

Kwasa College



The Peace Beyond the Storm

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KWASA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019

Dear Kwasa Friends

I write this at the end of yet another year at Kwasa that has once again been challenging, exciting, joyful and fulfilling. As I have reflected back on 2019, I have realised just how much has happened outside of the “core business” of nurturing and educating the 311 children in Kwasa College Pre-Primary and Primary Schools; how much you who receive this newsletter have been involved yet again in so many different ways, ways which have enhanced what is offered at Kwasa, brought joy to the staff and children, and helped to increase the facilities here as we continue to strive to give each child the opportunity to develop her/his true potential. If you are not mentioned or pictured in this communication, please know that you and your contribution are greatly valued, the omission is my fault for not taking the photo!!!!

In terms of **staff** for 2020 – **Gill Elgar** who served as Principal of the Pre-Primary School since its inception in 2006 has retired. Her contribution has been enormous on many levels, and we thank her for all she has done and achieved here amongst us. Gill will now take on an administrative role, meaning we will continue to benefit from her skills and experience.

Sonja Van Loggerenberg has been appointed Head of the Pre-Primary School, and we wish her a long, fulfilling and productive time in this position.



2020 sees the **first Grade 7 Class** in the Primary School. Our first Grade 1's in 2014 are now our seniors!!! Mr. **Guri** will be their Grade Teacher and a Grade 4 teacher is being sought.



2019 got off to a wonderful start with a visit to Kwasa by the **Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the USA. Michael Curry**, who had given this Year's Bishop David Beetge Memorial Lecture 2 days before. He was presented with a picture of all the Kwasa children to remember us by! We hope to hold the Dedication of the Bishop David Beetge wing in the Prep School which has been partially funded by the Memorial Lecture proceeds, in February 2020.



The **“Teach a Child to Swim”** programme organised by St. Dunstan's continued this year, with our Grades 1 to 4 attending. Some children were invited to swim at Roedebeek where their ability was tested.



St. Dunstan's also invited our **Grade 1, 2 and 3 Netball and Football teams** to participate in a tournament where they all did very well, as did they at a local tournament arranged by Selcourt Primary School in Springs.



A workshop was held for the Pre-Primary Staff, conducted by **Annie Benton and Jan Hancock** from the Westgreen Trust in the U.K. **Rich and Phil**, their spouses busied themselves making important additions to the outdoor play area, where the children spend happy hours learning through play.



The **spiritual development** of our children is a high priority and at Easter 11 children were Baptised in the Chapel-of-the-Cross at Kwasa, and 15 children were admitted to Communion at Corpus Christi.



A highlight this year was the donation from **Holy Trinity in Guildford** enabling the purchase of **a new Bus** in which to transport our learners. This means the old vehicle can now be given a much lighter schedule after serving us so well for so long!!!





In September it was our joy and privilege to host a small **group from Chapel-of-the-Cross** in North Carolina – taking time to reflect, plan, discuss etc. with regard to our shared journey. A tangible outcome was the donation of new climbing equipment for the Pre-Primary.



Waiting for the Blessing of the new equipment before trying it out!

Our children were extremely fortunate this year to have been treated to **parties by Round Table and Cargo Motors. John Crane and Tupperware** treated the children living in our two “safe houses” to gifts and other “goodies.



St. Dunstan's Grade 4's supplied packs of stationery and other delights to our Grade 4 class.



We now have a **second borehole and three “tunnels”** for the growing of vegetables at Kwasa, thanks to the generosity of **Atlas Copco**. No chemicals, fertilizers or pesticides are used in this programme, and we have had wonderful crops of spinach, beetroot and tomatoes!



We were privileged once again this year to have the **St. Peter's College Grade11 learners** spend time with us helping to build the new Art Classroom funded by FEM, and to remove the rubble from the broken up hall floor in preparation for the laying of a new concrete floor.



These young people are amazing!!!!





The end-of-year **concert, Grade R Graduation and Prep School Honours Evening** brought our year to a close.



On behalf of the Kwasa Board, the staff and children, I wish you all a Blessed Christmas, happy and safe holidays and a wonderful 2020.

With my deep appreciation, love and prayers,

Sharron.