

BISHOPS PRE-PREPARATORY



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PRE-PREPARATORY NEWS

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT



The 2016 year has got off to a wonderful, exciting start. Our Pre-prep is growing and we are all very excited about the new additions to our school. Building the new hall/multi-purpose room got off to a noisy start

with much banging and although we tried to keep noise to a minimum, this was a serious challenge. Pretty soon all had settled and we started to see bricks and wood and metal protruding. Our new Grade R uniform has been very popular. Boys have been comfortable and able to move without the restriction of doing up buttons or fastening laces.

Our outreach kicked off with a fantastic collection of pet food and pet care products. This was all donated to the animal shelter where the staff (and animals) were delighted by the contributions. Valentine's Day is always an exciting time of the year. This year we decided to show 'loving and giving' by showing our caring towards others. Each boy brought either a tube of toothpaste, a toothbrush, soap, face cloth or the little sample bottles of shampoo and liquid soap. The very helpful parents made up 'care packs' for parents who arrive at the Red Cross in the case of emergency, with no toiletries. This at least enables them to

manage for a day or two or until they get sorted out. Some boys went along to deliver the packs and they were very gratefully received! Our Easter Egg Drive enabled us to deliver many, many Easter eggs this year. Some went to Kleinmond Child Welfare, Meals on Wheels, Little Libraries, various rural and township schools, retirement villages in and around our school and other little play groups and community house mothers who kindly look after little children while parents work. Thank you all for your generous donations.

Many of the boys participated in various sports this term. Some boys were chosen to run in various inter-school meetings for both swimming and athletics. We congratulate all those that had an opportunity to represent their school. The Grade 2 boys celebrated the Argus cycle tour by having a little cycle tour of their own through the Bishops Grounds. What a fun time the boys and teachers had. Such a great initiative in anticipation for the big race the next day!

Our annual Open Day was a huge success with over 200 visitors to our school. The College boys did us proud, taking our groups around and answering questions from their own experiences. We have had so much positive feedback about their interaction with the Bishops 'Tour Guides'.

We look forward to the new term, with new challenges and further development of our buildings at the Pre-Prep. It is a privilege to be a part of the journey of so many little gentlemen and their awesome teachers!



Love, Grade R Cale!

GRADE R

In Grade R the boys are welcomed into the Bishops family and quickly become acquainted with the traditions that make Bishops such a special place. Although there are numerous traditions for the boys to embrace, there have also been some exciting changes at Grade R that have stimulated much discussion: the change in uniform being the biggest talking point. There have been quite a few grumbles from the older boys who have missed out! The boys are comfortable and more independent with their present attire. They are also loving the choices it offers, especially when it comes to soccer time and playing for the dark blue or light blue shirt team! The informal start to the day has encouraged great friendships to develop between both the boys and the

parents. It is wonderful to see the boys relaxing on the mat encouraging the parents present to help them build the latest challenge with the construction equipment, or egging any parent outside to throw a couple of balls or kick a couple of balls before the triangle, tambourine or bells beckon them in. Thank you, parents!

The 'My Body' theme encouraged the boys to discover what their Grade R bodies are capable of. Our daily exercise stations have exposed them to a wide range of skills. 'Squats', 'planks', 'ladder running' and 'side bridges' are now familiar terminology for them!

The 'My Senses' theme culminated in an outing to Green Point Urban Park where the boys explored their five senses. This is always a popular outing as the parents get to participate in the learning process by playing



Kai van der Vyver and Ethan Johnson sending their love



James Gray enjoying the tactile part of the sensory outing



Yaasin Moola giving a good brush!



The Cat in the Hat (Debbie Tanfield) reads to the boys



Ryan Reeves and Z'idan Hendrikse making messy mud patterns

'tour operators' for their group of boys. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm and special talent that each parent brings to the table!

Valentine's Day provided the opportunity for LOVE to be expressed in a variety of ways. 'Kindness', 'compassion', 'friendship' and 'sharing' were some of the slogans that were advertised around the Grade R garden. The week culminated in a demonstration of love in the Incredible Dog Show. Through love and care the dogs stunned the boys with their impressive skills - a lesson for us all!

The 'Teeth' theme always receives a great deal of discussion in Grade R. How many have you lost? Which one is wobbly? How did it fall out? Who came to take it away? How much money did you get? During the theme, 'My Teeth', the boys get to show how they take care of their teeth by brushing them at school. They love the novelty of it, and for a week parents sigh a breath of relief as their enthusiasm for brushing relieves some of the nagging at home.

'Easter' was the next theme. Mr Woolls used his lesson to make the boys more knowledgeable about why we follow popular traditions like Easter Egg Hunts. He also

taught the boys how to pray using the teaspoon method. TSP: Thanks, Sorry, Please. There were some heartwarming prayers which were said during this lesson - we hope they reached bedtime as well!

Our term drew to speedy close with Sports Day. Although the emphasis is on fun, the boys did struggle to restrain their instinctive competitiveness and every effort was made to win. Happily ALL the classes won a least one race, but all three teachers lost their voices! Somehow in all the noise of the picnic that followed, the Easter Bunny managed to sneak in and leave a yummy egg for each boy to remind them of new beginnings.

In Grade R there are numerous beginnings. We are mostly creatures of habit, so the first term can be a little unsettling, however, it is in these moments that we can remember the TSP prayer: Thanks, for my loving family; Sorry, if I make a mistake; Please, give me the strength to persevere so that I can learn something new! Boys, we are so happy you are a part of our Bishops family, and we will guide you so that the mistakes are few and the learning is all. Well done for an awesome first term!



Getting their daily physical literacy fix

GRADE 1

Many excited little boys were welcomed to their Grade 1 classrooms on the first day by their new teachers: Ann van Breda, Rose Harris and Nazli Meredith. They were all very keen to learn to read and write; however it had to be explained that this was not all going to happen on the first day!

In Grade 1 our learning is often connected to our theme work. These themes are child-centred, linking the academic programme to their world. We therefore began with the theme, 'Me, Myself and I'. Boys brought photos to school and introduced their new peers to their families. This led, naturally, on to similarities and differences, and gave the teachers an opportunity to discuss concepts such as acceptance, respect, tolerance, diversity and integration. This type of exercise contributes to the development of the boys' emotional intelligence. We ended this theme by learning about each other's pets and we had a morning when parents helped the little boys to bring their pets to school. It was such fun



to see the wide variety of pets arriving on leads and in boxes, baskets and bowls.

The boys enjoyed two outings which were designed to enrich our next theme, 'Sand between the toes'. As we are so lucky to live at the sea, we visited the Two Oceans Aquarium and St James' Beach. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience of learning in one of the classrooms at the Aquarium. They also had time for a tour and it is amazing that no matter how many times one visits, there is always something new and exciting to discover. We all caught the train, together with the parents, to St James. There we explored the rock pools, built sandcastles,



Friday story time with our mums and dads

attempted to catch little fish with nets and swam in the tidal pool. We were blessed with a glorious day, and after a picnic on the beach, we headed to the station to return to school.

Valentine's Day was celebrated and the boys came to school dressed in red and white. We iced heart biscuits and spoke about how each of us can 'spread a little love around'. We held a Capacity Day during which the boys learnt about measuring liquids, the water cycle and phases of water, and discovered what makes things sink or float. It was an interactive day, filled with hands-on learning and experimenting. The boys moved around the school in groups to different stations facilitated by members of staff.

The entire Pre-Prep gathered to have our Fun Sports Day and family picnic, during which the classes competed against each other in sack races, bean bag races, relay races and a tug-o-war. As Easter fell during the school holidays, we ended the term by reading the Easter Story and there was huge excitement as the boys arrived on the last day of term to find evidence that the Easter Bunny had paid the Pre-Prep a visit and had hidden chocolate eggs for them all to enjoy. It is a great way to end a happy and fun-filled term!

GRADE 2

What a fantastic start to 2016! Seventy-four enthusiastic boys arrived on the first day of school ready to embrace the challenges that



Friday stories and treats

come with Grade 2. This is what Mrs Fraser's class had to say about it: **Luke Hofmeyr**, 'I thought it was a miracle, it was the best class in the world. I couldn't believe my eyes.' **Samuel Crookes**, 'The start of Grade 2 can be a little bit scary and it can also be sad that you left Grade 1 but I felt excited, I learnt the oo sound.'

A trip to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens with our moms followed soon. The boys had tons of fun exploring the magnificent garden. **Gabriel Lind**, 'I liked playing in the river.' 'I liked catching fish,' **Joshua Moolman**. **Reece Salie**, 'I liked catching the frogs.'

Another highlight at the beginning of the term was Valentine's Day. The boys were allowed to come to school dressed in red and white. The teachers felt loved as they were given fresh, colourful flowers from the boys' very own gardens. Our theme this term was all about insects; our outing to Butterfly World in Stellenbosch was a fantastic experience of everything we had been talking about. 'At Butterfly World I saw lots of animals. I saw meerkats, monkeys, parrots and lizards. And of course I saw lots and lots of butterflies. I did not want to leave but we had to,' **Cameron Joubert**. 'At Butterfly World it was fun. A butterfly landed on my back, it was ticklish,' **Michael Mafunda**. 'I saw a tarantula in a cage,' **Daniel Heyneke**.

We invited Teresa from A+ Edutainment to



Fun Sports Day



Mini Argus - Jack Baptista-Horne, Nicholas Dorrington and Tristan Thirion



First day of Grade 2



Mrs Osborne's class on the first day of Grade 2

come and talk to us about bees and beekeeping. The boys and the teachers learnt the most amazing facts about the life of bees and their importance in our environment. We all got a sachet of honey to taste; it was delicious. **Leo Cobbledick**, 'What I mostly enjoyed was when she taught us about how the worker bees kill the drone bees.' **James Kilkenny** said, 'I learnt that bees have an extra three eyes on the top of their heads to help them see in the dark.'

The boys participated in the very first Bishops Mini Argus. They came to school all geared up with their scooters and bicycles and were taken

on an adventurous journey around the school by the teachers; they thoroughly enjoyed it.

Naethan Mol, 'I really liked the Mini Argus around the school. I enjoyed going as a group and it was pretty hard when we rode over the grass.' **Noah Souter**, 'I liked riding through the College with friends. It was tons of fun.'

To end off the busy term, a special animal came to visit us on the last day of school. He had hidden Easter eggs in our classrooms and had left his footprints all over the school. We look forward to many more surprises in Term 2!

Sharlene Groom