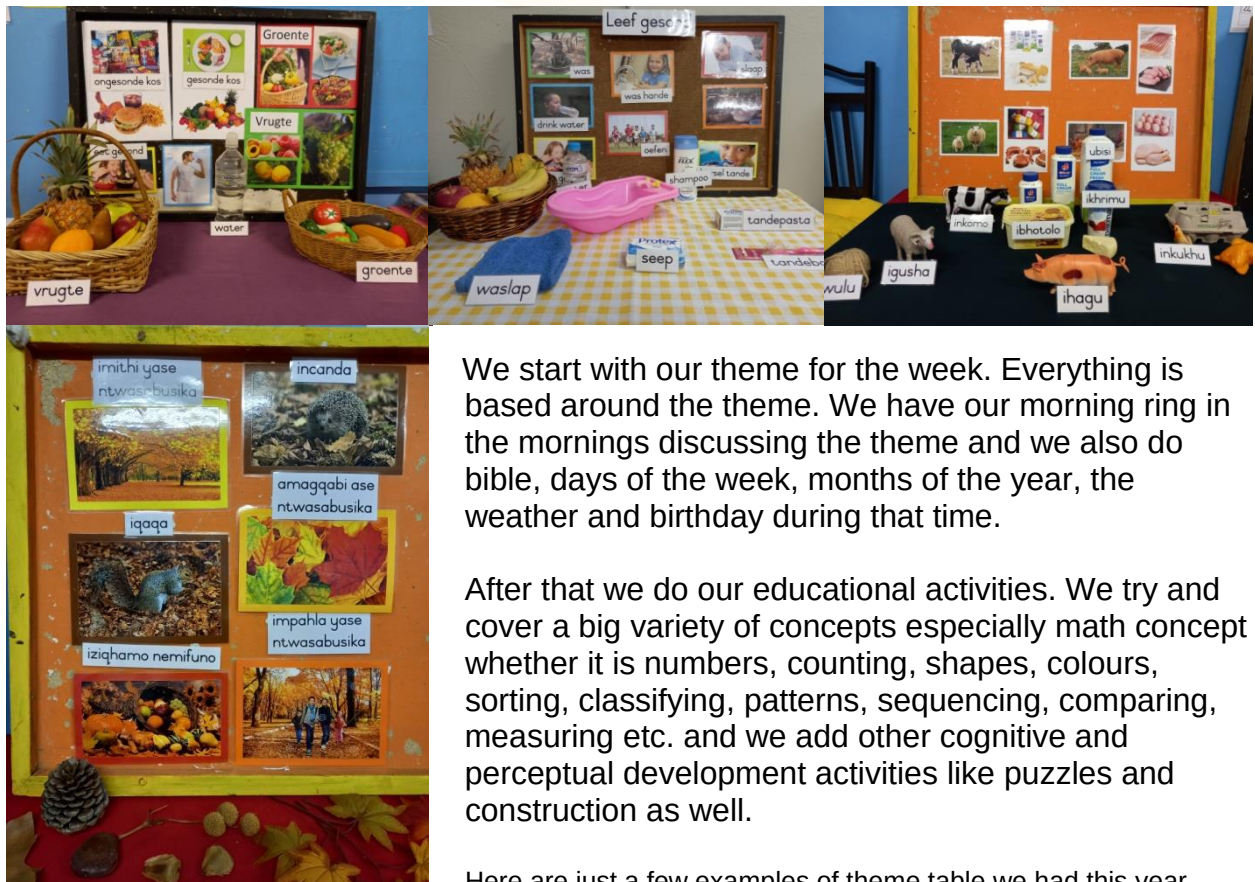


NEWSLETTER 2/2023

In this terms' newsletter I would like to focus on what is happening in our classrooms and how we keep the standard of teaching on a high level. I've always said that what happens on a day to day basis in the classrooms is the most important thing at the school. We can look beautiful inside and outside, we can do fundraisings and have a lot of people involved at the school, but it's what is being taught to our children that matters most.



We start with our theme for the week. Everything is based around the theme. We have our morning ring in the mornings discussing the theme and we also do bible, days of the week, months of the year, the weather and birthday during that time.

After that we do our educational activities. We try and cover a big variety of concepts especially math concept whether it is numbers, counting, shapes, colours, sorting, classifying, patterns, sequencing, comparing, measuring etc. and we add other cognitive and perceptual development activities like puzzles and construction as well.

Here are just a few examples of theme table we had this year.





Then it is playtime! A very important time of the day, because this is when they develop those big motor skills. The need to run, jump, climb, crawl, play with sand and water etc. After playtime they come in for snack time and then it's story time. Story time is very important for their language development. They need to be able to listen, answer simple question, it helps with their language skills like build their vocabulary and pronunciation of words, increase concentration and improves imagination.



Creative arts, along with music and movement are the fun times in the daily program. This is the time the children can just let go and express themselves. It helps with their physical, social, cognitive and emotional development and their imagination and experimentation. It teaches them how to express their own feelings, make decisions and solve problems. It helps with stress relieve, develop muscle control and it builds self esteem and self confidence.



They end the day with lunch and rest time. You can see that all the elements on the daily program are very important for our children's development.

It is also very important that we keep the standard of teaching on a high level. To do this we need to do ongoing training and workshops with our teachers.

I do training on a regular basis with the staff. After their appraisals have been done each year we look at what developmental needs there are. I have wanted to do the art workshop for a long time with my teachers and I finally got time this term.



All set up and ready to go.

The idea of the workshop was to look into different types of art they can do with the children and different methods and materials they can use.

The staff were all very positive and participated enthusiastically. They found it very informative and practical to use in class with their children.



The importance of the trainings/workshops is to follow up and make sure that what the teachers learned is being done in the classrooms. (You can see they have used what they have learned if you look at the art activities they did with their children.)

You can do all the training available to you, but if you don't use it in the classroom it is of no use. I like to empower my staff, so we use every opportunity that we get to go to trainings or do workshops ourselves.



We also did a crochet workshop this year. Someone contacted the school and said she would like to give the staff, parents or anybody interested in the community the opportunity to learn how to crochet.

This is a skill they can use to make items for their class and a hobby they can do when they get older. There were staff and parents attending the workshop and some of them are very good at crochet now.

Another training all the staff went to, the Lego Duplo Training, are being followed up by the Care for Education foundation. They come out to the school on a yearly basis and see how we implement the Duplo Lego in our daily program.

The Duplo Lego can be used during all areas of the daily program. It can be integrated during educational, story, art and even music and movement time.

This training was made possible by The Rooi Els Outreach program. They facilitate training of educators and the roll out of materials needed for the projects, monitoring outcomes of materials and achievements of the learners.

Care for Education provide training and educational resources for children, schools, and organisations in need. They aim to impact ECD and primary education, using concrete manipulatives which engage children in playful learning.

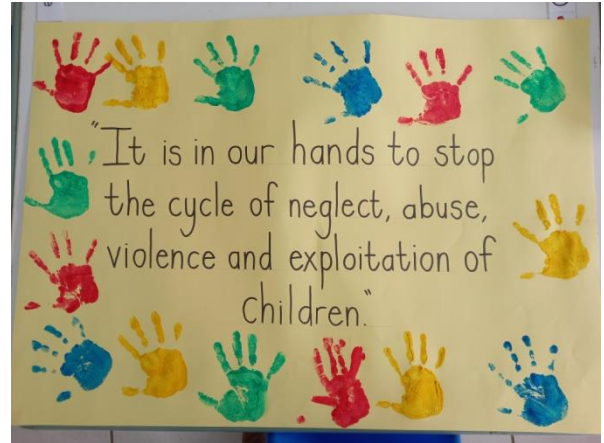


The other activity we do with our children that integrates very well in our program are the Dance Mouse Mariska does with the children on Fridays.

It is music and movement all in one and also helps with their perceptual development.

We start our Friday on a high and that helps make our Friday is fun day, fun.

We celebrated an important week this term. Child Protection Week was from the 29th of May to the 2nd of June. Their slogan for this year was: 'It is in our hands to stop the cycle of neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation of children.'



It is a very important week in our community to raise awareness for this matter. Child Welfare had a program running for the week. Our Grade R children were part of the week. Each class made a beautiful poster that was used during the week.

They joined in for the dance workout and afterwards the people from the Department of Social Development role played a story and told them how special they are and that their bodies are sacred and they shouldn't allow anybody to touch it inappropriately.





Sadly there are a lot of children in our community who are being neglected and abused. Even in our school we see children who are being neglected. They come to school unwashed, hungry and with no warm clothes on.

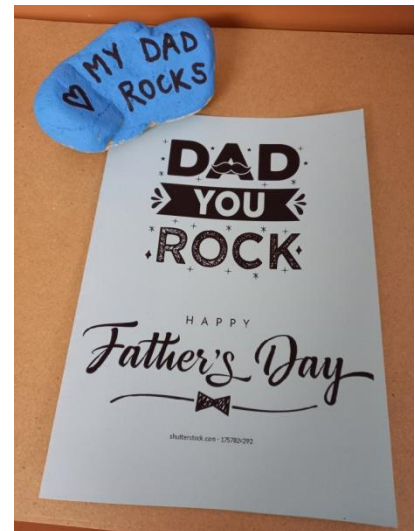
Every year there are a group of people who helps to cover children in needs' school fees, so that they can have the opportunity to be in school. Some also help to buy the children a warm tracksuit for the winter.

We appreciate every contribution we receive for these children, because they are the once who needs to be in school most and who needs all the love and attention we can give them. THANK YOU.

We also celebrated Mother's and Father's Day this term. There are a few of our children who don't have a mother or a father.

We always tell them to give it to someone who is like a mother or father to them. It can be their aunt, uncle, grandfather, grandmother or foster parents.

Mom, you are the light in my life.
Dad, you rock.



I want to finish of this term's newsletter with these beautiful Autumn trees our children painted and an Autumn rhyme:

*These leaves on the ground - each one a page in the book,
A poem that says: I lived.
I was a small part of the whole story – this is my song,
This is my glory.*

I am just a small part of Siyabulela Pre Primary's story, but what a lovely story to be part of. I am living!
Thank you for being part of our story.

Project 2023

Wish list: Jungle gym for the Grade R playground.



This will be the last time our jungle gym will be featuring like this in our newsletter. We are very close to making this dream a reality and I believe that before the end of the year it will be standing and the children will be playing on it!

We still needed R30 000 end of last term. We have received a R2 000 donation as well as R15 000 from Nedbank towards this project.

We have worked hard to make this project a reality and we had a lot of people who contributed towards our jungle gym. This was definitely a team effort. Thank you to each and every one who is helping us to make this dream come true. There will be children playing on this jungle gym for years to come!



To our local family, please stay warm. Our family overseas, although you are far, you are always close to our hearts.

We love and appreciate all of you.

Alta, the staff and children of Siyabulela Pre-Primary.