



Preparatory School for Boys and Girls

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Newsletter: September 2020 (End-of-term 3) From the Principal's desk

It almost feels surreal that we have come to the end of a term. It certainly seems as if all the terms this year have blended into each other.

Mrs Burt has used the phrase, "Together we can..." And this is so true of our Epworth community and the ways in which we have dealt with Covid-19, always ensuring that we maintain the education of our children.

This is a well-deserved break for our staff who have really done an amazing job of dealing with all that has been thrown at them. A number of people have stated that 2020 should be known as the "Year of the Teacher". I must agree with this sentiment. Teachers have gone beyond the call of duty and adapted daily to the ever-changing environment of Covid-19. The care they have shown their pupils has been beyond words and the extent to which they have stretched themselves personally has been awe-inspiring. On many occasions this term, I have found myself having to rein in staff to protect them from burnout. Their drive to serve has been immense. It is time for them to switch off their computers, cell phones, and WhatsApp groups and enjoy the new beginnings of spring.

A special thank you must go to our sports department and estates staff who have spent many early mornings and late afternoons ensuring that our school is a safe place and that all protocols are being adhered to. Not only have they monitored entrances and exits, but they have also done break duties in the High School. And this is over and above their PE lessons and wellness programmes. From the start of Term 4, we hope to expand on the wellness programme and include skills-based opportunities for our pupils. We find that pupils really need to add more physical activities to their days. I urge parents to take every opportunity to do as much outdoor activities as possible with your children. Start walking or cycling together as a family. Enjoy the fresh spring air and the warming sun.

On Friday, 11 September, we were treated to two stunning online performances from our Grade 7 classes. The production, "The Show must go online", was a true joy to behold. A massive thanks must go to Mrs Sandra Henning, Ms Anne Duthie and, behind the scenes, Marcus Henning for their effort and time spent in compiling the

amazing individual performances into two movie-type productions. Once again, I am blown away by the potential and ability of our pupils. There were just far too many standout performances to mention them individually. How difficult it must have been for them to act and sing in front of their phone cameras. They certainly proved that "together we can..."

On that amazing high note, and on behalf of the Prep staff, I would like to wish all the Epworth families a safe and restful time over the holidays. May we all return energised to take on whatever the rest of 2020 can throw at us.

Faith Compassion Courage

Mr Reynard White, Preparatory School Principal



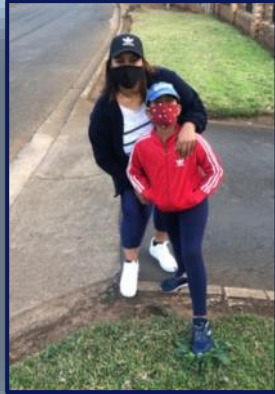
We are proud to announce the team that will assume leadership of the school from 2021.

Mrs Julie Calitz will take on the role of Deputy Principal of the Prep School and Mrs Tracey Munro, the role of Principal of the High School.

Mr Reynard White and Mr Emwee Zeelie (Business Manager) will continue to retain responsibility for their respective roles, but together with Mrs Tracey Munro, they will manage decisions and responsibilities of a whole school nature. They will continue to uphold Epworth's 122-year heritage and will commit to ensuring Epworth's sustainable future.



1-hour Run/Walk Community Challenge



Thank you and well done to all the families that took part in this challenge on Saturday, 22 August. The aim of the challenge was to have fun and win points for your Epworth House!

A combined total of 1559,34 km was covered by our pupils, staff, parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles and siblings across the whole school.

What an achievement Epworth!

Results of the Prep School Inter-house Challenge

First



Second



Third



Fourth





Epworth receives a Platinum 2 Decade Eco Schools' Award



Epworth is the proud recipient of a Platinum 2 Decade Award from the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA) for its dedication to, and involvement in, environmental activities for 2019.

This award celebrates Epworth's 17th year as an Eco School and is testament to its sustained commitment to everything environmental.

Community Engagement



Bags for the Jes Foord Foundation



♥ ♥ ♥
"The purpose of human life is to serve, to show compassion and the will to help others and their community."
Albert Schweitzer



Meals in a Jar



Grade 6's amazing plastic recycling drive



Thank you so much to all the Prep School families that sent in their glass jars to recycle, as part of a whole school community engagement project. These jars were part of a project that the school has embarked on with Thandanani Children's Foundation to make 'meals in a jar', which they will supply to vulnerable families. The jars are being filled with rice, soup mix, lentils, stock cubes and soup powder, which will provide a meal for a family of four.

During women's month, the pupils also chose to support the Jes Foord Handbag Project that collects new and used handbags containing toiletries and care items, which are given to rape victims after the initial reporting process. Thank you so much to the Prep School families that donated handbags. The handbags have been filled with goodies ranging from tissues and underwear to deodorant and toothpaste. Epworth packed over 60 bags that will be distributed by the Jes Foord Foundation to Thuthuzela Centres, Rape Crisis Centres and NPA Courts.

The amazing Grade 6s took on the challenge of a competition between the two classes to see which class could bring the most plastic for the school's plastic recycling programme. All the children did incredibly well and together they recycled a total of 1070 bottles! Well done Grade 6.



Spring Day

“Where flowers bloom,
so does hope.”





Beautiful artistic creativity



The Prep School children are so lucky to have a creative team of teachers that challenge them and teach them different styles and forms of artistic skills throughout the year.

Pictured are the Grade 1s who decided it would be a wonderful idea to design and paint their very own unique social distancing areas. The Grade 7s showed off their artistic skills by creating the most beautiful Strelitzia Art.

The Grade 3s spent some time in the beautiful Chapel gardens sketching their masterpieces.



Celebrating the Prep Secretaries

We are so blessed to have two incredible secretaries at the Prep School, Mrs Caryn Martin and Mrs Katherine Botha. We are so grateful for the wonderful job these ladies do to ensure that the day-to-day running of the school is as smooth as possible.

Support for Thursdays in Black

The Epworth staff acknowledge and stand united in the pandemic of gender-based violence in our country. Throughout Women's Month, they chose to embrace 'Thursdays in Black' by wearing black to show their solidarity and to take a stand against sexual and gender-based violence in South Africa, and to honour the survivors of the inconceivable violence against women and children.



♥ **Grade 3s love trees** ♥

What better excuse is there to climb a tree... other than to do research for a creative writing project on trees!



A 'normal' day of fun in the Pre-Primary



Please follow the link to view a little video of the Pre-Primary pupils showing that 'Together we can...'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3P8SDkHgFo&t=42s>



The Show Must Go Online



Please follow the links below to view these wonderful online productions:

[Grade 7VT](#)

[Grade 7L](#)



What an amazing and talented Grade 7 class of 2020 we have. The much-anticipated annual Senior Primary production could not take place as it normally would this year, therefore the Grade 7s, together with Mrs Sandra Henning, filmed a dramatic virtual production of *The Show Must Go Online*.

The rest of the Prep School were treated to this fantastic virtual production from the comfort of their classrooms, accompanied by popcorn and treats – true movie style.

Music Achievements: Primary Grades

Several pupils from the Prep School entered The South African Society of Music Teachers (PMB Branch) Eisteddfod 2020, which was held virtually this year. They submitted video recordings instead of performing live in front of the adjudicator! The following pleasing results were achieved:

Classical Piano Pre-Grade 1: Zoë Ahrens - 1 gold, Abigail Botha - 2 golds, Rylee Howells - 1 silver, Jocelyn Reed - 1 silver and Rebecca Thompson - 1 silver.

Classical Piano Grade 1: Yaana Lalloo - 1 bronze, Sendhuri Manickum - 1 silver and Shreya Vather - 1 silver

Classical Piano Grade 2: Hannah van Deventer - 3 golds

Classical Voice Grade 2: Abbey Hackland - 2 golds and 1 silver

Well done to Abbey Hackland who was selected to perform at the High Achievers' Concert!



Music Achievements: Pre-Primary Grades

At the end of 2019, our Pre-Primary started a piano programme with five students between the ages of four and seven. Today the interest has grown to more than 24 pupils who all want to learn how to read music. They read music before they can read books! We are very proud of the following pupils who will be competing in their first national competition (online) for Mini Maestros, which is sponsored by the South African Society of Music Teachers: Aleia Steenkamp, Zoe Calder, Madison Jordaan, Jessica Francis, Tayla Moon, Azariah Chengiah, Shristi Jaglal, Caden de Vries, Qhawekazi Magudelela and Zanokuhle Mncwabe. (These pianists are all age five or older).

Pictured are a few of these pupils after playing in front of the Prep School at their first ever piano performance earlier this year.



Grade 4s Fun Drama projects



The Grade 4s have truly put their creative juices to the test in Drama this term. They created some wonderful paper hand puppets and characters and used their acting talents to show them off.

They also took ordinary fairy tales and flipped them on their heads by creating their own new fairy tales using well-known fairy tale characters. Working in small groups, they decided who was in charge of which aspect and then they set about creating their puppets and scenery. Great entertainment was provided during their performances. Characters disappeared through magic portals, escaped on spaceships, and had to solve puzzles to get the key to return to their own fairy tale land.

Grade 6s make electricity

The Grade 6s have been learning about electricity this term. They have had great fun doing static electricity experiments.





Grade 1s Bike Day

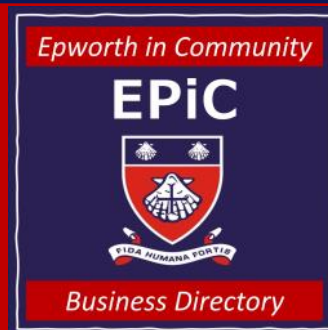
Grade 2s Playdough Fun



The Epworth in Community (EPiC) Business Directory

The EPiC Business Directory is a school initiative to support members of the Epworth community who own or partner in businesses. We encourage you to peruse the different categories and patronise the services/products that our talented community has to offer.

If you are a member of the Epworth community and would like to advertise your business in this directory, please click on the EPiC logo to follow the link to fill in an application form.



Prayer for our Prep School parents

God we thank you for each member of our Epworth family, for bringing us all safely through this challenging term. We thank you for our **children** whose smiles lift our spirits, for **teachers** who go the extra mile in loving and helping, for **parents, siblings and family members** who continue to encourage and support. God, during this time of holiday and rest, help us to continue to put our **FAITH** in You, to show **COMPASSION** to all those around us, and give us **COURAGE** for the road ahead, knowing that You go before us, behind us and beside us. In Jesus' name,
Amen.

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