

Good Shepherd Primary School

# Good Shepherd Newsletter Term 3— 2018



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**SIFUNDA  
KUNYE**  
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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## 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.

