



The Birches Pre-Primary School

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Dear Parents

20 March 2024

END OF TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

It has been a short but busy term. I have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome I have received. I was not the only new staff member who joined this special school at the beginning of 2024. Mrs. Reshmee Mahadeo joined us as the Butterflies (Blue Group) teacher and the children in her care have wormed their way into her heart already. Mrs Fourie our new Financial Secretary is also well on her way to modernising our accounting system and is working towards having a safe, cash free school.



Looking back over the term, despite Mrs Edmonds absence, we have kept her spirit and eco-values alive by a number of eco-initiatives and fundraisers. We recycled old coffee and mayonnaise jars and repurposed them as Valentines Gift and Sweetie jars. We raised nearly R800 from our recycling of cans, paper, plastic and glass, keeping it out of the landfills. We also recycled toys, books and clothes, reducing our spend on manufactured goods where water is used in excess. The Birches also received two awards over the past few weekends. The first was from Eco-Schools, for being the longest serving ECO-School in KwaZulu-Natal and the second was received from Sustainable Schools for our contribution to environment. Mrs Edmonds and I attended these events together and introduced me to some influential people.



This term during our People Who Help Us theme we had Dr Venketiah come and talk to the children and we did away with the post office and looked at courier services including Checkers 60 who delivered special treats to the Grade R's thanks to their teachers' initiative.



Coding and Robotics are the words on everyone's lips in the education sector. To this end, we hosted a coding cluster meeting with some of the neighbouring schools and Miss Jensen also attended a coding course aimed specifically at foundation phase children and giving them the skills that they will need prior to code on technology. Miss Jensen is excited to start an "unplugged coding" extra-mural next term.

Lastly, we welcomed back all the Grade R's who graduated from the Birches last year and went to Grade One to a reunion here at school. They enjoyed reading to their old teachers and playing in the different play areas with their old friends.

I can't wait to see what next term brings. I wish you a safe, happy and restful holiday.

School re-opens for the children on Wednesday

3 April 2024.



Warm Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aiston".

Mrs Aiston
PRINCIPAL