

BISHOPS PRE-PREPARATORY



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PRE-PREPARATORY NEWS

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT



Sharlene Groom

2015 has been the start of many new and exciting adventures at the Pre Prep. The Grade R boys were able to have their photographs taken, with their families, as a reminder of their "first day at Bishops". Grade 1

boys, all neatly prepared, met their new teachers and class mates for a new and exciting start to the school year and the Grade 2 boys became the new and older group here at the Pre Prep! We welcomed Mrs Ashleigh Osborne as the new Grade 2 teacher and I moved into the office to lead this team of wonderfully talented, creative and amazing educators. It has truly been such a privilege to work with a group of such inspired and capable ladies. We are ready for this journey of laying the foundations in educating the young men of the future to reach great and extraordinary heights in the years to come.

Summer is always a wonderful season and the view and situation of the Pre Prep on this campus is something to behold. We have enjoyed watching the Woodlands Pavilion grow into the amazing building that it is and enjoyed the freedom to run on the fields that so beautifully surround our buildings.

We have put a lot of effort into developing the Aftercare programme this first term and have seen the delight on the faces of the boys as we

have introduced many new games and activities. The boys are constructively busy in the afternoons with some kind of play either in or outdoor and much fun is had by all who attend.

The staff has been trained by the Sport Science Institute to implement a physical literacy programme with the Gr R-2 boys on a daily basis. We have a shared set of exercises that we try every day to build up the physical stamina, core stability and balance of all the boys. This daily routine is carefully worked out and, by implementing this regularly, we hope to impact the output of the boys in the classroom and on the sports field. We look forward to the results of our effort throughout the rest of the year.

We had an enormous response to our Easter egg collection and many were blessed by the generous donations from our parents. The fun and games at the Fun Sports Day and picnic were so exciting. The boys participated with enthusiasm and we were blessed with lovely weather for our family picnic to end off a great day.

Such a variety of afternoon activities has been covered this term. Many children have participated in chess, cricket, swimming, as well as various activities offered by private coaches. They have learnt important skills such as working in a team, making wise choices, getting themselves changed, showing good sportsmanship and even some activities where we have participated against other schools. We continue to strive to develop the whole child with a balance of work and sport. I do believe we do this well. What a wonderful space to live and learn, make friends and practise life lessons. Pre Prep is the place to be!



Happiness is ... being in Grade R

GRADE R

Our first term of 2015 had our Grade Rs arrive kitted out proudly in their new uniforms, ready for their first experience at the best school in the WORLD! While some had already begun making friends, others chose to familiarise themselves with the environment by racing around on the go-carts and scooters. Our happy boys started settling soon, and familiarising themselves with the daily routine filled with great excitement and discovery.

The boys (along with the rest of the Pre Prep) were all inspired to reach out to our furry friends by collecting tins of pet food, collars, bags of pet food, blankets, wicker baskets as well as treats for the Animal Anti-Cruelty League. An immense effort, greatly appreciated by the less fortunate pets and so welcomed as their cattery was spruced up with some amazing new scratch posts.

A sunny and warm day welcomed the Moms and Sons' Grade R picnic. What a lovely morning was had by all, as moms were able to connect with one another across the classes while the boys had scrumptious treats and showed off their cricket and soccer skills with moms fielding most of the 'sixes' scored!

Our first term outing to Greenpoint Park helped our boys take part in an 'out of the ordinary' sensory experience. Each class was divided into groups, headed up by moms. The moms did a sterling job being 'tour guides' for the day, guiding the boys through their sensory pathways and the natural heritage site with the sensory packs provided. Thereafter we all enjoyed a light snack, a play on the most amazing jungle gym and state of the art playground, and headed back to school.



Jonty Osler: It's a busy day at the Police Station!

With the first term drawing to a close, the boys had a successful Fun Sports Day and picnic with parents taking part in the all popular Moms' Race and Dads' tug-o-war! Until the sun set on a glorious and energetic day, great fun was had by everyone. What a wonderful introduction to 'BIG' school. May the energy, courage, sensibility and love for learning endure!

GRADE 1

Many excited little boys arrived at their Grade 1 classrooms on the first day to be welcomed by their new teachers - Ann van Breda, Rose Harris and Nazli Meredith. They were all very keen to learn to read, write and begin working with numbers. It had to be explained that this was not all going to happen on the first day! We also welcomed some new faces to Bishops, namely, Joshua Moolman and Marcus Krige.

In Grade 1 our learning is connected to our theme work. These themes are child-centred, linking the academic programme to their world. We therefore begin with the theme "Me, Myself



*Moms and Sons' Grade R Picnic:
Hamaad and Atiyah Badroodien*

and I". The boys bring photos to school, and talk about themselves and their families. This leads naturally on to similarities and differences, and gives the teachers an opportunity to discuss acceptance, respect and tolerance. All this develops their emotional intelligence. We end this theme with "My Pets" and our family chapel service for the term is a special "Blessing of the Pets" service which is held outside on the field. It is such fun to see all the various pets arriving on leads, in boxes, baskets and bowls.

During this term we take the boys on two outings that enrich our next theme, "Sand between the toes". As we are so lucky to live at the sea, we visit the Two Oceans Aquarium and St James' beach. The little boys thoroughly enjoy this hands-on experience of learning. We all catch the train, together with their parents, down to St James. There we explore the rock pools, build sandcastles, catch fish with nets and swim in the tidal pool. We were blessed with a glorious day, and after a picnic on the beach, headed to the station to return back to school. The outing to the



Outing to St James

Aquarium was a little different. The boys and their teachers travelled in the school bus to the Waterfront. Here they first had a formal lesson in one of the classrooms and then had time to explore. No matter how many times one visits the Aquarium, there are always new things to see and facts to learn.

It was a very busy but happy term. We ended with the whole of the Pre-Prep gathering to have our Fun Sports Day and family picnic. The classes competed against each other in sack races, bean bag races, relay races and a tug-of-war. It is a great way to end the term.

GRADE 2

It was just like that and we found ourselves at the beginning of a new year! 2015 was upon us! With 72 new Grade 2s raring to go, we had lots of happy starts to the year. One of the favourite new highlights was being able to use the outside obstacle course equipment. Countless forts, castles and hideouts were constructed.

Valentine's Day followed soon after our busy start to the new year. The Grade 2s decided to decorate a biscuit with delicious icing and special sprinkles. They each wrote their own card to a



Valentine's Day Celebrations

friend in the class whose name they picked out of a hat. We encouraged the boys to think of something they liked about the friend they chose to write to. Katlego Setai "liked when I got to read my card to my friend." The friendship biscuits were handed out at the end of the day and enjoyed by all. Many smiles were seen and hearts warmed by such positivity. Rohan Rossouw said, "I enjoyed eating my cookie the most; it was yummy." We learnt that it is important to show love to all those who are a part of our lives. Tristan Swanich recounted, "My best part was when I gave a present to my teacher!"



A visit to Avondrust

The Grade 2s were learning about insects, so a trip to Butterfly World was just what they needed to see all the creepy crawlies they had been hearing about. Jack Gomes said, "I loved the Creepy Crawly room and all the cockroaches that were running around scaring Ms Fry!" Alexandros Laspatzis shared, "It felt like an adventure. It was soooo hot!" To finish off our insect experience, we were visited by a beekeeper named Mr B. He keeps his own bees on a farm and we were lucky enough to taste some of his honey. He enlightened the boys on some of the many interesting facts relating to bees. The boys were fascinated and got to see him dressed in all his bee keeper equipment, look at his smoker and touch some of the honeycomb. Akshay Thakersee recounted, "I loved tasting the honey." Noah Edmunds said, "It was interesting seeing what the hive looks like inside."

Towards the end of the term, Mrs Osborne's class had the honour of visiting Avondrust Retirement Village in Rondebosch. The boys went to sing to the residents who live there and even did a little dance for them! The elderly people were so



Mrs Fraser and her boys giving it all they've got in the tug-of-war at Fun Sports Day

thrilled to meet the boys and were very touched to receive Easter eggs from all the Bishops boys. Well done to all of our Bishops families for donating so many Easter eggs. We were able to bless many establishments around us.

To end off the term, we held our annual Fun Sports Day. This afternoon was enjoyed by all! Max Fair and Jesse Arendse mentioned they enjoyed dribbling the soccer ball race the best. The tug of war between classes and dads was a big hit. Tristan Swanich remembered, "I pulled and pulled until I couldn't pull anymore!" Muhammad-Zayd Bhorey, "loved the wheelbarrow race with my mom." Afterwards all parents, teachers and boys were invited to stay for a sunset picnic. Well done to all the boys and parents for a fantastic term. We've certainly had a productive start to 2015!

Sharlene Groom



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