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# Golang Education Outreach

## Emothonjeni Community Centre, Zandspruit

Newsletter 1/2016

“As children develop from one milestone to another, they need to be taught from simple to complex. Katlego was struggling to read – she was very shy. I could see that she needed support. I met with her parents so that we could help Katlego. She seemed very intelligent but her school report indicated that she could not read and needed help in all her subjects.

“

...TO TELL HER EVERYDAY THAT *she is a star*,  
AND THAT SHE CAN DO IT!”

MARY SINODISE

Her parents were thinking of sending her to a special school, because they found it so difficult to help her with her homework. I encouraged Katlego's

Mom to show her more affection and to tell her everyday that she is a star, and that she can do it! I scheduled my time with Katlego, starting with Grade 1 reading. She improved so much – with me giving her smiley stickers everyday – she was very proud of herself! Soon she began reading to the class – one of our best readers. She also improved in her other subjects. She now takes a library book home every week, because she loves reading so much. She is also much more confident within herself - Katlego is one of our best learners! As a Christian based organisation we pray with our children every day, asking God for wisdom and understanding and we know we can do all things with Christ, who strengthens us.”

Mary Sinodise (Grade 2 Educator)



Katlego reading

### STAFF NEWS:

2015 ended with a wonderful Staff Christmas party – where some drumming and swimming was thoroughly enjoyed, together with an excellent lunch.

This year, Linda Ngoma and Cilestina Raledede have been appointed as the Grade 4 and Grade 6 educators; Thembeke Mvelase as Reading Eggs co-ordinator

and Librarian; Nhlanhla Mbuyisa as Golang Youth Co-ordinator and Grade 7 educator. All staff attended the Children's Ministry Conference on Saturday 5 March at the Bryanston Methodist Church, renewing and learning new skills to manage the children. Pastor Sam Ngoma has been voted onto the Board, replacing Relebohile Mohai (who has completed his term).



*Drumming at the Christmas Party*

Two staff members were invited by Mosaiek to attend the Ladies' Retreat (Origen) on 8-10 March, a spiritually fulfilling experience for Rebecca Shika and Cilestina Ralede.

## PRE-SCHOOL

Our Preschool received an Award for Speech and Language at the Play-with-a-Purpose Awards' Dinner, making us very proud!

Preschoolers and their teachers went on an educational outing this term to Old McDonald's Farm, to fit in with their first term theme – animals. Some new beds, educational items, games and toys were purchased for the preschool, including another jungle gym.

Grandparents' Day was a great success – grannies enjoyed playing games and puzzles with their little ones while tons of fun was had on the 'Day on the Beach'

A donation of dog and cat food was made by our Preschoolers to the SPCA, and they celebrated Easter with a Hat Parade, having great fun making the hats themselves.



*Preschool - Love our new jungle gym*



*Grandparents' Day (top);  
Preschool (bottom)*



*Preschool - Day at the Beach*

## AFTERCARE CENTRE

Six containers were made available by Emthonjeni for our use in the Aftercare. These containers were fitted as classrooms and this has benefited all involved, particularly in inclement weather. They have provided a hugely improved learning environment with a more formalized set-up for better discipline.

The Daily Program includes Homework tutoring, Sporting Activities, Life-Skills, Bible Education and

Crafts, Maths & English Tutoring (Spelling Bees; Grammar; Reading; Library attendance) and Art & Cultural Activities (Choir, Drama, Drum Majorettes, Art & Crafts).

The focus this year is the Caps Worksheets (English and Maths) with Golang Educators doing their best to improve the standard.



Sack races

A number of repairs and maintenance matters were carried out at Preschool and Aftercare (plumbing, electricity, water repairs, roof cover and renovation of Preschool kitchen). We are currently making a paved pathway outside of the containers, and hope to plant grass in the centre once the paving is complete.

**Violet reports:**

*“As the Grade 3 Educator, I have seen changes in the children. They now love to do puzzles and educational games; they enjoy art and crafts – and love taking it home to show their parents. Some of them have learnt Bible verses, which we taught them – they love coming to Golang”.*



Art with Violet - Grade 3

**Linda Ngoma, Grade 4 Educator, reports:**

*“David (name changed) was very energetic, shouting and disrupting in class, sitting on tables and often absent. I spoke to him, telling him that if his behaviour did not improve, I would speak to his parents. Eventually I had a meeting with them, which went well. I also gave him duties in class, complimenting him when he did work well. Today he is a blessing – he respects his class mates and myself. He even now prays and reads the Scriptures for us!”*

**Volunteers:**

ALA is involved with extra lessons for our High Schoolers on Saturdays; Batsi and Barclays Volunteers assist with Maths and English with our Primary School children, while Tee Hoon Kim volunteers his time with the Preschoolers, teaching them music skills.

The Golang Youth meet daily in the late afternoons, co-ordinated by Nhlanhla, assisted by Johan, Batsi and Zipporah (as volunteers).



“Word of Life”

Maragon and Monash continue to assist our children with computer and English literacy.

Word of Life mentor our children every Thursday with Biblical teachings and some fun, as do ‘Reach4Life’

**YOUTH**



Cherie and David Bulger

The Golang Youth attended a 3-week course on Sat mornings - ‘Theology of the Body’ - presented by the Foundation for Person and Family, giving them insights into the value of their bodies.

They further benefitted

from their annual weekend Camp at YFC, with the theme: “Life is made up of choices”, giving them the opportunity to truly reflect on making sound judgements.

They also went to Gold Reef City as the year-end function, and had a magnificent time! Cherie Bulger, Founder of Impumelelo Phambili, is leaving us for the USA. A party was held in March at Emthonjeni to bid a sad farewell to her. All those young people she mentored during her time at Golang attended, and enjoyed seeing photos of her many years of service to Golang. We take this opportunity to thank Cherie for her generous spirit – she gave so much of her time and resources to our Youth – we will miss her and wish her all the best in her new venture.

## SPORT

R Mohai has successfully continued with the soccer club, playing matches on Saturdays, with our U10's and U13's doing extremely well. And we appreciate his dedication and commitment of nurturing the God-given talents of our boys. He has also been asked to run the cycling club on Saturdays, to which he has agreed – we do need some assistance in this regard and would appreciate any offers to repair bicycles, and to mentor the cyclists.

### Soccer Report:

There are 27 boys from 8 to 12 years old, who form part of the two Golang U10 and U13 soccer teams.



Parents of the boys responded to a short questionnaire from us. The main response was how grateful they were that their boys are involved with soccer, rather than being exposed to smoking, drugs, gangs and other challenges facing the young children of this community. We were thanked and encouraged to keep these boys occupied.

*"I scored a goal!"*

## COUNSELLING

One of our boys was not faring well at school. After counselling and further intervention, he was identified as a special needs learner. With Anna and Margaret's intervention, he was successfully placed at Gateway School – he is now doing so well – coping much better with schoolwork and friendships.

### Anna Nyaphuli also reports:

*"Tessa is a 7-year-old girl who lives with her Granny. She had to do chores at home because her granny could not see properly. We learnt about her predicament and organised for Granny to see an eye specialist. Granny needed glass, which we helped her get, and was then*

*able to care for Tessa. Tessa could then focus on her schoolwork and has since improved her marks – doing very well at school, and having some time to play with her friends."*

## SPONSORS

Another generous donation was made by SOMB (Will Bennett, Nataniel and Taya - USA) and we enjoyed a wonderful visit with Will and James, and their friends, who had much fun with the children. Every child was fortunate enough to receive a Christmas gift, kindly donated by various sponsors (340 gifts) - Roosevelt Park Pre-Primary School; Department of Fashion Design at UJ, Sonja Britz, Barclays Africa and Rone Uren.

PWC remain in touch with us regularly providing visits and outings, which they generously fund. Some good news - Golang has received a welcome grant from the Department of Social Development for the 3-6 year olds, for a duration not specified.

Many meetings, conferences, and workshops are attended during the year to secure/prolong this welcome funding which is not further guaranteed.

We still depend on our regular sponsors – St Michaels & All Angels (Weltevreden Park), The Ruimsig Gemeente, NG Weltevreden, for their continuous support, as well as all our unnamed regular individual sponsors, without whom we would not be able to continue our work with the children. Thanks also goes to the companies who have given one-off generous donations and those who continue to support us, often just when needed.... We are grateful to you all!

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