

GRACE CHRONICLES

Issue No. 1 | September 2021



From the Principal's Desk

We are so excited to start our new school magazine, 'Grace Chronicles', which will be published at the end of each term as a vehicle to celebrate the highlights of the term. We are grateful that our third term has run almost without disruption, with online school only coming into play during the first week and whenever a class or individuals have had to go into isolation. We are grateful for our staff team who work so hard to bring the feast of education that our students have come to expect, in the face of so many challenges in these uncertain times.

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Our Celebration Assembly last Friday was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and share some of the “feast” that our children have enjoyed this term. We heard scripture, poetry and songs in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa as a celebration of our heritage, as well as some musical items. It is always lovely to see how our students are able to recall and recite pieces of literature / poetry that will be with them for life.

Our habits of the term were reinforced through assemblies and class discussions and were really taken to heart by the students. Our habit of enjoying the outdoors was a great way to welcome Spring as all of our families were encouraged to get outdoors and enjoy the wonders of nature that reflect the glory of our God.

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
Matthew 6v 8,29

As we look ahead towards a busy fourth term, we trust that you will all have a enjoyable break now and that the children will return refreshed in body, mind and spirit.

Karen Wood, Principal

Philosophy Corner: Springtime & Growth

As the third term draws to a close, it’s a natural time to think about the transition of seasons. With the coming of spring, we are conscious of the promise of life and growth. Those of us who have risen to the challenge of the “habit of outdoor life” this term might have noticed leaves budding on trees, flowers blooming and insects pollinating. And I’m sure all of us have enjoyed feeling the occasional warmer day and the promise of longer hours of daylight. This is all very welcome after a long and wet winter!

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In stark contrast with this pleasurable view of spring are the lines of T.S. Eliot's poem *The Wasteland* which begins with the words: "April is the cruellest month..." Remembering that April is the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere, Eliot seems to be saying in this poem that the arrival of springtime is a time to be dreaded – indeed the cruellest month! Why? This poem is confronting us with the fact that while everything around us might be changing, growing and blossoming – the same might not be true of us as human beings. In contrast to the flourishing of trees, flowers and insects around us, we might feel stuck in our lives, not growing – indeed stagnating. As such it can be a real time to take stock of our habits and rethink our rhythms.



At Grace Primary, we speak a lot about this theme of growth in our educational philosophy. As Charlotte Mason so aptly noted: "The function of education is not to give technical skill but to develop a person". The children in our care are persons who are destined to grow in many different dimensions – physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual. Let's take the natural opportunity that spring provides to really think about their growth and ours and make sure that we are not stagnating.

Growth happens in the natural world when the conditions are right and the same is true for us as human beings. The familiar themes of atmosphere, discipline and life provide a helpful framework to encourage healthy growth conditions:

- **Atmosphere:** Just as plants need good soil, a sunny spot, and water in order to grow, so our children also need to be surrounded by the right atmosphere. Children absorb from parents and teachers the ideas that rule their lives and these ideas will either encourage or inhibit growth. Let us take care to encourage an atmosphere that is conducive to growth.
- **Discipline:** Even if the atmosphere of our homes and school is nurturing and growth-inducing, we must remember that there will be weeds to deal with. Bad habits can limit our children's growth, productivity, and enjoyment if left unchecked. We need to be watchful over the habits they develop.
- **Life:** No plant will grow without the right nourishment. In the same way, we need to be constantly nourishing our children with good books, enriching conversations around the table and healthy hobbies and interests. All of these nourish them as persons and encourage them towards growth.

Finally, it is helpful to remember that growth takes time. It often happens deep down where we can't see it and even the growth that we do see won't be constant. There might be times of preparation and some spurts and stops on the way. However, we can take courage that if we are faithful to encourage the right conditions, we will see steady growth in the lives of our children.

Judy McComb, Philosophy Director

STAFF NEWS

We have had a 'bumper' baby year, with three gorgeous boys being born to members of our staff team since last November!

We were very pleased to welcome Mrs Rodo back after being away for 6mths on maternity leave with baby Noah.

Mrs Grobler (with baby Oliver) and Mrs Gregoriades (with baby Alexander) are still away on maternity leave but we look forward to welcoming them both back at the beginning of next year.

We have so appreciated the dedicated team of maternity cover teachers who have taken their place during this time. Thank you so much to Mrs Haywood (Gr 2), Mrs Kooyman (Gr 3) and Mrs Gosling (Gr 4).



GIVE FOR GROWTH

We are thrilled to announce that the school body has so far raised just over R36,000 for our Give for Growth Campaign!

This has been through generous donations from families, the Grade 7 plant sale, the Jolly Jars initiative and also individual children and families running their own fundraising initiatives such as sponsored a read-a-thon, brownie-baking, a nerf gun event in a local park, a market day in a back garden and sales of handicrafts. Great work everyone, and a huge thanks to all who enabled us to reach this goal!

With the final lucky draw next term offering 3 prizes, we are hoping the fundraising will continue and we will meet our goal of raising R50,000 for books and technology for the school by the end of October.

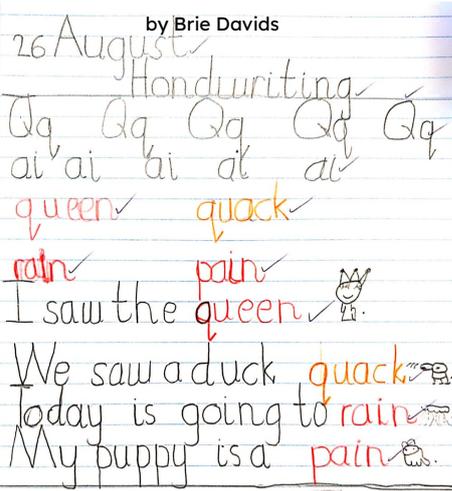


The children will get to enjoy a reward of dressing in civvies and having an ice lolly on the last day of term. Next term we are going to have our first athletics day in over 2 years and will also mark the end of the G4G Campaign with some celebrations and the final prize draws!



Glimpses of Grace

Each of our classrooms have been living spaces over this past term as various ideas have grown and matured in the minds and hearts of our children. Here are some glimpses into some of the learning taking place.



Grade 1:

Handwriting practice is an important skill to master in the early years and here is an example of worthy work in the Grade 1 class.

Each term our children learn about a different science inventor or naturalist. The Grade 1's have enjoyed the story called "The boy who drew birds" which relates the story of James John Audubon, a French-American ornithologist and naturalist who painted, described, and catalogued the birds of North America.

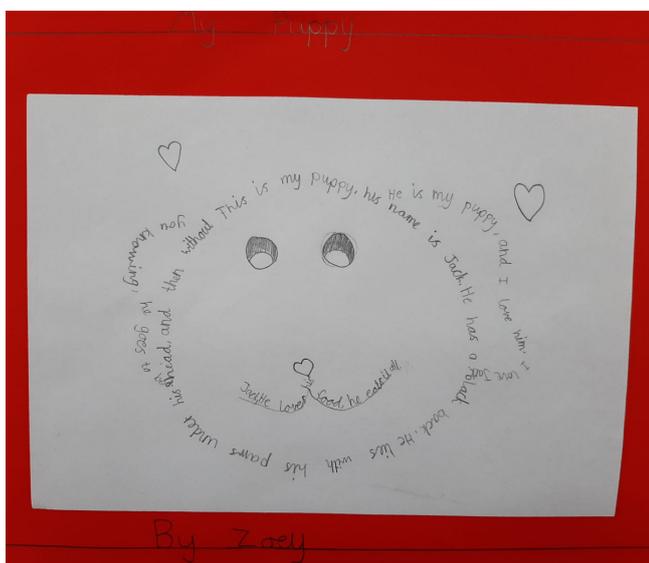


by Kacey Stevens

Tovah Fortuin

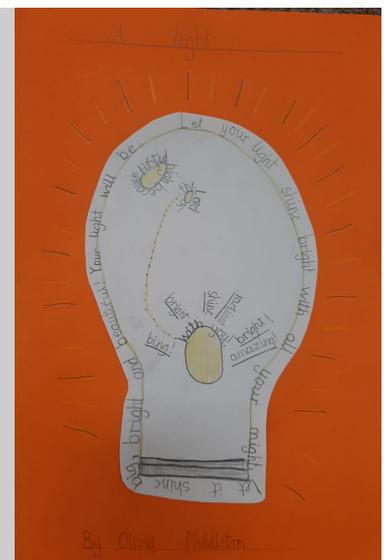
Grade 2:

Weather and Climate: The grade 2's have been learning about weather in both Geography and Science. They looked at the different types of weather, weather symbols, the different climates experienced in each region across South Africa and how weather can affect us. We made a wind vane to show the movement of wind.



Grade 3:

The Grade 3's have been learning how to write Shape Poems which is a poem that is shaped like the thing it describes. Have a look at these lovely examples!





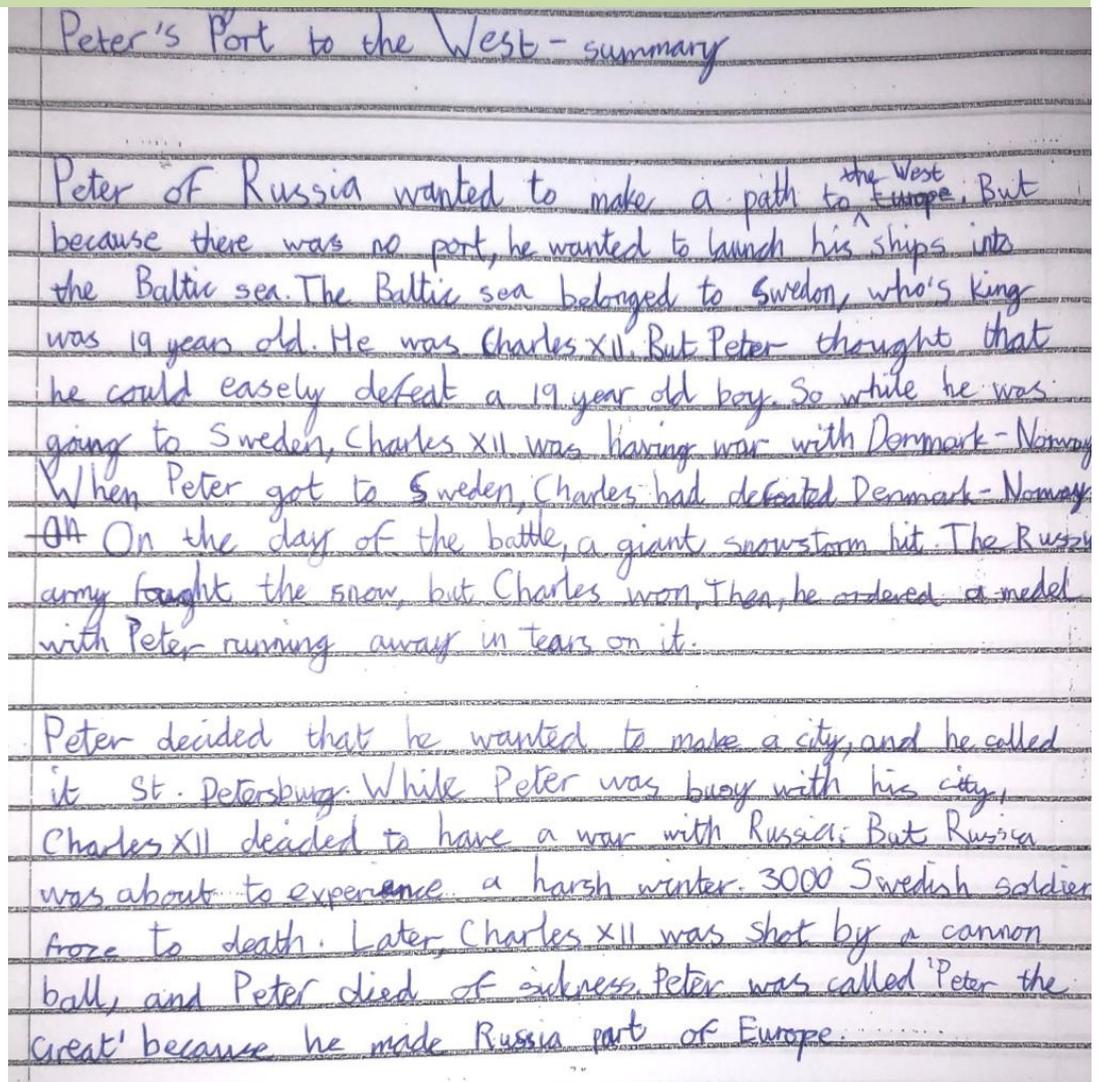
Grade 4:

The Grade 4's learnt about the Italian Renaissance artist Raphael this term and especially enjoyed his painting of St. George and the Dragon. Caleb Davids wrote this written narration following a 2 minute study of the painting:

"There is a white horse and St. George is on his back. There is a princess on the side and she is praying. The princess is wearing a red dress. The horse almost looks like it's staring at you. It was hard to see the dragon and it had blood on its mouth."

Grade 5:

The Grade 5's have been studying Early Modern Times as part of our World History series this year which covers the major historical events in the years 1600 to 1850. After reading their chapter on Peter the Great of Russia, Anna-Grace Skead wrote the following written narration called: "Peter's Port to the West".



Grade 6:

This term the Grade 6's learnt about the twentieth century American composer, Aaron Copland. Here is Joshua van der Vinne's summary of his music called Appalachian Spring:

"Aaron Copland created an image of the Appalachian Mountains by making fast paced music almost describing the high mountains; he also made his music loud and soft, slow and fast paces to symbolise the mountains as they became tall and short from one mountain to the next. He also used the violin to symbolise the high parts of the mountain and the lower instruments to symbolize the low parts of the mountain range."

Grade 7:

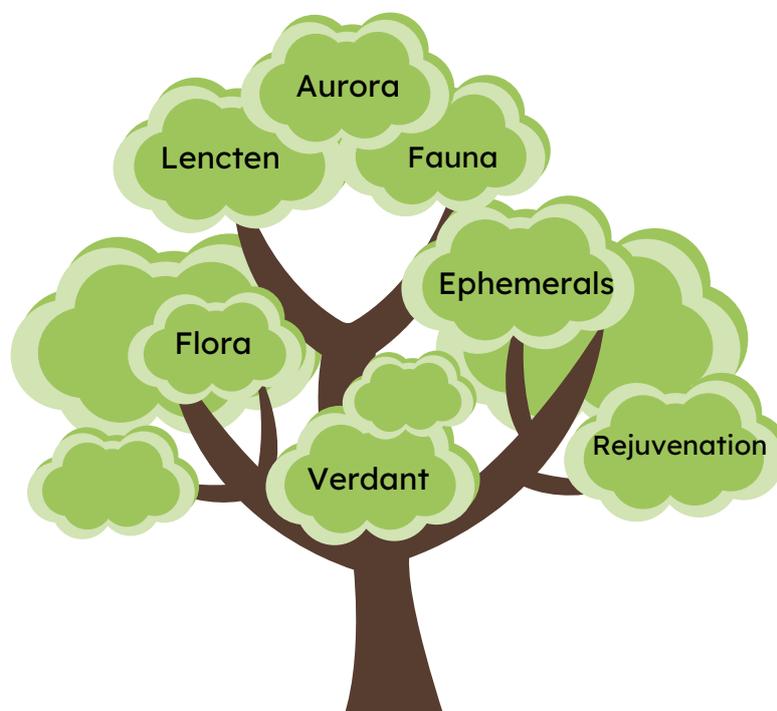
A couple of the Grade 7 students wrote about different aspects that they had enjoyed this term. Enjoy reading their reflections:

"I thoroughly enjoyed Geography this term because we got the chance to create a lapbook on the factors affecting birth and death rate in a group. I love the way we learn through experiments and class discussions and not only through textbooks." - Keira Beckwith

"Our history topics this term were really interesting such as what happened in World War 1 and World War 2. We made a slideshow about what we learned." - Domingo Scheepers

Increase your word power! – Spring Words

Over the last month, each class has chosen a "spring word" to extend their vocabulary and to appreciate the changing of the seasons. Enjoy sharing in some of their learning! Cont...



Excursions

All our classes enjoyed going on a variety of excursions this term ranging from Kirstenbosch, the Planetarium, National Gallery, to the Jewish Museum and others. Here's some feedback from the Grade 4 and 7 outings to the Centre for Conservation Education and The Norval Foundation respectively.

The Grade 4s Spend a Day as Victorian Schoolchildren

The Grade 4's were given the opportunity to re-enact the way children were taught during the Victorian times. This was something new and exciting for them. The CCE Victorian School allowed learners to dress up in old clothing and "relive" teaching in the past by taking them on a tour of the school and participate in a handwriting lesson which was presented by Mr Van Rensberg, who pretended to be a teacher of that era.



The Grade 4 Class at the Centre for Conservation Education in Wynberg

"The teachers back in the day were very strict and the children had to say 'offices' when they referred to the bathroom" - Artemis Sasman

"I cant believe that children had to bring one penny every day to pay the teacher before they could enter the classroom!" - Caleb Davids

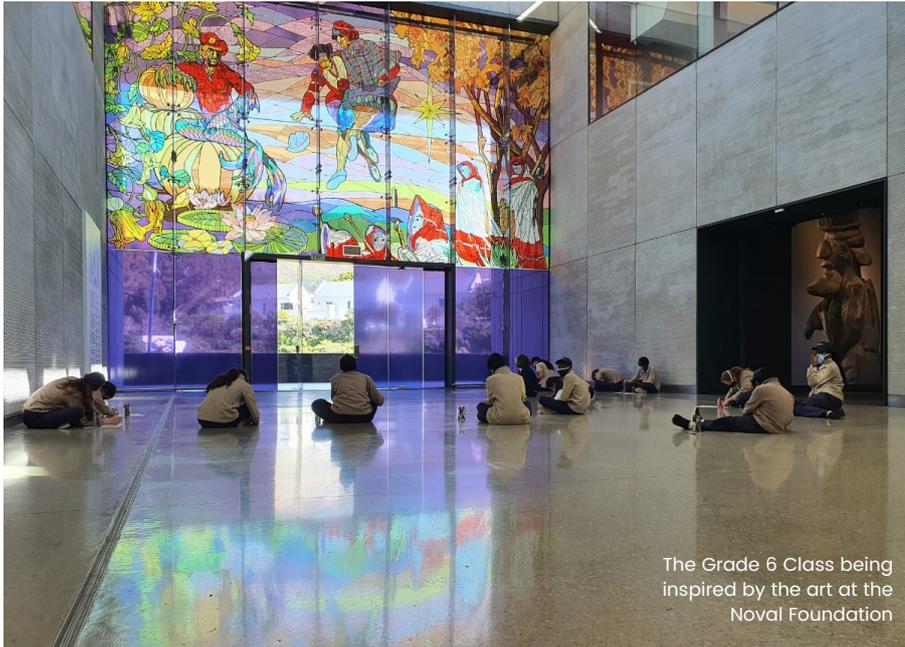
"I loved being the student teacher for the day. It was so exciting. We also learnt about the three R's: Reading, Writing and Arithmetic" - Eliora Trezenga- Hall

"I loved acting as the child who leaves school to go to the farm for a school semester."
- Gcina Sulelo

Grade 7s Visit the Norval Foundation

"When we were at the Norval Foundation our tour guide, Lindsay, showed us a vinyl at the entrance to the garden. It was created by Athi-Patra Ruga to celebrate Xhosa heritage and to create a new mythology. The second artists we looked at were made by Georgina Gratrix using a method called impasto which is layering oil paint to make the painting almost 3D. Then we went in to see the wood carvings of Jackson Hlungwani. He was part of the Zionist church and made sculptures showing how he interpreted Christianity. After that we went to the gardens where there were many statues and plants surrounding them. There was even this speaker that turned signals from a satellite dish of the planets moving into sounds." - Takudzwa Chikono

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The Grade 6 Class being inspired by the art at the Noval Foundation

""Today we went to the Norval Foundation. Our teacher, Lindsay, taught us about three different artists. Athi-Patra Ruga, Georgina Gratrix and Jackson Hlungwani. I found it very interesting learning about the different techniques and the reasons behind the painting and sculptures. Georgina Gratrix uses impasto technique in her painting which I think is very unique. My favourite sculpture from Jackson Hlungwani was 'The Angel Gabriel'. It was very different

to the way people would picture an angel. My favourite painting was by Athi-Patra Ruga. His painting described the months in a year. I enjoyed walking through the garden and seeing the trees from this painting. This was a very fun outing and I learned a lot of new things."

- Chloe Bloemetje



Book Reviews

At Grace Primary, we want every child to enjoy books! This year we launched a Reading Challenge in each class to encourage our children to read a good selection of the books on offer in their class book corners. Occasionally we have invited children to share a short book report at one of our assemblies, explaining why they have enjoyed a particular book. Here are some of the books enjoyed by some of the Grade 6 class boys:

Zach de Witt: "A book I enjoyed was Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo. I loved it because of the way that he wrote from different perspectives of World War II and how it made and broke relationships."

Nate Ringdal: "I really enjoyed D-Day Dog by Tom Palmer. It was an interesting book on WWII about Emile Corteil, the paratrooper, and Glenn, the paratog. These two served well for the British Army during the war."

Nathan McComb: "I enjoyed the biography of Sundar Singh who was a missionary in Asia. It is a true story and also has a lot of adventure. I was amazed by his perseverance and commitment to God's work."

Focus on Habits: Outdoor Life

This term we have highlighted spending time outdoors as a habit of life to cultivate.

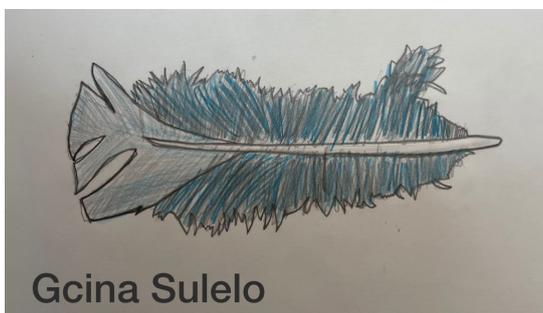
At school, we encourage the children in this habit by going on Nature Walks every week or fortnight. Their purpose is to encourage close attention to our surrounding ordinary natural phenomena such as birds, insects, flowers, plants and trees. We hope that this will build both fascination and delight in nature and will develop the “seeing eyes” and “hearing ears” that will keep them enjoying the outdoors for the long-term.

We hope that you enjoy sharing in some of their outdoor learning.

The **Grade 2** class enjoyed doing a sketch of the Protea, which is both our national flower and one of our indigenous fynbos flowers in the Western Cape. Look at this beautiful sketch done by Cebisa Jantjies



The **Grade 4** learners enjoyed going for a nature walk and collecting feathers. Some brought their own from home as well. As a class we spoke about the different shapes, sizes and patterns on each feather. The children also learnt about the structure of a feather and were able to sketch a beautiful feather portrait inside their art books.



The **Grade 6's** studied the trees of Protea Close during their nature walks this term: They had the following insights to share:

"This term our class has had quite a few nature walks; on many of these nature walks we have identified many species of trees. Some of the trees we identified were the Lilly Pilly otherwise known as the (*Syzygium smithii*) some other trees were pine tree and the banana tree." - Joshua Van Der Vinne

"We identified the bottle brush trees which have red and sort of spiky leaves; pine trees which have pine cones as flowers and more." - Fruitful Brown



The **Grade 7's** really enjoyed the video assembly created by Mr Louw on outdoor living. Raymond Mukanya had the following reflections to share on this assembly:

"Mr Louw made a funny video about outdoor living. In the video he met so many dogs and went to many different places like parks and forests. He even went on a hike to the mountain where he drank water from a river which I think is weird. What I learned was that kids of my generation spend too much time on screens and not enough time outside. During the holidays the whole family should spend a day in nature and not use their phones at all, especially parents."

Raymond also shared the following observation on nature study times:

"My favourite part of nature study is when we sit outside and listen to the birds and observe the clouds. It helps to clear the mind."



Clubs & Connections

Maths Games

Grade 1 and 2 maths and word games have been a great opportunity for learners to spend extra sharpening their skills in maths and construction of sentences. During this time, a grade 1 is paired with a grade 2 so that they can help each other with difficult challenges. Grade 1s have been challenged to attempt multiplication equations with the help of grade 2s.
(Ms Shumba)



Drama

This term we focussed on characterisation and the challenge of presenting someone who we are not. We used a lot of games to practise our movements, reactions, projection and improvisation. We acted out a number of short improvised scenarios for funny situations and each grade group started to put together a short one act play titled "One Day When We're Older". (Mr Louw)



Hobbies and Crafts

Grade 3 and 4 Hobbies and Crafts club have been making a variety of spring decorations such as garlands, trees and butterflies using paper, recycled materials and items from nature. They also contributed to our Jolly Jar fundraiser by designing, decorating and filling a second jar each for this event. (Mrs Rodo)



Grade 1 and 2 Hobbies and Crafts club have been focusing on fine motor skills, we started the term off with key chains where they had to feed beads on to wire, as well as making pinched tissue paper flowers to follow along with the beginning of Spring. Our other Spring activities included dot art using ear buds and stained glass butterflies. (Mrs Haywood)

Embroidery

The children learnt some of the basic stitches in embroidery like running stitch and backstitch. They chose their own designs and will complete their projects in the new term, as well as learn more advanced stitches. (Miss Andersson)



Chess

Grades 3, 4 and 5 learners have the opportunity to challenge one another in chess games every Wednesday after school. During their time, they develop their intelligence and improve their mathematical thinking and logical skills as well as improve their self-esteem.
(Mrs Gosling)

Clubs & Connections (Cont.)



Afrikaans Club

This term we launched two Afrikaans Conversational Clubs for the first time, one for the seniors run by Mrs Tonkin, a retired teacher, and the other run by our very own Miss P. The children have really enjoyed this time to learn Afrikaans in a more relaxed context, while playing games, singing songs and listening to stories.



Karate

This term the Kyokushin Karate dojo at the school has 23 children who all show great discipline and perseverance in their training. We work on building strength, respect and self-esteem as well as training hard towards their Gradings. I am proud of the amazing achievements accomplished! Osu. (Shihan Charmaine Abrahams 5th Dan)



Music

Three of our young musicians were given the opportunity by Mrs Meyer to do a trial musical examination this term. These included Olivia Middleton (Gr 3); Marley Maneveld (Gr 3) and Evan Taruvunga (Gr 5). Mrs Meyer's pupils have usually enrolled for the Trinity Music Exams in the past, but unfortunately these were cancelled this year due to COVID. Since local examiners were being trained in the meantime, our pupils served as trial pupils and performed very well!



We have also been blessed by individual music performances at our assemblies throughout the term by a variety of pupils and have enjoyed seeing their progress and hearing their music.



Cross-Country @Pinehurst Primary

This term our children were given the opportunity to join the Pinehurst Primary cross country team in some fun runs in and around Pinelands. Thanks to Pinehurst for this invitation and to Coach Simon for assisting our young runners in this sports opportunity.



Hooked on Books @Cannon's Creek

We were also invited to join with Cannons Creek Primary School in watching the performance of "Hooked on Books", an annual drama event that encourages the love of reading in our children. This was a highlight during the last week of term!

