

# NEWSLETTER

## No. 1 February 2024

Dear 345 Parents

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. It's hard to believe that January and February have already flown by with so much happening.

As we kicked off the year, we jumped straight into our OISESA Quality Assurance process. You might recall from our discussions last year that this was on the horizon for us in 2024. It was quite the task to tackle right at the beginning of the year when there is so much to do to ensure a positive start.

Our management team put together a comprehensive 25-page Self-Assessment report for each of our three schools. These reports gave us a chance to really dig into every aspect of our schools – from our Vision and Mission, to Sustainability, Management, Curriculum and Teaching, Staffing, Health and Safety, and Safe Guarding, just to name a few. It was a valuable exercise because not only did we identify areas for improvement, but we also took the time to appreciate the many things that are going well.

Then in mid-February, we had the pleasure of hosting three assessors from OISESA. They spent three full days with us, chatting with children, parents, and teachers. They popped into classrooms to observe teaching in action, and they spent some time with the management team and myself. They really got a feel for what 345 and CHP are all about, and let me tell you, they were impressed. They loved the positive energy that greets you as soon as you step into our schools, the warm welcome from our kids, and the quality of teaching and curriculum they saw in action.

We are now eagerly awaiting their final report. We are expecting it to shine a light on the great things happening in our schools, as well as point out areas where we can grow and improve. That feedback will help shape our strategic plan for the next three years, guiding us forward on our journey.

In our next newsletter, I'll be sharing some of the specifics from their report. But for now, enjoy reading about and seeing all the adventures our happy children have been on in the past month.

***Regards***

**Stewart Tagg**

**Headmaster**





Welcome to the Ladybugs class. What a great start to the year. The classroom schedules and activities are well under way. Children are happy and adjusted to the routine of the school. Each child walks into the classroom with a smile and gets ready to have a fun filled day. Seeing our children smile and laugh is a true blessing. Valentines Day and Messy play, the day went well, Love was in the air as the Ladybug' class enjoyed messy activities in celebration of Valentines Day.



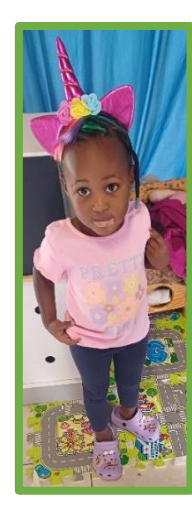


What a way to kick off the year. We have done so many fun things to help us develop in an optimal way. The Parrots had lots of fun and we kicked off by supporting our Bafana Bafana team wearing green and gold. The kids enjoyed wearing the colours. We also spread the love in February on Valentines Day dressing up in pink and red. We made it a fun sensory day filled with painting hearts, blowing bubbles and digging for hearts in the sand. We had a blast. Love for our friends and teachers was shared all around. I can truly say that new friendships were formed. Also 2024 is a very special year it is Leap year. It was amazing to celebrate it in a special way. Crazy hair day! The Parrot class went wild with their hair, from hair sprayed different colours to ponytails reaching the sky. I am so excited to see what the rest of the year has in store for our parrot class.





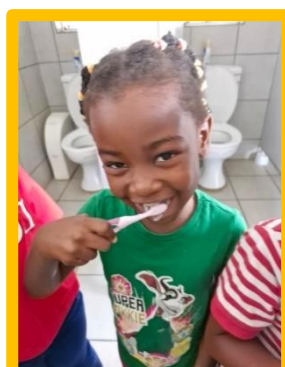
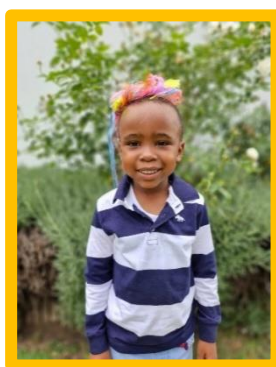
Welcome to the Butterfly Class! Your little ones had such a fun and busy month of February and they got to celebrate two events in the month of February. They looked so cute dressed in red and white for Valentine's Day. It was lovely to see how creative the Butterfly parents can be with the "Crazy Hair Day" which we celebrated on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February for Leap Year. Well done! Your little ones looked awesome with their funky hair styles. The Think Equal programme is going well, and your little ones have learnt so much. They are busy learning about how special they are and about their emotions. We introduced the Mood Meter into the class and it allows them to express how they are feeling, and why it is okay to feel like that. Your little ones had fun making their Belly Buddy. A Belly Buddy is a sensory jar that they press against their tummy when they are feeling overwhelmed or just need to calm down. There is a Think Equal corner where they can lie down on the mats and regulate their emotions or just sit on until they are feeling better if they are feeling overwhelmed. They learnt about Emotions. The 5 Senses, hygiene and healthy living. It has been a good start to the year and I have loved getting to know your little ones. They are all happy and settled in the Butterfly Class. We are excited to see what this year brings for these cute Butterflies.





Welcome to the Fantastic Foxes class! I am very excited to teach and make memories with your little ones. This year is going to be a busy one, filled with learning, laughing and growing. By the end of the year your little one won't be so little anymore, so enjoy this special time with them. Over these last 2 months we focused on getting the children comfortable in their new class and surroundings with myself and Teacher Mavis. Jumping from the toddler section to the "BIG" school is quite a big change for the little ones, but they all seem to have taken it in their stride and are all well adjusted, finding their way around easily. We have had so much fun creating beautiful artwork and learning rhyming words and syllables. We loved spreading kindness on "Friendship Day", dressing up in red, white and pink. We also were lucky enough to have a fun packed "Crazy Hair Day" In honour of it being a leap year, the children went all out to show us funky, crazy hairstyles. We were also able to bring our toothbrushes to school during "Hygiene" week, to brush our teeth with our friends.

***"The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you." — B.B. King***





In term one of 2024, there has been no shortage of fun and MESS while learning in the Hedgehogs Class. Each day has been filled with smiles and excitement all around. Our early days were filled with creative activities and new experiences. We painted with jelly and with toothpaste, for a messy, but enjoyable craft. Crazy Hair Day, where we celebrated the Leap year by “Leaping into Fun” displayed an array of fantastic hairdos! We have been focussing on kindness and acceptance of one another no matter how different we may appear to be from our friends. We were excited to explore and see how we looked the same or similar to our peers. During our Healthy Living theme, we experimented with how quickly germs can spread, using glitter. We even brushed our teeth at school! Our classroom and our playground present a tremendous number of exciting areas in which to learn and to play and we certainly make the most of it! What will the next few weeks hold?

