

# Kwasa College



The Peace Beyond the Storm

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## **KWASA COLLEGE DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER**

The Kwasa College end-of-year concert, graduation of Grade "R's" and Primary School Prize Giving brought to a close the activities at Kwasa in 2018. It has once again been an eventful year for us with much to enjoy and celebrate, as well as its fair share of disappointments and challenges.

### **Kwasa Pre-Primary**



2018 saw the introduction of the Reggio Emilia approach with the 3-year old group, the Ladybirds, and their Researchers Sonja and Sesi being our pioneers. We look forward with interest to seeing how they progress and benefit from this approach.

Congratulations to Sonja and Michael-Jon on the birth of their daughter, Hannah.

Heritage Day was celebrated by children and staff coming to school in traditional dress – a good reminder of the diversity of cultures reflected at Kwasa, and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the fact that we are all created special by God and each one of us is worthy of respect.





The Pre-Primary Choir trained by Mrs. Elgar delighted us all by winning their section at the Springs Music Festival.



On 5 December the 2018 graduates from Grade "R" left the primary School to begin Grade 1 in January either at Kwasa College or other schools in Springs and Kwa Thema. We wish them well and thank the teachers and parents for supporting them in this important phase of their education.





## **Kwasa College Primary school**

2018 was a busy, exciting year for learners and staff. Apart from the teaching and learning in the classrooms:

- Our girls had the amazing opportunity of going on a camp in April, organised by "Just Footprints" and sponsored by them and a donor from Chapel-of-the-Cross in North Carolina.
- Grade 1-3 netball and soccer teams participated in the St. Dunstan's Winter sports Day.
- Grade 1-3 girls and boys were taught to swim at a swim school in Benoni – arranged by the Head of Sport at St Dunstan's.
- Grade 1, 2 and 3 learners spent a lovely time playing games and having fun at St Dunstan's at their invitation.
- Just footprints arranged a fun day at Kwasa for all our learners.
- A workshop was held at Kwasa on "bullying."
- A group from Holy Trinity in Guildford visited us in July/August, cementing the relationship between us even more. They were a "hands-on" group of people and their contributions in the chapel, play area, my new office, accessioning library books, making resource materials and in interacting with the children were deeply appreciated.
- The Choir from St. Martins-in-the-Fields paid us a visit and spent time with our junior and senior choirs. The chapel still reverberates with the words from "I'm a train, I'm a train ...."
- Cargo Motors staff provided a Christmas Party for all our children which was enjoyed as always.
- 25 children were Baptised in the Chapel and admission to communion classes will begin early in 2019.
- Rev Sandra Faccini paid us a visit with her daughter Katy, cementing the relationship with the church she is Vicar of, All Souls in Ottershaw, U.K.
- A number of Heads of Anglican Schools visited us with Roger Cameron and Bishop Peter Lee of the Anglican Board of Education.
- The Kwasa Junior and senior choirs trained by Ruben Mazibuko both did very well in the Springs Music Festival.
- Annie and Rich Benton, very dear friends, supporters of, and donors to Kwasa, visited with Claire and Tom from Dove House, offering assistance, advice and ideas which have resulted in the implementation, among other things, of a "Reward System" in the Primary School which is aimed at developing in our learners good, acceptable behaviour for learning.



- Staff from John Crane visited and assisted with maintenance on the 2 houses.

The End-of-year concert and prize giving were held on 6 December







### **Property Development**

In just over a year the “White Building” has been transformed from

This

to

this,



thanks to the incredible efforts and generosity of many funders – West Green Trust, St. Peter’s College, Ridge Line Roofing, and Trumod (a member of the Clyde Industrial Corporation Group of Companies). We are so grateful to all who have contributed towards making this possible. In 2019 our focus has to be on the building of 2 new classrooms, in 2020 we hope to complete the hall by laying the floors and, putting the doors and electricity in.

Thanks to a donation from Atlascor a borehole is to be sunk in January and one or two tunnels erected for the growing of vegetables.



## **Kwasa College Development**

The Kwasa College Board has actioned the formation of two roles at Kwasa College:

- 1. Rector** – who is to be responsible for the overall vision and leadership of the school, preservation of the ethos, organising of chapel activities, as well as fulfilling the role of Chaplain to the children, staff and the community. In addition the Rector is responsible for maintaining existing, and forging new relationships with partners/donors. This position has been filled by myself since 1 August 2018.
- 2. Head of Primary School** – responsible for the administration, discipline and educational aspects of the school. (The creation of this position has been made possible by the generosity of donors from Chapel-of-the-cross in North Carolina – we are deeply indebted to them).

Owen Myrddin Thomas has accepted the Board's offer of this post, and will be appointed as from 1 January 2019. I quote Fr. Angus Patterson; "Owen is one of a kind.... he has lived his life in education as a sacrifice for other people's children... Owen is an artist, a shaper of young people's lives. His total commitment to the well-being of every young charge under his care, and the tailoring of schools to serve the pupils in every aspect of their lives, is his chief passion."

I am very excited about working alongside Owen as we continue to develop Kwasa College in line with God's plan for all who are associated with it, and welcome Owen and his wife Clair to the Kwasa family.

Pictured: Board Members Patrick Jardine, Michael-Jon van Loggerenberg and Philip de Jager with Owen Thomas and Sharron Dinnie. In absentia: Board Members Mike McConnachie and Kedi Maponyane.



If you have received this newsletter, know that you are special to us all at Kwasa College. Thank you for your love, support, generosity and kindness.

I wish for you the Christmas Gifts of Love, Joy, Peace and Hope, and wish you and your families a Happy and Fulfilling 2019.

With my love and prayers.

Sharron