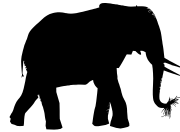


O T J I K O N D O
N E W S L E T T E R
THIRD TERM 2004

THE GRADE 4 ETOSHA EXTRAVAGANZA

Even on the journey to the Etosha National Park, the Grade 4s sighted springbok, kudu and warthogs. Despite Mr Willem “singing in the Kombi” they reached Okaukuejo Rest Camp in one piece and watched in quiet fascination as zebras, springbok and impala drank from the waterhole. The real highlight was to follow though, as after the children climbed the watchtower, which as Petrus exclaimed had “110 stairs!” they swam in the three large swimming pools. After a feast of toasted sandwiches and ice cream, they watched a big bull elephant standing motionless but so



VERY

BIG

at the Okaukuejo waterhole. And then, having felt like tourists for a day, they returned tired, but very happy, to Otjikondo.

GRADE 6 TAKE OVER OTJIWARONGO

“The thing,” Elana said, “that was really exciting was that I got to see a crocodile with my own eyes!” The proximity of the crocodiles in the crocodile park was a little too much for Petronella, however, who exclaimed in disgust, “they smelled so bad we could not breathe”.

After this the learners were privileged to be allowed to sit and watch two court cases, including one which involved the theft of a mobile phone. Petronella stated afterwards, “everybody enjoyed it so much they could hardly talk about it”. A visit to Fabupharm was next on the agenda, and the lucky Grade 6s were not only able to discover how a variety of medicines were produced, but also each given a vapour rub as a little present. The journey home was punctuated with an ice-cream stop, and as Elana said, “we came back to Otjikondo with smiles on everyone’s faces.”

CHEETAH CONSERVATION

The Grade 5s were all very excited to be going to the Cheetah Conservation Farm, near Otjiwarongo, for this year’s class outing. Mrs Luiperdt, Ms Petrina and Gap Sue accompanied them, eagerly anticipating a fun weekend out. Getting a puncture wasn’t the best start to the weekend but spirits were kept high with lots of singing and games throughout the journey.

On arrival at the campsite everyone quickly settled in and made a camp fire. After lots of “watch out Sue there’s a cheetah behind you!” comments the Grade 5s made it safely back to their tents for the night.

The next day they were introduced to four of the resident cheetahs. There were lots of activities to do, games to play and even a cheetah video to watch. The highlight of the day was watching the cheetah's exercise routine. Everyone was suitably impressed by their breath-taking speed and agility. Walking around the museum gave the children the opportunity to learn the importance of Namibia's Cheetah population and taught them that cheetahs and farmers can live amicably together.

To thank the guide for a wonderful visit the Otjikondo children (renowned for their fantastic singing) performed a concert for him around the camp fire. They were delighted to be rewarded with sweets for their impressive dance routines! As the shouts of 'goodbye, we'll miss you' from the departing mini-van testified, it was a great weekend.

The Big Splash!

The end of term saw Grades 1 and 2 venture into unknown waters as highly successful class outings to Hohenstein Farm dam were undertaken. Sara and the Gaps bravely waded out into the murky depths, weighed down by squirming children. As the water slowly rose, the squeals of delight gradually faded and vice-like grips tightened around the adult's necks. As soon as the children were out of the water, however, loudly told tales of Olympic standard swimming could be heard from the shore. It was felt, particularly by the older members of the party, that the freshly braided boerewors was well earned. After the clay animal competition was carefully judged and prizes awarded, the children returned to school, slightly damp and muddy but extremely happy.

Bakery Bliss

The Grade 3s, much to the envy of most of the learners, and even more so by the Gaps, were taken into Outjo Backerei for their class trip. Here they learnt not only how the bakery managed to produce such delicious goodies every day, but were allowed a quick glimpse into some of the secret recipes of the famous delicacies. While so far this knowledge has not been shared with the rest of the school, we live in hope that one Friday the 'voetkoekies' will be transformed into golden flaky pastry delights.

GRADE 7 FAREWELL

The Grade 7s celebrated the culmination of seven years at Otjikondo with a formal dinner for them and their families. For many of the girls, the day itself was devoted to hours of preparation, with hairs carefully arranged and dresses checked one last time. At last it was time for the evening to begin, and the nervous and excited whispers promised that this year's festivities would be better than ever. Once everyone was seated amongst their families and teachers they were welcomed to Otjikondo by the Master of Ceremonies, our very own head girl Magdalena. After enjoying the melon starter, which had been lovingly arranged and prepared by the Gaps and Mrs Una and admiring the festively bedecked hall and stage, the speeches began. Then the Grade 7s themselves put on a show for their families, and the evening's fabulous entertainments began.

Grade 7's dance up a storm

After weeks of rehearsals, where it was discovered that 'putting your best foot forward' only worked if everyone put the *same* foot forward, the Grade 7s danced and dazzled their way

through their farewell dance. As their families and teachers watched in delight the Grade 7s marched into the Otjikondo Farewell Dinner Hall of Fame, belting out Diana Ross' classic 'I'm Coming Out'.

After such a magnificent performance we are certain that they will cope admirably with the new challenges and adventures of secondary school. Although we will miss them a great deal (and the school will be far quieter!) we wish them every success and hope that they stay in touch.



Otjikondo Court Case verdict

Mrs Stommel was in the dock as the Otjikondo Court resumed its duties. As Grade 7s, their families and all the staff looked on in horror, Mrs Vermaak spoke of the cruel April Fool's Day prank she had been subjected to at the ruthless hands of Mrs Stommel. For, coming into school on the morning of the 1st of April, Mrs Vermaak was greeted by an official transfer request from the Ministry of Education. As the court listened intently, the victim herself spoke movingly of her shock and teary disbelief at this unwanted request. It was not until lunchtime, nearly five hours after the fax was received, that Mrs Stommel relented and admitted that she herself had not only written the letter but forged the Regional Director's signature. In shocked dismay, Mrs Vermaak rounded up her trusted troops and spent the rest of the morning collecting bags of thorns. With her prickly ammunition safely hidden in a bag, she strolled into the Stommel's house and snuck into Mrs Stommel's bedroom. Revenge was indeed sharp as Mrs Stommel discovered her carefully made bed was host to an unwanted invasion of prickly guests! The court, once it had recovered from disbelieving amazement that two such upstanding citizens could perform such appalling crimes, swiftly meted out its punishments. For Mrs Stommel, forger extraordinaire, a gruelling rehabilitation programme of Grade 7 exam invigilation and a much deserved cheese cake for the staffroom.

While Mrs Vermaak may think that she has escaped the long arm of the law for the moment, the court wishes to remind her that she will continue to be under their scrutiny. And as the court reminded us, crime doesn't pay!

TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED...

The ultra-elusive rarely seen BEHAVIOUR SPY has been spotted in Otjikondo. This super-secretive mystery agent lurks at every corner, hoping to catch the learners in acts of politeness, kindness or generosity. Each week brings yet more of these outstanding pupils to the attention of the rest of the school, with the gleaming BEHAVIOUR SPY BOARD proudly bearing the photos of that week's discoveries.



HEALTH AWARENESS

Mrs Una held a course on health awareness for grades 6 and 7 over 12 weeks. At the beginning the students were given the opportunity to choose the topics and an effort was made to cover all these and more. So what did we learn? The average thickness of a rhino's skin is 6cm ten

times thicker than the skin on our feet. The master gland of the body is the pituitary gland and it is the size of a pea. Up to 400 million people a year suffer from malaria and the disease kills about 2,750 children a day. There are about 96,000km of blood vessels, arteries, veins and capillaries in our body. This is enough to stretch almost 2.5 times around the Equator. We have about 30 million red blood cells and they live for about 4 months. We had long discussions on HIV/AIDS and an emphasis was made on the need to protect ourselves. We ended the course looking at the 'Bill of Rights' for children and their responsibilities. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and these highly informative sessions are sure to continue.

NEWSFLASH!!

New Class: January 2005 will see a new class at Otjikondo. **Miss Sara Austin**, formerly Gap Sara, will be teaching a special class of 15 selected students from grades 2-4. These children will not only have the lovely Sara as their teacher, but are to be given a new and brightly painted classroom. With the generous resources donations the class promises to provide intensive English and Maths teaching to give a helping hand to those children who need a little bit more attention.

Website: After many months "under construction", an Otjikondo Website is now available to interested surfers. Thanks to Martin Prell, former Gap, you can now log on to www.otjikondo.com and get update with news and developments!

Miss Jen Stacey, former and much missed volunteer teacher at Otjikondo showed us that we were as little forgotten as she was when we received two surprise packages from her. Filled with sweets, Halloween tricks, decorations and other goodies these unexpected but much appreciated parcels have since provided enough sugar for not only the end-of-term volleyball tournament but the end-of-exams disco as well! Thank you so much Miss Stacey, and please let no-one else feel shy about sending parcels to us!

Tabia Aebes/ Miss Tabia/ Tabs? Is she a Shopkeeper?/ Mrs Stommel's secretary? /A Gap?!

The beginning of this term saw Tabia take on yet another role in Otjikondo. For the first month of term she became a 'Gap', living in the Gap flat and helping Sue to settle in, even finding time for a few craft lessons. It was extremely kind of Tabs to offer to move house like this and 'adopt' Sue before the welcome arrival of Lucy. Many thanks to the fantastic Miss Tabia!

Fever!

The school has been gripped this term with **volleyball fever**, as endless practices culminated in a Volleyball Championship Tournament. The court itself was freshly marked out, the net was festooned with balloons, the anxious spectators jostled under the umbrellas with eagerly waiting teams. After fierce and furious play from all of the teams, with not a few dastardly over the net slams and frantic low-lying scoops, Mr Willem's team were the final victors.

On a less sporting note, Mrs Una has been kept up over many late nights with suspicious rashes. At first, thinking they were little more than heat rash, she was less worried. It was not until the affected children stuck out their tongues that Mrs Una realised it was in fact **scarlet fever!** Luckily all the children have now fully recovered, although the Gaps did ration their hugs a little after this diagnosis.

FATHER CHRISTMAS

The longed-for arrival of the big man with the white beard was joyfully greeted by hordes of children, all earnestly protesting that they had been ‘very good indeed all year’. After Father Christmas had been suitably greeted with a collection of Christmas Carols everyone made sure to be absolutely silent, although there was an occasional wriggle as the sheer size of his sack was noticed. Of course Santa wouldn’t let the Otjikondonians down, and after waiting in delicious anticipation his presents were given out to shouts of joy and happiness.



NATIVITY PLAY

Once Melchior realised that ‘Jupiter’ was not pronounced ‘Joe Peter’ the nativity play was well underway. The dining hall has been transformed into a glittering starry wonderland, the backdrop is in place, the actors have learnt not only to recite their lines but also to *act* them, and those waiting in the wings have finally learned that ‘silence’ means not even a sneaky whisper.

To the dulcet tones of our extremely well-behaved choir, the three kings marched, the shepherds herded their bleating sheep and Mary leaned unsteadily on Joseph and her trusty donkey. The Gaps were delighted with their talented and humorous cast who showed that little children really can be angelic!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

- **Gaps Sue and Lucy** arrived safely and were immediately thrust into school life, with little time to feel homesick. They learnt the children’s names quickly and soon identified the “famous” ones!
 - **Sara**, now qualified as a teacher, has returned to Otjikondo. In between taking craft and beadwork groups she has been busy preparing for her new class, who are very proud that they will be the first ones to have ‘Miss Sara’.
 - **Mr Schultheis** spent a month at Otjikondo, helping not only in the shop and with dinner duties, but making friends with many of the children. A particular favourite of the kindergarten, he was rarely seen without a toddling procession of pre-schoolers, who attempted to teach him their own special version of English.
 - **Admissions Day** saw 216 hopeful applicants descend upon Otjikondo, eager for a chance to begin their primary school education in such a prestigious institution. After fierce competition and a rigorous selection process, 35 lucky children were offered a place.
 - **Mr S Hort**, former Vice President of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, and founding member of Otjikondo, paid a short visit and was delighted to see so much progress made in the last 14 years.
 - **The British High Commissioner** paid a flying visit to Otjikondo, enjoying drinks with all of the UK contingent whilst engrossed in discussions of future plans for Otjikondo.

- **Mrs Stommel** enjoyed a well-deserved break, spending two weeks in sunny Turkey. Her return to the school was greeted with much pleasure, despite her initial scepticism that Otjikondo would survive her absence!
- **Mrs Luiperdt**, a valued and much liked member of the teaching staff since 1997, is sadly leaving us to take up a teaching post in Windhoek. Ms Fabiola, previously the Grade 4 teacher, has decided to take over the Grade 5 class after we lose Mrs Luiperdt. We are all very jealous of her new teaching colleagues, and wish her every happiness and success in her new position.
- **Mr Wollie Vermeulen** sadly left us this term to tend to his 300 tons of onions. After 7 years as Otjikondo's Jack of all Trades, he is sorely missed, but we wish him a wonderful crop and much success.
- In his place we welcomed **Mr Djon Louw**, a farmer from the neighbourhood, who has taken over Mr Wollie's responsibilities. We thank him for taking over the welding classes and much more!

SADNESS

It was with great sadness that Otjikondo learnt of the death of **Hazel Scott Aiton**, GAP at Otjikondo 2001-2002.

Hazel died in a car accident near her home on 23 August 2004. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to her family in their loss.

A Memorial and Thanksgiving Service will be held for Hazel in Otjikondo on Tuesday 8th February. Her family will be bringing her ashes to rest in Otjikondo, her African home, and all Otjikondonians who knew her are invited to attend.

Two of Hazel's favourite sayings:

“Add life to your days, not days to your life“

”If you shoot for the moon and miss, you'll still be one of the stars”

Hazel was a star and a wonderful friend to Otjikondo.

MIDNIGHT AT THE OASIS

The Gaps took advantage of the hot weather to go for a swim- not realising that late at night the pool is taken over by squawking four-legged beasts in a planet -of -the- unidentifiable-Namibian-insect kind of way. Their firm resolution to henceforth only swim during daylight hours was made utterly obsolete as it was found the British Gaps had brought glorious English weather with them. It then rained for five days solidly. As the farmers revelled in the downpour the Gaps sulkily continued to wade their way to PT lessons on the paddling pool- aka the football pitch.



CHURCH NEWS

First Holy Communion

On Sunday 19th September 29 children celebrated their First Holy Communion in the Church of the Holy Cross.

With many parents and family members present, this was a memorable occasion, conducted by Father Shaju, the new assistant priest at St Michael's.

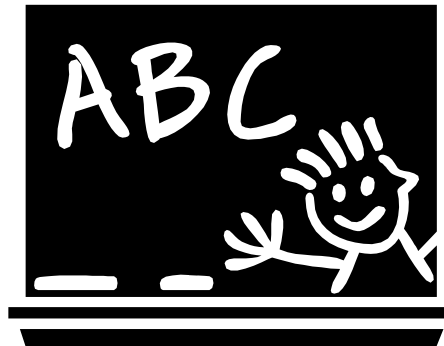
Confirmation

On 28th October 19 children received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Michael's Parish Church, together with 23 St learners from St Michael's. Bishop Liborius Nashenda had come from Windhoek to confirm the Grade 7 learners in their faith before they leave Primary School.

TOP TEN LEARNERS

Although the teachers complained that the children had not worked hard enough all year, many learners achieved some impressive exam results. Congratulations especially go to the following students, whose dedication and perseverance has earned them a place in the Top Ten:

Rosemary Mwifi	78.1%
Fanus Tsauseb	74.6%
Petronella Kooper	73.5%
Angela Evard	71.9%
Usiel Gertze	69.8%
Miriam Angombe	69.4%
Elana Doeses	67.5%
Brisetha Hendricks	67.4%
Emerensia So-Oabes	67.1%
Ebson Aibeb	67%



OTJIKONDO SCHOLARSHIPS

Otjikondo Scholarships are awarded every year to students with a year average over 60%. The scholarship gives N\$350 per term for five years to each of the recipients. This year, the following learners have been awarded scholatlships:

Brisetha Hendricks	67.4%
Ebson Aibeb	67%
Gabriel Alfeus	66.4%

Silvanus Gaeseb	65.6%
Solomon Mbulu	65.4%
Rhitta Areses	63.9%
Magdalena Goeieman	61.7%
Natasha Kambahe	60.3%

PREFECT ELECTION

Prefects are chosen each year by Grades 5-7, staff and teachers. They are the most responsible, kind and courageous members of their year. Congratulations to this year's team!

Head Girl	Petronella Kooper
Vice Head Girl	Miriam Angombe
Sports Captain	Elana Doeses
Prefect	Lucia Shimwooshili
Prefect	Twenitha Mukwena

Head Boy	Fanus Tsauseb
Vice Head Boy	Isai Shigwedha
Sports Captain	Stewardo Soameb
Prefect	Jonathen Uutoni
Prefect	Sylvester Katusuva

PRIZE GIVING

The last day of term saw the handing out of prizes to the following pupils:

Grade 1

Best in Class	<i>Jariretundu Humu</i>
Most Improved	<i>Bradley Aebob</i>
Best Behaviour	<i>Marietjie Keis</i>

Grade 2

Best in Class	<i>Ileni Shithigona</i>
Most Improved	<i>Kaujeua Kaujeua</i>
Best Behaviour	<i>Meundju Hitiraukunga</i>

Grade 3

Best in Class	<i>Maria Shaalukeni</i>
Most Improved	<i>Zeuparee Karutjaiva</i>
Best Behaviour	<i>Nasco Nanghuo</i>

Grade 4

Best in Class	<i>Petrus Ndevaetela</i>
Most Improved	<i>Justine Shiyaleni</i>
Best Behaviour	<i>Frikke Arebeb</i>

Grade 5

Best in Class	<i>Rosemary Mwifi</i>
Most Improved	<i>Zeroline Horases</i>
Best Behaviour	<i>Biancca Harases</i>
Home Ecology	<i>Vickson Shimwooshili</i>
Craft/Technology	<i>Martin Lemisue</i>

Grade 6

Best in Class	<i>Fanus Tsaoseb</i>
Most Improved	<i>Petronella Kooper</i>
Best Behaviour	<i>Emerensia So-oabes</i>
Home Ecology	<i>Lusia Shimwooshili</i>
Craft/Technology	<i>Fanus Tsaoseb</i>

Grade 7

Best in Class	<i>Brisetha Hendricks</i>
Most Improved	<i>Frieda Angombe</i>
Best Behaviour	<i>Rhitta Areses</i>
Home Ecology	<i>Füindje Shithigona</i>
Craft/Technology	<i>Silvanus Gaeseb</i>

Sportsman of the Year	<i>Frikke Arebeb</i>
Sportswoman of the Year	<i>Lovisa Johannes</i>
Junior Artist of the Year	<i>Simeon Nülenge</i>
Senior Artist of the Year	<i>Füindje Shithogona</i>
Drama	<i>Ebson Aibeb</i> <i>Elana Doeses</i>

