



The Birches Pre-Primary School

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Dear Parents

14 June 2024

END OF TERM 2 NEWSLETTER

Term 2 started slowly, but gathered momentum very quickly and May and June have seen a host of activities keeping the staff, principal and you the parents on our toes.

This term saw the start of our coding and robotics extra-mural that challenged our children. They rose to the occasion and have impressed Miss Jensen enormously. Mrs Edmonds returned to do Business Buddies with the Grade R's as an extra-mural as well, teaching the children all about money, how to earn it and how to make it grow.



As an ECO-school we have acknowledged Earth Day, World Bee Day and World Bicycle Day. Our ECO-clubs also commenced again this term with your child receiving an hour each week of outdoor education learning about soil, water, plants, birdlife and much much more.



At our AGM in April we elected a new Governing Body. The following parents now represent you. We thank you for your time and input into keeping The Birches Pre-Primary the outstanding school that it is

Mr Luke Nortje – Chairperson; **Mrs Candice Govender** – Treasurer; **Mr Muzi Khambule** – Maintenance; **Mr Marco Mariola** – Voting member.

This has been a huge fundraising term! Our two biggest fundraisers were family events which were so well supported. At the Entrepreneurs Market evening, a smaller non-compulsory event, the vibe amongst the families selling their wares and the shoppers was friendly and happy. At our compulsory Torch Walk event, I am sure we had a few emotional parents and grandparents when the children sang the National Anthem and did the torch light display. The children tried so hard, and I was impressed with the number of laps the children did without running. We have raised R30k as a school and this money will be used to install a sensory path in the big garden for the children. I have attached a picture of what myself and the teachers have envisioned.



The country went to the polls on the 29th May 2024. Our children learned a lot about what voting means and went to the polls themselves to vote for their favourite staff member. We were so impressed with how well they had listened and we only had 5 spoiled ballot papers from 94 children! The Highway Mail were so impressed with what they saw on Facebook that they asked if they could write an article for the newspaper.



The recycling winners for Term 2 are the GREEN GRASSHOPPERS bringing in 26 full baskets of glass.



They will receive their pizza party prize next term. The runners up were the BLUE BUTTERFLIES and the RED LADYBIRDS who tied for second place. The real winner is the Birches Pre-Primary who earns money from the recyclers who fetch the glass. Next term we will be collecting drinking cans only as Eazi-Waste no longer re-cycle the food tins

AND NOW FOR SOME **BIG** NEWS...

Unbeknown to me, Mrs Edmonds (Principal until Dec 2023) had invested some of the school's money in a Momentum Policy. Mrs Fourie came across the Policy when she was doing the 2023 financials that the previous secretary had not done. There is enough money in the policy to begin the final phase of the school's transformation from wooden prefab structures to the precast concrete structures that match our classrooms. We met with the Chairperson and Treasurer on our School Governing Body and they approved the quote from *Elangeni Buildings*. Our SGB member in charge of maintenance can be thanked for gathering 3 quotes for us to peruse. He will ensure your children are safe during the construction period.

The demolishing of the buildings will begin in the holidays.

I can't wait to see what next term brings. It really is going to be an exciting one. I wish you a safe, happy and restful holiday.

School re-opens for the children on Tues

9 July 2024.

Warm Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aiston' with a flourish at the end.

Mrs Aiston

PRINCIPAL