siewright the psychologist attends to learners who need that support. The library operates to empower the learners and teachers with reading and resource materials. Ncedo is running the lab and we are happy to have Will Dadd back from home, what a blessing they are. We had a visit from African Enterprise Fire Fox. The youth could share their experiences with our learners. We attended a service in the Cathedral on Ascension Day. The service was conducted by Revd Dr Claire. This was the first of many to come, spiritual nurturing is important for both learners and educators.

Thank you to all those who have invested in time and kind to our school in so many ways. May we never grow weary of doing good. God bless you all.

Yours in Education

Katie

“Thank you to all those who have invested in time and kind to our school in so many ways. May we never grow weary of doing good”



GRADE 5 AMAKHALA GAME RESERVE VISIT !

On the 25th of May 2018, the grade 5 class was invited by Coaching for Conservation to Amakala Game reserve – where they participated in the annual Rhino Rapid Awareness Program.

The program is aimed towards educating learners about the devastating effects of Rhino poaching. Coaching for Conservation aspires to address the belief systems of children. They instil confidence, hope and desire into children by inspiring them to make a difference in the world.

Coaching for Conservation uses two mechanisms for teaching: firstly, to harness the power of sport and all the inherent values that sport provides in terms of health, fitness, teamwork and pride. Secondly, allowing children to learn from the coaches and mentors – by bringing the animals that they are trying to protect, onto the sports field.

The learners participated in a three-part programme (MEET; BE; HELP) conducted by qualified and experienced educators and soccer coaches.

For the “MEET” section they were given a brief talk about their coach/animal for the day (Rhino).

They were then taken to the field to do soccer drills and “BE” the animal.

The session was completed with the “HELP” section – a series of conservation games, which also included an exciting game drive.



Foundation Phase pupils participating in the Rugby Ready Day

RUGBY READY DAY

Throughout this term coach Elton Jeggels has been coming to Good Shepherd school to coach rugby to pupils in the foundation phase. All pupils involved have looked forward to his visits every week and have been excited to leave their classes and spend some of their energy on the rugby pitch.

On Thursday 31st May all the pupils had the opportunity to share the pitch with their coach and all foundation phase pupils at Good Shepherd. After a quick warm up exercise, the children were split into their individual grades and given time to play games of tag rugby against their peers.

The action was fast paced and sometimes chaotic, but it was encouraging to see all pupils give their maximum effort. During the event an outstanding number of tries were scored by all teams involved.

All involved thoroughly enjoyed the morning of Rugby. We would like to express our gratitude to Coach Elton Jeggels as well as the parents who came to watch and support their children.

MATHS CLUB

Throughout Term 2 Mr Accom has been holding Maths club after school on Wednesdays.

Pupils from the intermediate phase invited to participate in Maths club will be in the top 5 for their grade, and Maths club represents an excellent opportunity to challenge themselves and develop their mathematical ability.

Every week the pupils split into teams with members from each grade represented, to solve questions presented in fun activities. With points available to the best groups each week and prizes for the best performing pupils at the end of term, Maths club has cultivated a competitive attitude within the participants, pushing each other to develop their skills.



Pupils competing in a Maths Treasure hunt around school

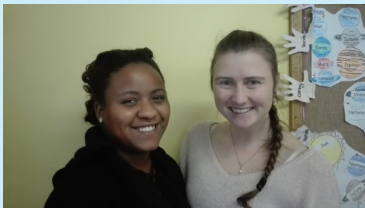
STUDENT TEACHERS

We have been very fortunate in foundation phase to have two amazing student teachers who have been with us for ten weeks of this term. Miss. Liebenberg in Grade 1 and Miss. Williams in Grade 2. These delightful ladies have brought with them lots of enthusiasm and innovative ideas, which they have had a chance to put into practice in the classrooms.

Miss Liebenberg has had lots of fun planning and doing lots of shared writing activities with the Grade ones among other things.

Miss Williams has been very busy creating activities for the grade 2 class, her Maths work is a particular favorite amongst the learners. She has also been worked been taking learners for one-to-one reading sessions.

We are sure that Miss's Liebenberg and Williams will go on to be fantastic teachers and Good Shepherd wishes them all the best in their future careers as educators. Thank you for all the hard work!



Miss Williams (left) and Miss Liebenberg (right)

COMPUTER LAB

This term has been busy for the computer lab at Good Shepherd. Staffed by interns from St. Andrews College, the computer lab has seen the foundation phase pupils using Cami-Education suite to develop their learning through quick, intuitive and repetitive exercises. Intermediate phase pupils have been using Cami-Maths to tackle trickier problems such as long division and time-telling, the greatest benefit of the Cami-software is it gives learners a chance to attempt a significantly larger amount of questions than would otherwise be possible. Intermediate phase pupils have also been using the computer lab to conduct research for their Natural Science and Life Sciences projects, it has been great to see pupils spending their free time to benefit their class work.

LIBRARY

The library has been very busy this term. Miss June staffs the library every Tuesday and Thursday, welcoming all grades throughout the school to borrow books, taking them home to enjoy for a week. The school is extremely lucky to have her working with us.

The library isn't just for books, it also provides a quiet and inclusive space for the pupils to visit during their break times. Students can challenge each other to a game of chess, take a quick read of their favourite books or play puzzles and get creative with Lego. Many thanks also to the Grade 7 Library monitors who put in lots of effort to keep the Library clean and welcoming.



SHAKESPEARE AUDITIONS

Good Shepherd Primary learners are eagerly on the way to creating another Shakespeare performance of note!

Auditions have taken place and facilitators are currently in the tough position of selecting learners for their roles in this year's *Midsummers Night Dream*. We are very grateful for the talented and generous hands of 3 Rhodes university Drama students who are here to help get the show up and running.

Information about the show will be made available soon – in the meantime, please note that Drama Club will be taking place every Wednesday after school for an hour. Your support and encouragement is always warmly welcomed and appreciated.

READING EGGS

The School has just started using the website reading eggs with foundation phase pupils.

Readings Eggs was created by expert educators and is based on solid scientific research to give children the best chance at reading success. It is an interactive and highly interactive website designed to develop the essential reading skills of young children.

All Grade 1,2 and 3 pupils have sat their placement quiz to determine their current reading capacity and assign them ability specific exercise. The pupils have started to work through their exercises, and will soon graduate on to accessing the over 2000 e-books available to them on Reading Eggs.

GRADE 3 RECYCLING PROJECT

The Grade 3 class has been learning about how to look after the environment. They have been learning about saving water and recycling. They have used all their knowledge to produce a Theme corner on the Three Rs ; recycling, reusing and reducing. The main display is a collage of recyclable materials they have brought in from home. They have also been making cookie Jars out of recycled materials as fathers day gifts.



GRADE 2 MASKS

The grade 2 class have been making colourful and creative masks. Much fun has been enjoyed by all.



GRADE 1 SOLAR SYSTEM

This term the Grade ones have been very busy learning about space. They have learnt the names of the planets in our solar system and the position of earth. This started with various writing activities, videos and stories, after which, the children got to make their own solar systems. In addition, we visited the Albany museum where we saw their solar system display and learned more about how the moon goes around the earth and what causes an eclipse. The Grade ones have had great fun decorating their class to look like space and imagining what it would be like to go into space as an astronaut.



Grade 1 Astronauts

ASCENSION DAY SER-

On Thursday 10th June all pupils and staff from Good Shepherd Primary School, joined by parents and members of the Good Shepherd Trust, attended an Ascension day service at Grahamstown Cathedral.

The service is held on the Thursday 39 days after Easter Sunday, and is held to commemorate Jesus' ascension into heaven. After Jesus' crucifixion, he was resurrected on Easter Sunday and appeared to many of his disciples and others imploring them to spread the word of god.

A excellent service was delivered by Reverend Claire Hunter that included songs, stories and a puppet show with Spike and Thandi. The message that Reverend Claire shared with us was of teamwork and cooperation.

Also included during the service was a reading by Good Shepherd pupils Leolin and Onika.



*Reverend Claire with
puppets Spike and Thandi*

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GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Good Shepherd Primary School

Good Shepherd Newsletter Term 3— 2018



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**SIFUNDA
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TOGETHER IN LEARNING

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Ms Appolis

Mr Cronje

Shakesspear

Wordworks

Garda





Mrs Appollis

In the absence of a Principal from the beginning of 2018, Ms Katie Appollis has stood in as Acting Principal of Good Shepherd School. Although her first passion is to be teaching in her Grade 2 classroom (which she does with energy and aplomb), she has taken on the huge task of steering Good Shepherd School as Acting Principal in the interregnum. She has done it with professionalism and commitment even though it has taken a toll on her health at times. We wish Ms Appollis a happy last term back in

Welcome Mr Cronje - Principal Good Shepherd September 2018



My first week at my new family went by with the blink of an eye!

I am privileged to be part of the Good Shepherd family and will always strive and extra mile to the child's benefit.

I strongly believe in the core values of respect, integrity and care and this must be part of the broader Good Shepherd School.

We will focus on the holistic development of the pupils at Good Shepherd and will encourage the implementation of sports, culture and academic development for each and every learner at this academic campus.

As educators we are fortunate to work every day with the children that come from different backgrounds and want to make the best of each child.

Mr. M. Cronje

Principal Good Shepherd Primary

Our school has been without a Principal for at least eight months. This in itself had many challenges. I have been in an acting capacity for that time while being H.O.D as well as Grade 2 class teacher. I am delighted to announce that after a long and tedious process we have a Principal. He has been appointed from the 1 September 2018. What a relieve and a huge plus for our school. He is in touch with the daily running of the school and I know he will be one of the best our school has had. His work has just begun. We welcome Mr Cronje and hope his journey will be a pleasant and fruitful one.

K Appollis



Shakespeare's School festival

Good Shepherd Primary School was very proud to take part in this years Shakespeare's School Festival at Rhodes Theater on August 24th.

The boys and girls of GSP blew the audience away with their sassy, funny, serious and soulful rendition of Shakespeare's famous Mid-summer's night Dream.

Unsurprisingly, our young actors and actresses shone all competition off the stage with their golden performances. For first time performers, they truly made themselves and their school exceptionally proud.

The school is grateful to The Shakespeare's School Festival for inviting Good Shepherd Primary to take part in this prestigious event. In addition, we are endlessly thankful for the time and dedication put in by Rhodes drama students who volunteered to assist in directing and staging their outstanding performance.

Thank you so much to all the staff, parents, pupils and general public who came to support our rising stars. Most importantly, thank you to every member of our star cast - your motivation, passion and enthusiasm made this undertaking an even greater success than we thought possible.

Don't stop dreaming!

RHODES UNIVERSITY & GARDA

At Good Shepherd we are very privileged to work closely with both Rhodes University and GADRA. Three of our teachers have just completed a Continuous Professional Development course, during which they learnt about new developments in literacy education and got some great new ideas to try in the classroom. Well done Ms. Hillier, Mrs. Christian, Ms. Nqandu and Mrs. Green.





Mrs. Green has had the privilege to take part in the first Teacher Mentorship short course at Rhodes. This aims to improve the ability of mentor teachers when assisting student teachers who visit the school. This is an important part of the Good Shepherd daily life as we have been very blessed to be visited by several students this year. We currently have Ms. De Wet and Ms. Mosaka with us. They are both PGCE students and have fitted seamlessly into the Good Shepherd family.

WORDWORKS



Ms. Hillier, Mrs. Green and Mr. Jeffreys have also been running the Home School's Partnership Programme (through Wordworks). This aims to develop parent's knowledge of early literacy and mathematical skills, which can be developed at home. This initiative has been funded through the Lebone center and we would like to thank Cathy Gush for all that she has been doing to support this initiative. The course has been run over the past few weeks on a Wednesday between 13:00 – 14:00. We are pleased to announce that we have had 17 parents participate. We look forward to those numbers growing in the coming years, as this will become an annual programme.

Miss Williams (left) and Miss Liebenberg (right)

GADRA Educational Welfare

Good Shepherd Primary School Projects: Vestas Empowerment Trust

FOUNDATION PHASE (FP) LITERACY PROJECT: IN-CLASSROOM SUPPORT

GADRA Education's Literacy Support Fieldworker, Amanda Nesi, provides weekly in-classroom support to the 4 Foundation Phase classes at Good Shepherd Primary. The in-classroom support is to assist teachers in relation to English teaching and learning, including providing of literacy resources, small group reading activities and general classroom management where necessary. This project has started in February 2018 and takes place once a week for 1 hour.



FOUNDATION PHASE (FP) BARRIERS PROJECT: OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT)

As a result of annual Occupational Therapy (OT) screening at Good Shepherd Primary, all Grade R and 1 learners participate in an OT programme designed by a local based Occupational Therapist. This programme has been designed to be cost-effective and replicable on a large scale through the utilization of 70 Rhodes University Bachelor of Education second year students (teacher assistants). It is designed to address the following challenges which can cause barriers to learning: body consciousness, fine & gross motor co-ordination, form constancy, position in space, visual sequencing, visual-motor integration, visual closure, visual figure-ground, visual discrimination and number concept. Furthermore, GADRA Education has acquired a range of OT resources to be used at the school.

A 10-week Occupational Therapy (OT) series of physical education activities is carried out with all Grade R and 1 learners, and is scheduled to run from 24 July – 16 October. Before the commencement of the OT series at Good Shepherd, the B.Ed second year students were provided with a 2 hour training session on School Readiness. The training specifically focussed on Occupational Therapy (OT) development concepts such as gross motor skills, fine motor skills and visual perceptual skills. The OT programme has built in an assessment component for the students, which requires detailed reflections of learner development. This information will be passed onto the relevant teachers at the end of the 10 week programme, for their attention should follow-up be required.

To date 5 out of 7 scheduled sessions took place every Tuesday from 08h30 – 10h00, with each class taking part in the activities for 1 hour. Each student (teacher) is allocated with OT equipment at every session to carry out physical education activities with their allotted learner. GADRA Education's Primary Education Coordinator, Sylvester Jeffries, supervises every OT session to ensure that student (teachers) fully participates with the learners in the physical education activities.





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