

UWD Newsletter

School during a National State of Disaster

Wearing a mask. Having your temperature taken in the morning with something that looks like a gun. Sanitizing your hands regularly and having your teacher smell your hands to make sure you washed with soap and water. These are just a few of the 'new normal' routines we have had to get used to in order for our centre to be open. Teaching, learning and working continues now as it did pre-lockdown with our learners and adults happy to be back.

(I have heard rumors that some parents even more so!) One major challenge now is to strategise new ways to fundraise. Fundraising remains one of our main sources of income and the National State of Disaster is making it extremely difficult to fundraise in conventional ways. Thank you for your ongoing support and interest in our centre. Here's to an 'out of the box' remainder of 2020!

SPECIAL EVENTS/ FUNDRAISER COMING UP:

- *Car Boot sale – 5 September 2020*
- *Our 2021 calendar will be available from September*
- *Cycle Tour – 17-18 October 2020*
- *Christmas Night market – 27 November 2020*



Pictured on the far left is Wickus and on the left Jordan, both learners from the Blue class donning their UWD branded PPE whilst working on Market day crafts.

Geography a firm favourite with the Green team

One of the Green Team's favourite subjects is Geography. They learn about a different country/island every second week - from national symbols to cultures to wildlife, plants and attractions. And to make it more interesting, they also try to theme their weekly lunches according to the countries' traditional cuisine.



On the right is a poster created during the fortnight spent on South Africa. Top right: manning the fire in true South African style are Jaco and Troy because Boerewors rolls were on the lunch menu.



Our little nursery

With Spring officially upon us, it is important to take note of the fact that our nursery is still going strong. We have beautiful flowers, bulbs, a few ferns, trees, succulents and fruit plants. Parents and their friends are more than welcome to arrange viewings, but only by appointment. Please arrange this through the office with Suzanne or directly with Cady via Whatsapp.

Viewings will be arranged between 13:00-13:20 for now.

Spread the word and your green-fingers!

On the left, a healthy, beautiful bloom from our nursery.

2020 Online Wine Auction

Our friend Frederick Bekker offered to host a timed online event for us from the 26th to the 29th of August 2020. We secured an excellent selection of wine, and embraced this opportunity given to us by Bekker Auctioneers to break into this new format of auctioning our wine lots. We are happy to announce that R150 000 was raised and we thank everyone for their support – every bottle of wine, artwork and piece of furniture sold means the world to us. Special thanks to Fredrick and Sonja Bekker.

Cycle Tour 2020

We have had a few entries so far. If you don't want to miss out on this opportunity to get out for a brilliant active weekend, book your spot now!

Entries can be done online through Entry Ninja, via email at upwithdowns@mweb.co.za or phone 072 563 1983 for more information.

Creating a love for books

Our little library is a very important part of our school. It houses many different categories of books, from small story books to interesting factual books about our world, the universe, many different species of animals and a wide range of crafts to make. Our library is a quiet place for the learners to make themselves comfortable on a beanbag and explore the

world of books. All children love books, our learners are no exception. Reading to our learners as well as instilling a love of books is priceless.

Pictured below are Henri and Jordan in the front; seated in the next row are Hans, Cassidy and Cheyline; and in the back we have teachers Brenda and Kristen who guessed the correct amount of books in the library.





FNB donation

First National Bank recently made a donation of wheelchairs, walkers, bathroom hand rails, thermometers and hand sanitizer to the school. Seen here are Greg Mennie and Eben Maré handing over the goods, and Alet receiving one of the brand new, super-duper shiny red wheelchairs. Ben will also be receiving one. Thank you FNB for this very kind and generous gesture.

Elim – an ongoing partnership

For 4 years UWD has been partnering with the Elim Christian School, a facility for young learners and adults with special needs based in Chicago, USA. Elim has been of great help in sharing educational resources and ideas via monthly collaboration and conference calls. Being a much bigger facility than Up with Downs, Elim has been of great help to us and we know we can call on them with any issue at hand.

We are therefore honoured that they recently contacted us to learn how we coped with the successful re-opening of Up with Downs in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic. With their new school year approaching they asked us to share our experiences and methods of dealing with the situation – it felt good to be able to support them for a change!

Pictured on the right are Amy and Alli during a collaboration call with Cady and Jan. Since the photo was taken Amy has gone back into teaching and Alli became a first time mom!



Please let us know at upwithdowns@mweb.co.za or on 0725631983 if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or never signed up to receive it in the first place. Thank you.