



THEMBELIHLE SCHOOL



EXPLORING TOGETHER, CARING
FOR OTHERS AND LEARNING FOR
LIFE.....

It's been a busy year at Thembelihle

The arrival of 120 apprehensive and unsettled Junior School children at the quiet premises of Thembelihle's upper school, formerly used by only two Reception classes, brought with it a surge of energy, curiosity and deep desire for meaningful learning. There were new books, pencils, chairs and tables, new classrooms and new teachers. Like a little snow bubble that had been shaken up, the noise and movement slowly settled to reveal a picture of happy and purposeful engagement between teachers and learners.

Loving people from the community came to help each day by taking small groups for reading. A passionate young woman extended the older children's understanding of Mathematics, and one lovely lady has almost exhausted herself by taking all seven Pre-Primary classes as well as two Junior School classes for singing each week. She also helps the choirmaster with the young choir, who train hard every day and who sing like angels. Wonderful people have come forward to teach the two older classes Art. For gifts galore of time and talent, we thank you.



NEW CLASSROOM



PARENTS DAY



PHYSICOMOTOR

Donations in cash and in kind keep our spirits up and make many things possible in the school. One gift of money was dedicated to buying the equipment and paying for the running of the psychomotor programme at school, for our Reception class children. Within a very short while, the amazing benefits of the Psychomotor lessons became evident in the more considerate behaviour and interactions of the children.

Our humble thanks go to the many, many people, both far and near, who pay the school fees for our children, and so allow them to be part of the great educational experience at Thembelihle. To all our donors, thank you. May your gifts to us bring you blessings and happiness.

For over five months this year we had an underlying anxiety that, if we were to be only a Foundation Phase School, we would have to release our fifty older children, from the two top classes, into overfull Primary schools elsewhere. Much to our delight, a resolution was recently passed to register Thembelihle as a full Primary School. We will now be able to teach and guide our pupils up to the end of their Senior Primary Schooling.

Finally, we acknowledge the work and professionalism of the teachers who inspire, educate, guide, support and care deeply for each child in the school. Upon such teachers, great schools are built and Thembelihle is well on its way to being a really wonderful fully fledged primary school.

If you would like to know more about what the staff and children at Thembelihle are doing, you can find us on Facebook. We are also revamping our website and hope it will be up and running by the end of July - we will let you know!! From the beginning of next term we will constantly update our Blog and Facebook pages so that our friends and sponsors can follow our progress.

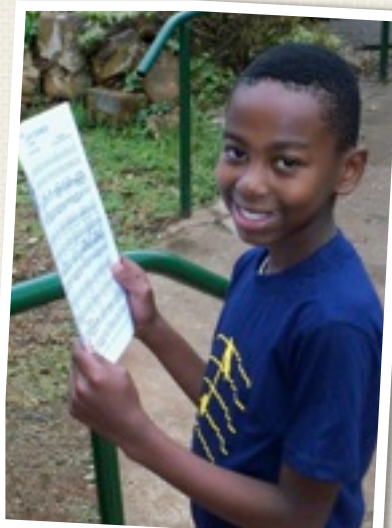
*With love and thanks,
The staff, and children of
Thembelihle*



“MOZART”

Every school has a mascot. In the case of the Thembelihle Children's Choir their mascot is a bear named "Mozart" after the famous music composer of yesteryear who composed music when he was considerably younger than the local choristers.

Our photograph shows S'nethemba Nzimande, one of the choir's young treble soloists, hugging "Mozart." She takes special care of the choir's mascot and takes him home with her every week-end.



NDUMISO

Through listening intently to the vocal exercises and songs taught to the choir, Ndumiso was admitted into the choir after a second audition. He was thrilled when he learned that he had passed. From that day on Ndumiso has blossomed as a chorister and today he not only can sing the choir's growing repertoire, but such is his determination that he is fast becoming one of the choir's leading soloists!



The choir, wearing their new outfits, went via luxury bus to sing at a wedding at Reichenau Mission Church in the foothills of the Drakensberg Mountains. When the voices of the Thembelihle Children's Choir rang out in the old church, with its high spire and fabled acoustics, the congregation stopped singing simply to enjoy listening to the pure, angelic sound of the young choristers.

THE CHOIR