

Pathways – Polokwane Section 21 Company



Quarterly Update December 2010

A big thank you to the following people....

.....for their generous donations towards the Pathways Fund which offers financial assistance to Families as well as assists with the purchasing of specialized equipment for the Mitchell House Enrichment Centre:

- *Mike's Chicken for a generous monthly donation
- *An anonymous sponsor of two monthly school fees
- *Steiner Hygiene for a generous monthly donation.
- *The Cocks Family, Nikki and all at Broadland Stables for the therapeutic weekly horse riding sessions
- *Our teaching assistants and Project Trust students who never tire in their dedication and commitment for the work that they do
- *Jo for the dedicated hours she volunteers
- *Karen and Xena and Liezel and Bella for their weekly Pet Therapy sessions
- *Michelle du Plessis for her time and dedication with her swimming coaching
- *The Essack family at Oasis Guesthouse for sponsoring accommodation for the ladies who came from the University of Pretoria to do the CAAC Assessments
- *Elsabe Krone for her input on the Sensory programme
- *Carina van den Berg for the physio sessions with our children

A special word of thanks to....

- *Sally Hansen for offering her time and management skills as Chairperson of the Pathways Fund.
- *Mrs. Di Nunes, Miss Sue Altenroxel, Mr. Reynier Viljoen, Renate Wieffering, Mart-Mari Krause, Mr. Keith Baragwanath, Mr. Morris Pogrund, Dr. Meyer and Mr. Cook for offering their skills and time as management committee members.

On behalf of each of the Families who receive Bursaries we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Pathways Fund for their dedication and commitment and to the wider community for their generosity and consistent support. Words cannot express the depth of gratitude felt.

An update from The Mitchell House Enrichment Centre



The Mitchell House Family bids a very sad farewell to Botho Thongwana this term. He is off to Johannesburg to be closer to his mother and to become a part of a new family at his new school next year. He has grown so close to all our hearts and will be sorely missed by his classmates and teachers alike.



Christmas Concert...

Our Christmas concert was held on the 26th of November, and despite threats of rain, it turned out to be a huge success! The Life Skills class organized a tea garden for the parents to enjoy while we got the children ready for their big performance. The Junior class set the tone with three wonderful songs accompanied by instruments and dancing. Then the Life Skills class came to entertain us with the Diski dance, and even got the parents to join in the soccer fun! The Senior class were up next with a lively combination of singing, dancing and playing of instruments, after which all three classes came together for a grand finale of "Shalom" and "Good Bye". We were wonderfully spoiled with a surprise song by Rendani's mother, Mrs. Mphelo, and a heartfelt speech by Lesedi. The whole performance was so moving and a great time was had by all.

A huge thank you to all the staff and Project Trust students who worked so hard at rehearsing with the students, making props and getting the centre so beautifully decorated for the event. Also, a special thank you to Carine Alberts for all her assistance with the music, instruments and dance moves. We were honoured to have Mr. and Mrs. Cook join us for our special evening and had a wonderful turn out of parents who came to watch their precious little ones perform.



Project Trust Students...

Jenny, Yzzy and Sarah have slotted in so well with our Enrichment Centre family. They have eased into their duties and are consistently adding their valuable assistance wherever necessary. We would like to wish them a safe journey to Cape Town and hope that this Christmas away from home will be a fantastic one! Also, best of luck to Jenny who will be spending her December break volunteering her services in Johannesburg.



Welcome to our family...

The Mitchell House Enrichment Centre looks forward to welcoming Maleekah Omar into our Junior Class next year. As sad as it is to bid farewell to any of our children, it is always so exciting (with an added sense of relief) as we get to extend our family (and shorten the ever-growing waiting list). Maleekah will become the new youngest member of our family, to the great relief of the Dennis family who are convinced that we spoil Kay-Leigh on account of her being the current youngest...

We also welcome three new chicks into the chicken run. They took us all by surprise as we were unaware that our hen had even laid eggs! They are healthy and happy and already sprouting their adult feathers.

Inter-house Gala...

Congratulations to all our Senior and Life Skills students who participated in the inter-house gala this term. They put in their very best efforts and managed to conquer a whole lap of the school pool in icy water. We are so proud of all of you. A truly sterling performance!



CAAC Assessments....

We were very happy to welcome the professionals from the University of Pretoria in October who came to assess our non-speaking learners with regards to alternative and augmentative communications. Their input was found to be extremely valuable to teachers and parents alike and we have already started putting some of their suggestions to work in the centre.

Pathways AGM....

We would like to thank Sally Hansen and the Pathways committee members for all their hard work and dedication to our centre. To the parents who attended the AGM, we would like to thank you for your valuable time.

Staff Development....

Sue, Renate and Mart attended a workshop presented by Autism SA. It consisted of two days of intensive and invaluable information input that was both practical and eye opening to all who attended. We came away with a huge bank of knowledge that has certainly helped us not only to better understand our children on the Autistic Spectrum, but also with ideas that can be applied to all our learners. Some of these ideas have already been put into place and we are so excited to put more of them into use in the new year.

Swimming...

What fun we have had being in the pool this term. Every Friday we all pile into the bus and head for the pool. Michelle has been so wonderful with our children in the water. She has such a talent developing a sense of trust in the children, and has shown us ways of teaching them strategies that will eventually see them becoming avid little swimmers. We are ever grateful to her for her time and dedication during these therapeutic sessions with the kids.



Disability awareness assembly...

This term we held our disability awareness assemblies for the college and the primary school. The primary children were intrigued as they were told they were attending a 'silent assembly'. They entered the theatre in absolute silence greatly anticipating what was about to happen. The council presented their part of the assembly using nothing more than speaking devices, as did Mr. Cook and Mrs. Lister. Hymns were merely mouthed and the children were given the opportunity to participate by making choices of their hymns using a choice board. We ended the assembly with a story of Atuki and his amazing talking machine, and then the children were asked to use their God-given voices to sing the school song and the National Anthem.

The college children were presented with something a little more up their alley... an iPod that can be used as a voice for a non-speaking person. We were all amazed to see how wonderful technology can be... in ways that not one of us could have imagined. Imagine never having been able to express yourself verbally, and then being given a machine that could do it for you at the touch of a button! Both assemblies got us all thinking about the endless possibilities that can be available to non-speaking people.

Life Skill news....

The Life Skill class has been as busy as ever....we wrapped Christmas gifts for R5.00 a gift and our pupils have become very skilled at creating wonderful gifts and tags.

We also tried out the Jacuzzi and spent a morning in the warm, therapeutic water. It took a great deal of persuading to get the teenagers out!

The pupils' Small Business Enterprises have been incredibly successful. Babi raised R2000.00 by selling his canvas', cards and t-shirts! The MaBarra car wash recently improved their services by buying a Turbo-hose! Kuda and Michael cannot keep up with the demand. Suzan's pancakes are a hit each Friday and she is very close to being able to independently make them. Dominique's bracelets and serviette rings are very popular and it is wonderful to see her threading with such concentration.

We are proud of all our teens and all their hard work!



Christmas is in the air...

Jingle-jingle and ho-ho-ho! We've been having it and loving it! Our Junior inclusion students went across to join the Grade 0 and 00 class's Christmas parties. Father Christmas arrived and handed over gifts to all the children and they enjoyed every minute of it! Just 25 days to Christmas and the Enrichment Centre was privileged to be graced by Santa's presence yet again to get us nicely into the spirit of things. He arrived ringing his bell and pushing his trolley filled with wonderful gifts. The children squealed with delight as they heard him coming down the passage. We followed him all around the playground and into a beautifully decorated physio room. We all received our gifts from a very big and jolly Santa. The kids were delighted with their new possessions and spend the better part of the next hour playing with them.



Achievers... Busting with pride!

We had our Sports and Culture prize giving ceremony and our children were so proud as they paraded onto the stage to receive a rosette for horse riding and a certificate for swimming. Every single one of them deserved the awards and we are so very proud of each and every one!

We are also so proud of all our children for receiving certificates at the prize giving ceremony this year. We would like to extend a super special "CONGRATULATIONS" to Nare and Neo for being awarded the Oscar award for their incredible tenacity. Well done to the two of you. You really deserve it!

Speaking of achievers, I must just mention that our Lesedi has done exceptionally well in his exams and he is still breathing a huge sigh of relief to have them over and done with. Well done to you, Lesedi! We all knew you could do it!

Suzan & Kuda represented Mitchell House at a recent regional horse show at Broadlands Stables. Congratulations to both riders for participating in their first dressage event.

Also, we are over the moon that Elsie Makhubedu has been accepted to do her Diploma in Daycare through College SA. It is a correspondence course and will require a lot of time, dedication and hard work on her part. We are all fully behind her in her endeavor to self-development and betterment and wish her all the very best in her studies.

Kamogelo had a Ball...

Kamogelo attended the Grade 6 ball this term and looked so dashing in his suit and mask. Thank you to Chris Pelsner who very kindly loaned his suit to Kamo.

Clive's new wheels...

Audrey Stroud, a relative of Clive Collins, recently initiated a fundraising project for a new Ronnie wheelchair for Clive. Clive's new challenge is to become mobile and self-propel his own chair. Clive has already made good progress and is enjoying the feeling of being able to move.

Our appreciation and thanks is expressed to all who assisted Clive to get his new chair. Special mention must be made of Bishop Lekganyane and his family who donated R18 000 for the wheelchair. Words simply do not express our appreciation.

Thank you to the following for all your donations and assistance:

- Audrey Stroud
- Johnny Vale
- Byron Stroud
- The Farmyard
- Tim Bourdillion
- Di O'Brien – Petals
- Mr Edwards
- Barbara Watson

Thank you to Ruth and Bronwyn of Shonaquip to making it possible for Clive to get his brand new chair before the end of the year.



*We wish you a very merry Christmas and a
blessed New Year!*

Term begins: 12 January 2011

