

Good Shepherd Primary School



Good Shepherd Newsletter Term 2— 2019



New Principal to Lead the School Forward

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**SIFUNDA
KUNYE**
TOGETHER IN LEARNING

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

**PRINCIPAL RE-
PORT**

SASKO

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO GOOD SHEPHERD TRUST

28 May 2019

The Good Shepherd Trust quarterly report provides an overview for the first five months of the year.

With the schools that have reopened early in January and the office which opened on the 4th of January it was a tough first term. For the first time ever the summer holidays were only three weeks short and the minimum time of rest had a negative influence towards the end of the term on both learners and educators. We have started the new year with a total number of 312 learners, an increase of 14 learners from 2018. This means that our classes are jam packed and that we have only issued Gr. R applications for 2020. One would ask why Good Shepherd is such a no-fee school in demand. The answer is simple, we are a functional no-fee school with quality infra-structure in a safe environment. To be punctual when it comes to the siren, we have recently installed an automatic device to our siren. This helps a lot for smooth siren ringing. We are surrounded by volunteers and the Good Shepherd Trust play a sustainable and valuable educational roll in the entire Good Shepherd Family.

During our strategic planning session in December 2018, the staff made some decisions to take the school forward. I am proud to announced that we have a constructive year plan with specific dates for meetings, activities, etc. On a regular basis, we will have School Management Team meetings and after that a follow up with staff meetings. We work hand in hand with the School Governing Body and also are a proud member of the Governing Body Foundation. Some SMT and SGB members will attend a Governing Body Foundation seminar soon on "Learner Disciplinary Processes – the Dos and Don'ts".

We held two parent meetings for the year and, at the last meeting, our school hall was too small to host everybody - almost 110 parents attended the meeting. This shows me that there is interest from our parents side and they want to be part of the bigger Good Shepherd picture.

The process to appoint a new HOD for the school is completed and the sifting and interviews went well. We hope that the new HOD can start at the beginning of the third term.

Mrs. Susan Green is on maternity leave and little Zoë was born earlier than expected. Mrs. Tammy Booysen was appointed. We are blessed with quality Rhodes University students in our classes and Mr. Goliath (Foundation Phase) is one of the best student teachers I have ever met. This is the calibre educator that one must earmark for the future.



The core business of any educational institute is teaching and learning. Our dedicated and professional staff try their best to make a difference in class and are well prepared. We provided, from the second term, more extra classes in the afternoons. Our Departmental Circuit Manager, Mrs. Xalabile, is satisfied with our first term academic schedules and we have received a token of thanks from her office for always being the first to submit documents. The library is well managed by Ms. June Venn and her volunteers. The Rotary Club of Utoxeter promised to send a shipment of books to us. We are also very grateful for the Gr. R educational toys from Rotary and also for our new school flag, another donation from the Grahamstown Rotary Club. Mrs. Channele Wolf offered her services and re-strung all our frames to the same height. Our thanks to Mrs. Suzanne Sievwright for counselling sessions with some of our learners, this is helping tremendously. Her passion and dedication is highly appreciated.

We received a visit from Ben Pauluin, one of the shareholders from Sifunda Kunye. Ben came all the way from the USA to inspect the seven computer labs in the Eastern Cape. He was impressed with the functionality of our computer lab and also donated R5 000 to remove the white plastic conduit from our historical wall at the main building. Jolande and Zander are visiting us regularly and they are satisfied with the work that our assistant, Samantha Voight, is doing in the lab.

For the first time in many years, our learners took part in the Grahamstown Zonal athletics meeting and some athletes excelled and even took part in the next round of the Albany athletics meeting. A highlight in our sport program was our participation in the P.J. Olivier/Frans Erasmus u/13 rugby and netball tournament. It was an extremely wet weekend, but our players showed courage on the sport fields and enjoyed it thoroughly. Some of our learners also took part in the St. Andrews Outreach Programme and took part in Basketball. Other learners went to extra homework and reading classes. As part of the Freedom Day celebrations our Gr. R class also took part in a successful sports day that was held on the Oval Sport grounds in Albany Road. Our secretary, Ms. Galada, also attended a Level 3 first aid course through St. John's. It is important for our school that the secretary knows what to do in emergency situations and to help children who might get injured.

Our connection with the Diocese from the Cathedral of St. Michael and St. George is very special to our school. In particular, I want to highlight our relationship with Rev. Claire. The opening of the academic year, Ash Wednesday and all the assemblies every Wednesday are a few examples. We are looking forward to Rev. Claire to come and tell us more about the religion background of Ascension Day on 30 May. We also have received a Catholic Schools' Office visit from Mrs. Daka regarding the RE classes. Mrs. Daka was also the facilitator in our school hall when she presented a workshop on Child Safeguarding. Some of our educators and SGB members attended the workshop.

During the second term our Foundation Phase presented a Grandparents Day. Almost sixty grandparents attended the concert and afterwards they all enjoy refreshments and were photographed with their grand children.

We also held our first bazaar on Friday 3 May in many years and the support of the community was overwhelming. We have also learnt that the businesses are loyal to our school and they have donated quite a lot of ingredients, etc. After a long day, and much organising, we raised just more than R25 000. This money will be used to buy educational equipment.

The water tanks supply was connected to the main water line and a leaf trapper was also installed. As we are still in a water crisis, the school can now stay open even if we do not have any municipal water. The netball court and three hopscotch areas were painted and a new fluid light was installed next to the netball court. A new bell/intercom system was also installed at the main gate. The playground equipment is next to be repaired and varnished. The two prefab classes had new LED fluorescent lights which make a big difference. The Trust donated another two data-projectors and our classes are well equipped with wi-fi, etc. The Trust also installed some roll down blinds in the school hall, this will help for more privacy when the councillors are busy with learners.

There will always be challenges in a school environment. Sporting fields, coaches and transport stay some of the main challenges. At the end of the day, we are still blessed with so many positive things at our school. Our educational programme is sustainable and our learners get quality education, the most important aspects of a school.

Since my appointment 9 months ago, I felt that we can do more about Huntley Street. After a meeting with both the principals of VP and VG we have decided to make Huntley Street more colourful. Details to follow soon. We tried our best during the past few months to feature in the Media. My thanks to the Grocott's Mail and Talk of the Town for their loyalty. From next term we will also send our school news to The Herald and Die Burger.

We recently had an inspection from the Provincial Audit Panel. Prof Antrobus explain the role and support of the Trust and I could see that our Circuit Manager and the Panel appreciate the wonderful work that the Trust is doing for our school. A full report of the audit team will be send to the Trust.

I don't want people to see Good Shepherd Primary School as just another no-fee school. We must be active in the community and be part of the bigger solution. I do believe to be involved and try my best to be present wherever I can. I motivate my educators to attend meetings and to be part of the broader Grahamstown community. I believe that a good educator is a good reader and therefore one must always stay a student. In future, we must consider sending our educators to symposiums even if we had to pay towards a quality workshop. The Fourth Industrial Revolution will bring severe changes to the methodology of teaching and we must strive to be the first no-fee school to keep track of changing tides.

As a proud principal I want to thank all stakeholders for their efforts to make our Good Shepherd School the best no-fee school in our country. I want to thank Prof. Antrobus and Mrs. Meiklejohn for their regular visits to the school and our almost daily communication.

M. CRONJE
PRINCIPAL

Sasko

Good Shepherd Primary School are one of the pilot schools in the SASKO SIYASIZANA (turning bags into books) project. SASKO will donate educational books to schools, if the learners bring empty bread and flour bags to school. We are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the learners and on the photo are some of our proud grade 3 learners with their filled bags: F.L.T.R.: Akonke Jodwana; Beyante Marthinus, Ligugulethu Busakwe, Alvinique Scheepers, Joel Engelbrecht.



Good Shepherd School – 2018 Highlights

2018 was an exciting and demanding year in the life of Good Shepherd School, as it was in the life of the Grahamstown community and of our beloved country. On the staffing front, the highlight of the year was, undoubtedly, the long-awaited appointment of the new Principal. The investment in academic excellence has paid off with demonstrable literacy advances in the Foundation Phase and academic performance of Good Shepherd learners in High School. The good news in this regard is profiled below. The School continues to be ensconced in networks of support and care that make it more than just a school. Leadership camps, outdoor education, cultural and sporting activities are a growing part of the lives of Good Shepherd learners. A brief Trustees' Report concludes the Annual Report.

Acting Principal to New Principal

Ms Katie Appollis took on the Acting Principal role with trepidation and some reservations at the beginning of 2018. She had been looking forward to spending the last year of her illustrious teaching career (of over 40 years) in the classroom, teaching her precious Grade 2 learners. She is a passionate and outstanding teacher and it was a pity that the management role was beckoning in this, her last year of teaching before retirement. However, she took it on and did an admirable job under the circumstances. Ms Appollis was very relieved to hand over to Mr Manie Cronje as newly-appointed Principal on 10 September 2018 and to enjoy her final two Terms of teaching.

Mr Cronje hails originally from Hartenbos and has spent his entire



The school foyer exudes spirituality and age; history, tradition, service and love of humanity. I am reminded: Good Shepherd School was started as a school for the poor, for orphans. It is more than a school. It is a home...

Message to Good Shepherd Friends and Supporters

"It is a pleasure to be part of the Good Shepherd family. I would like to thank all those who support the School in so many ways. They are what I call the Good Shepherd 'Angels' - the Trust, numerous Volunteers, local NGO - they envelop the School in networks of care and support. I assure all friends and supporters of the School that I will uphold the principles of integrity, compassion and academic excellence at Good Shepherd. It is an honour to lead this wonderful School."

Manie Cronje



Trust investments in Counselling, Library and Computer Lab

Counselling support was provided weekly during 2018 by Rev Dr Claire Nye-Hunter *Pic 9*. Her Social-Work and pastoral training was invaluable in offering a safe space for learners and staff to receive counselling. She also plays the vital Chaplaincy role at Good Shepherd. Anyone who has attended a Good Shepherd Church Service in the Cathedral will know her inimitable style of encouraging enthusiastic participation by the children. She has ensured that these Church Services and her Wednesday Assemblies are a joy to witness and are enthusiastically enjoyed by the learners.



Ms June Venn continued as the Library Manager in 2018. Pic 10 She affords all learners the opportunity to take out a Library book weekly. This is something the children relish and is hopefully engendering a love of reading from a tender young age. Ms Venn also assists with some reading-support and contributes in many other ways to the life of Good Shepherd School.

Library



Ms Samantha Kruger was appointed by the Trust in Term 4 of 2018, after a period of voluntary work, to ensure that the Computer Lab was optimally used by Good Shepherd learners. CAMI Maths and Perceptual programmes, funded by Sifunda Kunye, continue to be used by all learners. An exciting development, which emerged thanks to the initiative of Mr Brendan Brady, was the acquiring of licences for 114 Foundation Phase learners for the Reading Eggs programme (from April 2018-April 2019). This was offered at a charity price of R99 per learner, linked to St Andrew's Prep's subscriptions. Unfortunately, the discounted rate will no longer be available in 2019 and the use of the Programme is being reviewed because at full cost of R18 000 p.a., the Trust feels it may be able to use these funds towards funding a literacy-support facilitator, which will have greater literacy benefits. Of course, Reading Eggs is a 'nice to have' if a donor can be found to fund this.



Computer Lab



Other Events of 2018

SGB Elections - March 2018



A new School Governing Body was elected in March 2018 and will serve a 3-year term of office. Under the able-leadership of Mr Kwakhe Maramnco as Chairperson, the SGB has provided sound governance and financial oversight. The SGB is key in overseeing appointment processes, disciplinary procedures and ensuring that parents are represented in the governance of the School.

Prize-Giving at the Drill Hall

The 2018 Good Shepherd School Prize-Giving was a wonderful occasion attended with great excitement by parents and community-members. Held at the Drill Hall, the guest speaker, Mr Sylvester Jefferies, inspired the learners. The Marimba Band performance at Prize-Giving was a highlight for children and parents alike! Not only academic talents were showcased but also sporting, leadership, loyalty and community involvement.

2018 awards were as follows:

Sharifa Jattiem-Hails trophy for Perseverance and Determination – Sisikelewa Mbewu;

Sandisiwe Dial, trophy for the top Grade 7 Mathematics learner – Mustaqeem Al-Quadri;

Thembele Taboshe trophy for Excellence in Maths and Science– Mustaqeem Al-Quadri

Nambitha Ntshoko trophy for Excellence in English – Lindsay Ceaser;

PS Berg Elementary Trophy for Overall Academic Excellence – Mustaqeem Al-Quadri

Inkanyezi Award for the Best Contribution to School and/or Community (donated by Trustee, Mr Ken Maxwell) – Sisikelewa Mbewu;

Library Monitor of the Year – Jolene May

Principal's Award – Diago May.

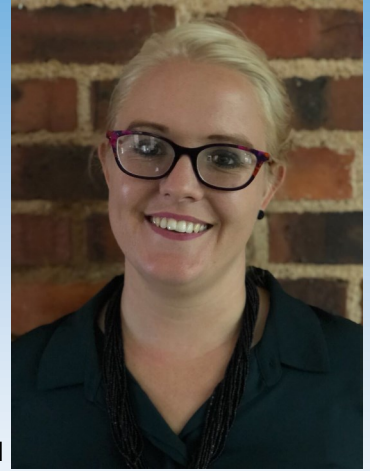


Trustees acknowledged for their contribution

All Trustees have made significant contributions towards the work of the Trust. The Management Committee, Prof Geoff Antrobus (Chairperson), Ms Margie Keeton, Ms Kelly Long, Ms Natasha Pretorius (St Andrew's Community Engagement), and Ms Katie Appollis (Acting Principal) as well as Mr Manie Cronje (Principal from Term 4) have spent many hours on Good Shepherd Trust business, giving generously of their time and energy to ensure that Good Shepherd School is well-placed to provide excellent education.

The Trust said farewell to Natasha Pretorius in the latter part of 2018 as she moved up to Johannesburg to an HoD-post at Redhill School. Her amazing contribution over the years was celebrated and she was sincerely thanked for all she did for Good Shepherd School. Ncumisa Mzaza was welcomed as the new SAC Community Engagement Officer on the Trust.

As from 2019, two other members were welcomed onto the Trust, Suzanne Sievwright and Amanda Nesi. We look forward to their active contributions in Trust meetings.



***Prof Geoff Antrobus Chairperson
of Good Shepherd Trust***



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GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Good Shepherd Primary School, Grahamstown is one of the oldest schools in the area, it was built in 1844. Although it is situated in the centre of the business area of Grahamstown, it is populated predominantly by disadvantaged learners, they receive their teaching and learning through the medium of English. The School caters for girls and boys from grade 1 to 7 (ages 6 -13). We, Good Shepherd Primary School, shall be a community, nurturing quality education, in a safe disciplined environment for our learners, enabling them to become successful, responsible citizens in life. We shall enable our learners to develop to their full potential through a comprehensive and effective educational experience, with opportunities for achievement in knowledge skills and values.

