



Newsletter (Seventh edition)



by Heather Garrett

2020 started like any other year at Khulani ECD, with the majority of our Grade 000 class progressing to Grade 00 and a new intake of 25 children into the Grade 000 class. The children settled well in their new routine and were soon learning and playing together.

Some highlights of the first couple of weeks included celebrating Valentine's Day and a puppet show entitled 'Exploring the Uses of Water' to coincide with our Water theme. With some other much anticipated special events planned including a visit from the The Farm Corner for our Farm Animals theme and a first-hand experience of road safety through the Traffic Kids programme we were all set for a year of learning, sharing and caring. Little did we know what lay ahead...

Everything came to an abrupt halt on 17 March when Khulani ECD closed its doors, together with all other schools in South Africa as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Everyone was told to



as the entire country shutdown.

Unfortunately during the period of the initial lockdown our children did little or no learning as online learning was not an option in the Diepsloot community where access to technology and data are problematic.

When our teachers were allowed to return to work in late May they got their first taste of the 'new normal' with compulsory face masks, daily temperature checks and social distancing all in place on the site. In accordance with various government regulations the site was also deep cleaned.

The return of the teachers meant that we could immediately start working on learning packs that would be collected by parents on a weekly basis. Learning packs are designed to enable parents to work with their children at home. Each learning pack includes a library book and various age appropriate, theme related worksheets. In addition there is a weekly newsletter from our staff ensuring that they 'stay in touch' with the parents. The newsletter also contains useful factual information about COVID-19 Coronavirus.

The first learning packs were distributed on 3 June and along with the material described above also contained a food voucher for each family. These vouchers, made possible by our generous donors, were gratefully received by a community under extreme stress as a result of the lockdown. The many heartfelt messages from our parents expressing their thanks gave of a sense of just how difficult things are in the Diepsloot community.



Our parents have embraced the learning packs with much enthusiasm, checking on the parents' WhatsApp group to ensure that they are doing the right thing and encouraging their children to complete the assigned tasks. As expressed by our staff in their weekly newsletter – "We are privileged as the Khulani ECD team to work together with warm hearted parents like you who share our wish of producing the best pre-schoolers".

We also have some surprise additions to the learning packs (see detailed article later in the newsletter) from our amazing partner organisations, namely:

- Lego Duplo 'Learning through Play with Six Blocks' sets and a parent booklet from Care for Education (this was in lieu of a parent workshop we were planning to hold in June with the same title)
- 3 books for each child to keep at home from Bookdash

Weekly learning packs



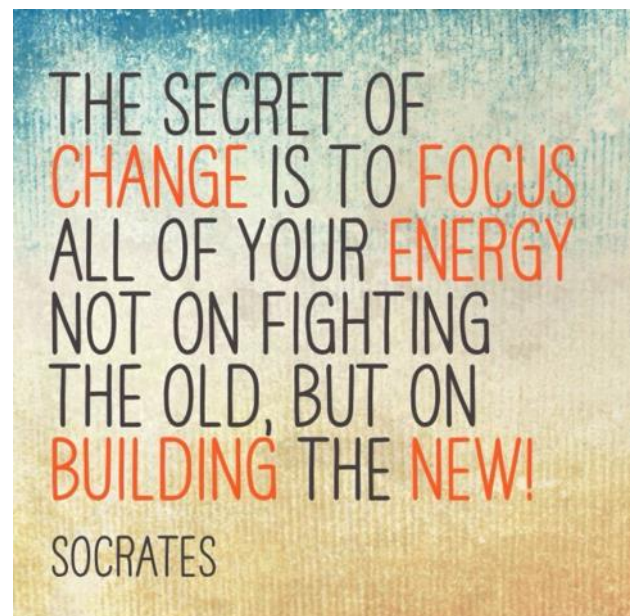
The weekly packs should ensure that the little ones are learning, even if it is fairly limited, as we wait for confirmation from government as to when the children can return to school.



Hard at work preparing learning packs for our children

Whilst waiting for the resumption of face to face teaching at Khulani ECD we are busy putting plans in place for our 'new normal'. These include working on changes in the curriculum to ensure our kids understand and are not frightened of all the changes that come with the 'new normal', sourcing face masks for the children, planning staggered start times for different groups of children to ensure proper social distancing, revised drop off and collection protocols, more daily and intra day cleaning and sanitizing, etc.

As the world and our country move through these times of unprecedented change, we are aware that while dealing with change is never easy, change we must and so in the words of Socrates



Message from the Staff



Bellah Monyeki,



Violet Ngakanyane,



Patricia Mdawonde



Mashudu Nwanamidwa

2020 looked like a great year for us with 25 Busy Bees and 17 Ladybirds learners enrolling at Khulani ECD. The children settled well in the eight weeks we spent together and as staff we started getting really excited for the year ahead as we noticed many improvements in our learners.

In the midst of the big bang of opening for 2020, we received some very sad news that one of our learners and the parent of a learner who graduated last year had passed away. This news left us all in a state of shock. We thank God that through it all the Khulani ECD parents, management and staff stood together, supported each other and the families of the deceased and life moved on.

In the midst of all these emotions came Coronavirus which disrupted all our preparations for schooling for this year and prompted us to shut down Khulani ECD on 17th March for the safety of our children.

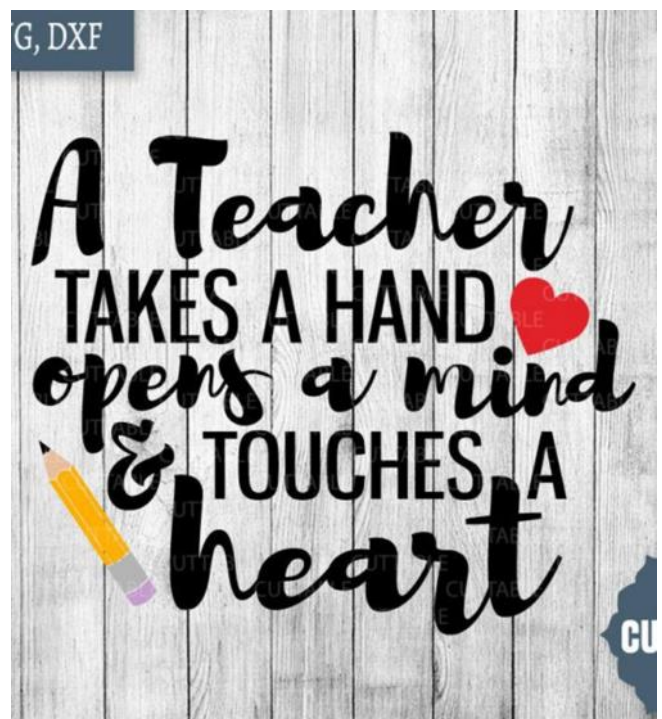
Nevertheless, Khulani ECD is one of the privileged ECDs in Diepsloot as we are able to prepare learning packs for our children to do whilst at home. These packs have been handed out to parents on a weekly basis from the beginning of June. We are glad that we have committed parents who are helping and guiding our children to do their work and we can't wait for our children to return to Khulani ECD sometime soon.

IN MEMORIAM

Gone Too Soon But Never Forgotten



Your Khulani ECD family miss you so much



COVID-19

Preparing for the children to return

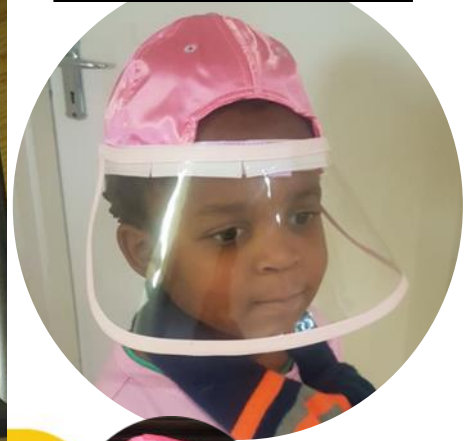


Khulani Face Masks

Deep cleaning the site



Cap/Visors



New external basin installed for hand washing

**Moving
to a NEW
NORMAL**



For Girls

For Boys



Planning for Social Distancing
during the school day



Screening, temperature checks
and sanitising on arrival



Khulani ECD is a Proud Partner of...



About the organisation

Care for Education is a non-profit organisation and partner of the LEGO Foundation. We provide training and educational resources for children, schools and organisations in need. We aim to impact early childhood development and primary education, using concrete manipulatives which engage children in playful learning.

For more information see <https://www.carefored.co.za>

As part of the learning packs distributed on 24 June each Khulani ECD family received three six block sets and parent booklet, which are already providing lots of learning and fun at home.



Parents collecting LEGO packs



Learning at home with LEGO packs

About the organisation

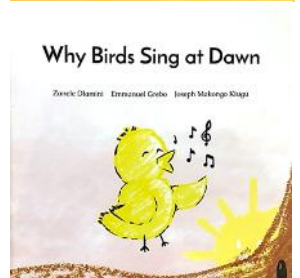
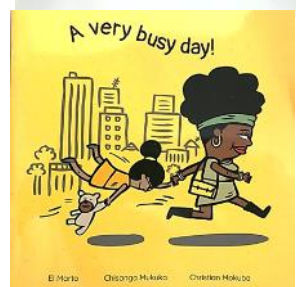
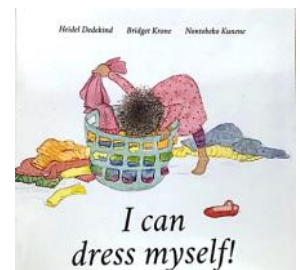
At Book Dash our vision is that *every child should own a hundred books by the age of five, before they enter school.*

To that end, Book Dash gathers creative professionals who volunteer to create new, African storybooks that anyone can freely translate and distribute.

Research shows that owning books is a key factor in early development and academic success: more important than socio-economic status and equaled only by parents' level of education.

For more information see <https://bookdash.org>

The learning packs given out on 1 July will contain three books for each Khulani ECD family. We are so excited that the children will have these special books that they can enjoy and call their own.



Thank you Care for Education and bookdash for these incredible learning tools

BEFORE LOCKDOWN

Special Times a

Puppet Show



Khulani ECD kids were recently treated to a puppet show entitled "Exploring the Uses of Water", in line with our theme of the week 'Water'. The children thoroughly enjoyed the show and learnt a lot too!

Our birthdays



st Khulani ECD

BEFORE LOCKDOWN



Valentines Day



Having fun outdoors



Learning with
LEGO



BAKERMAN



How you can help?

- Continued prayer
- Donations to help fund the shortfall between costs (salaries, food and other consumables) incurred and fees collected.
Our bank account details are: *Standard Bank, Fourways Crossing, acc.no. 03-636-631-5, ref: ECD: your name*
- MySchool card - Khulani ECD is a registered beneficiary of the MySchool programme.
 - If you do not have a MySchool card, please contact Heather at garretth@mweb.co.za and I will assist you with the application process.
 - If you already have a My School card consider adding Khulani to your beneficiary list.



Be strong and courageous.
Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is
with you wherever you go.

JOSHUA 1:9

Things may never go back to
normal.

You may need to create
a new normal.

And that's okay.

johilder.com

Khulani ECD is an initiative of



THE DIEPSLOOT
FOUNDATION

and



SAINT MUNGO'S
UNITED CHURCH