

# INDABA ZASEPHUMLANI

NPO NO 072-088NPO  
VOLUME 2 NO 1

June 2010

Dear Parents and Friends of Presbyterian Phumlani Educare Centre

Six busy months have flown by and it is time for another newsletter. Much has happened and we have had some major changes at Phumlani. We have rolled with them and come out stronger!

The year started with the news that Nokhwezi Matambo, our principal, had accepted a post elsewhere. When the shock had settled Zoleka Magobosi was appointed as principal. Zoleka has been at the Educare Centre since the beginning, had been responsible for administrating the finances for a long time and has really risen to the task: she has shown wisdom, dedication and vision, and leads her staff with compassion as well as a drive to improve their abilities as teachers. In addition, she works hard at improving her own qualifications. She has completed a "Little Professor" course which has not only given her extra skills, but also a lot of educational equipment, as well as continuing her Early Childhood Development (ECD) studies (level 5). The other teachers are also participating in the ECD programme.



For the first term the three teachers struggled to maintain the same educational standards as before – when one of the teachers became ill for a protracted time, staff was really thin on the ground! Luckily Ntombi is now fully recovered. In April Nondumiso (Ndumi) Galeni was appointed as a grade R teacher. She is a lady of many talents with a great love for children. She is eager to learn and has a quiet and gentle but determined way about her. She has fitted in well and is an asset to our school; we wish her many happy years with us. In her own words: "2010 is a year of happiness and joy for me. I had a dream to one day be a teacher in a crèche because I love children very much. On the first day the staff welcomed me with a smile, and the children were hugging me and smiling too. It was an unbelievable day. I feel free in my new school, and am proud of my principal and my staff. I am learning and progressing all the time, and thank God for placing me at Phumlani."

In addition to our regular staff we are received intermittent assistance from volunteers who are also busy with their ECD studies. Mandisa and Nosipho work at Hokisa, a home for HIV+ children as well as abandoned children and orphans. For their qualification, they need work experience at a crèche. They have lately come for two days a week and have supplied an extra pair of willing hands, a cheerful smile and a listening ear, as well as boundless love for the children.

**Outings** remain an important part of the curriculum as the children need to experience the wider world. They are looked forward to fervently and participation is with great enthusiasm. Even the journey by bus or car is an exciting event! A wonderful comment many outsiders make when they see our children is their exemplary behaviour, a testimony to the loving but firm discipline by the staff. This year we have been to Boulder's Beach to learn about penguins and explore the beach. Class by class they have been to Noordhoek Garden Emporium to explore the myriad colours, shapes, textures, sound and smells of a nursery. They have ventured into a "jungle" and made friends with big black pigs from the safe refuge of the other side of the fence, as well as having a glorious time on the playground. Towards the end of the second term the Grade R children went all the way to the V&A Waterfront by bus to go to the Two Oceans Aquarium, where they participated in a lively



interactive puppet show, were allowed to touch and feel intertidal life forms and were fascinated by all the sea creatures, especially the sharks. Many thanks to all who make these outings possible!



Movement and body positions affect our brain function and ability to learn. This is the basic premise of **Brain Gym®**, a series of exercises specifically formulated to assist with posture, attention and focus, enhancement of the senses, gross and fine coordination (handwriting and cutting skills), memory and various other learning skills. They are fun and easy to do, and the teachers and children have been learning some of these movements throughout the year. They love doing them and we can see the benefit!

In the beginning of the second term we held a Saturday morning **workshop for parents**. Fourteen mothers and one father attended. It was a time of hand-on exploration of the concept of school readiness and how to foster learning in our little ones. The parents who attended all received a manual with ideas on stimulating their child, and the feedback we have received has been very positive.

One of the goals for 2010 was to ensure **hearing and vision screening** for each child, as difficulties in this area do not seem to get picked up and influence early learning substantially. Towards the end of the second term the final year Audiology students from the University of Cape Town under the guidance of Lebogang Ramma performed this vital service – for free! It was a positive experience for students and children alike, and we hope to do this annually. An organization called Jonga has been approached for vision screening and will hopefully be able to do this in the third term.



Our little **garden** was looking rather neglected, and on the last day of term, just after some good rain had fallen, the children and teachers got stuck in, removed old growth, weeds and rubbish, dug in some compost and planted some vegetable seedlings as well as sowing some seeds. The children will be involved in caring for the garden and watching the plants grow. We are looking forward to the harvest!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



2010 has made me laugh with happiness. I would never have thought that one day I would be a principal of an Early Childhood Development Centre. God is great. The staff is free and keen to work and learn and the crèche is progressing. There is good communication between staff, parents and children. I praise God for our new teacher, Ndumie, as she is doing very well. The children work so hard too – they are always trying their level best. The parent workshop was great and enjoyed by all, and I was impressed by the attendance. I would also like to thank the fathers of the children for their understanding attitude towards us.

*Zoleka Magobosi*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We have enjoyed a positive start to 2010 in spite of losing our principal before we started in January. The good news is that Zoleka Magobosi has taken over in a superb way, without a hitch. With Nondumiso Galeni as the new staff member we once again have a full team of four on the teaching staff and one housekeeper.



Robyn Bath, our administrator, has worked tirelessly on several projects, and is a huge asset to us. We are now registered as a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) with the Department of Social Development, as is evidenced by the number at the top of this newsletter. We have opened a new bank account which enables us to do internet banking. Robyn has applied for Tax exemption status – as soon as we get our Public Benefit Organisation number our donors can make donations tax free. Robyn has also been instrumental in

getting a Photostat machine for the crèche, and is still working on adding computers and other electronic equipment.

58 children are registered at the crèche, and we are continuing with our pre-school education, care and feeding scheme. Eva van Belle has again done wonderful work in this regard along with the teachers. We have made a special effort to ensure the children's safety, especially during the time of the World Cup, with the long holiday period. All the children have also had their measles injection.

Financially, we continue to enjoy the support of the Community Chest, people in the church, organizations and individuals both in South Africa and overseas, including our Christian family in Fort Walton, who came to visit us earlier this year. Our books will soon be audited and will be ready for our AGM on 23 August. **WE URGE ALL PARENTS AND OUR SUPPORTERS TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.**

I trust that this report will show that all is well at the Presbyterian Phumlani Educare Centre, with God's blessing upon us. May He grant His blessing to you and your loved ones too.

*David van Duyker*



## IN CONCLUSION

The staff has decided to continue as normal during the five-week winter holiday. At school the children will be warm, safe and dry. They will continue with their education, which means not everything will be forgotten over the long break. And part and parcel of that learning will be lots of fun! **We therefore strongly recommend all parents to keep sending their children to school during the holidays.**

Yet again we wish to thank all those selfless people who make it possible for us to run and improve Phumlani. So often projects are started full of eagerness and energy, money is poured into the project, but commitment is not sustained and the project fizzles out, leaving the people it had meant to serve



disillusioned and sometimes worse off. Not so with Phumlani: years of dedicated giving has enabled us keep on improving our service to the community of Masiphumelele, to build, buy and maintain equipment, to employ and train more staff and provide for all the needs of the little ones in our care. We pray that the blessings they thus receive in their early years will bear fruit during their school years and beyond, so that they can take their place as upright and contributing members of society.

