

GATEPOST

The Monthly Newsletter of Gateway Primary School

SEPT 2022



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SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear Parents

Term 3 is well under way and we have already seen lots of action on all fronts. The week before we started the term staff attended the ACSI Annual Educators conference. The theme of this year's conference was; "Jesus our Hope in a Hopeless World". This was drawn from Romans 15:13 – "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." It was a very worthwhile conference that was challenging, inspiring, and very encouraging.



Staff members have been well equipped and motivated to start the term at full speed. The First week of term saw the staff undergo more training as we prepared to put our Weather Station, so kindly donated by our Grade 7 Parents of 2022, to good use. We are excited to have such a well-equipped station which will be a blessing to Gateway and beyond!

This is another 14-week term and so our Value for the term; 'Perseverance', is especially relevant. We invite you to track with us through the story of Joseph persevering through difficult times, frightening times, sad times, happy times, and in our calling. We invite you to support us through our Trusting Jesus series where our focus will take on a practical form of supporting Island Hospice, Emerald Hill School for the Deaf, and Prison Ministry with toy donations to Miracle Missions and a Soup Kitchen feeding those in real need. We would love you to persevere with us through our Christmas series where we will see the prophets help us to Celebrate His coming, Look Ahead, Look Back, Look up and Lookout.

The Jacarandas are in full bloom and the spring into summer colours abound. Apart from a little hay-fever from all the pollens, this is one of my favourite times of the year. The beauty around us gives testimony to the greatness of our Creator God and despite all of the challenges we face in this special country, there is so much to enjoy. Psalm 19:1-2: "The heavens tell the glory of God, and the skies announce what His hands have made. Day after day they tell the story; night after night they tell it again." Last night in our 14th hour of load-shedding, a friend shared a picture of the spectacular night sky and wondered if it would have been as spectacular if all the lights were on. This morning I witnessed a spectacular sunrise as I was enjoying being out on my ride, possibly made more spectacular by the dust and smoke in the air. Indeed, day after day they tell their story, and night after night they tell it again!

As I write this, I have just returned from the hall where our Grade 7 pupils are busy writing their Zimsec exams. It is encouraging to me, that the exams are already in progress after the past two years where Zimsec Exams have been written right at the end of the year. This is indicative of the fact that we have been able to run with in-person teaching for the year and prepare the students in time. The timing of the exams is a little earlier than what was usual in the pre-Covid period and when the official dates were released, there was an amount of anxiety over whether the students would be ready. However, chatting with the students, the majority were glad to be able to write earlier and felt well prepared. Questions also arose about the remainder of the year and I am so excited that with the exam pressure off, the Grade 7 students will be able to enjoy their final stretch. It allows us to employ a more Cambridge-focused run into the end of the year which will be significant preparation for High School. It also creates more space for in-the-moment teaching and life skills preparation for what lies ahead.

Last week I had the privilege of travelling to Johannesburg to Celebrate the 21st Birthday of the ACSI Southern Africa Regional Office. I also took the opportunity to visit a few schools to see what they are doing, particularly on the IT front as we begin to roll out our integration of devices into the classroom learning experience next year. Two of the schools visited were ACSI member schools and one was not but was very forward thinking on the IT front. The contrast was interesting to observe as both ACSI member schools carried a sense of God's presence in a very real way as well as a genuine focus on authentic Christian Education. The other school whilst technologically advanced had a very different feel to it. I was encouraged to find that we are taking similar steps in our journey and the process of our IT rollout. What was possibly even more exciting was to meet with other Christian Educators who share the same passion for the advance of Christian Education in Africa, and to share ideas and values and learn from each other. The ACSI celebration was a wonderful testimony to God's faithfulness and provision over the years and left me encouraged and excited about ACSI Zimbabwe and the possibilities that exist as we connect with God's heart for children and education in this country.

As I wrap up my report for this month's Gatepost, where I have tried to encourage you to see that perspective can make a big difference, I am acutely aware of the many challenges that we face on a daily basis in Zimbabwe. This morning in my Bible reading, (in the Message Bible), I came across a very thought-provoking and challenging passage. John 9:1-4: "Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, 'Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?' Jesus said, 'You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here ...'" In this passage, we see a heartbreaking and difficult situation of a man who had suffered from blindness since birth. The disciples were looking at the problem and looking to allocate blame. Jesus had a very different perspective, He saw an opportunity for God to move. I find it easy to be drawn into conversations where futility and hopelessness are expressed from ZESA to potholes, the economy to increasing crime. In these conversations, it is all too easy to vent, to become despondent and to look to apportion blame as if this will help the situation improve. I wonder what difference it would make if we were to look at these same situations and, as Jesus challenged, "Look instead for what God can do", and then ask the question, "What work can I energetically be involved in, for the One who sent Jesus?"

Gus Hulley
Headmaster

INFANTS INFO

Welcome to the final term of 2022 which seems to have come around very quickly. This term is filled with fun activities and visits as well as hard work as we move towards the next grade.

Swimming lessons in all classes have already started with ECD being the first to brave the cold water on the first Friday of term! Grades 1, 2 and 3 are preparing for galas later this term. As every child will participate, it is important they practise regularly.

If, for some reason, your child is unable to swim, please write an excuse note to the class teacher. If your child forgets their costume then we have spares at school for them to use for that lesson. It is compulsory for the girls to wear caps which should be red or the colour of their sports house. For Grade 1 and 2, in assembly on a Friday, the children may be given a swimming badge as a record of their achievement in swimming that week. Please try to sew this on to their costume before the next lesson as it identifies the skill which each child has attained.



Our department theme this term is taken from Ephesians 6 verses 10 to 18 where Paul describes the Armour of God. Each part of the uniform is related to the various parts of the armour to try to help the children to dress correctly for school. More importantly, we are also trying to teach the importance of 'clothing' themselves with God's Word as protection against 'the flaming arrows of the evil one'. We would encourage each child to learn this passage of Scripture by heart.

Please check all items of clothing that your child brings home and return any that does not belong to your family so it can be given to the rightful owners. Also, please label all items of clothing. The lost property box is overflowing with clothes with no names!



Infants Info cont.....

It is another long term with the October heat just around the corner. Please supply your child with plenty of water - not juice as this attracts the bees which can be a problem at this time of year.

Hats for playtime are very important too so if these are forgotten the children stay in the classroom during break time.

The Grade 3 children are busily involved in both classroom and co-curricular activities. Consistent revision of spelling, bonds and tables will go a long way toward preparing for the next set of class tests. The children complete regular revision exercises during lesson time and, with the added practice for homework, there should be no need to become unduly worried about their performance.

Please communicate with the class teacher if there are any concerns. Tests are only one way to assess progress and undue emphasis should not be placed on their importance. Children are learning so much more than academic knowledge by being fully involved in the wide variety of activities which are offered and they are encouraged to participate in as much as possible.

JUST A FEW REMINDERS:

PLEASE:

- Give your child healthy snacks and water only for break and lunch to avoid hyperactivity caused by too much sugar.
- Send excuse notes for absence from school promptly. These can be sent via e-mail or hard copy.
- Read the calendar and view the parent portal on Senatical to keep informed of the many activities going on this term.

Mrs. B. Rowley
Director Infants and ECD



GRADE 4-7 BULLETIN

End of month one in term three already! We thank God for the exciting activities our teachers and learners have been involved in this month. We will look at some of the events that have happened i.e. the Weather Station Training Workshop and class visits. Learners have also had a lot of interesting lessons in the different grades. This bulletin will also focus on one of these.

WEATHER STATION WORKSHOP

We are so excited about having our own Weather Station! Our appreciation goes to this year's Grade 7 parents for buying the weather instruments and paying for the installation, and to last year's parents for paying for the construction of a fence around the station. We also want to thank Mrs Mahoso our head girl's mum, for doing the running around for us to purchase the instruments and organise training of the teachers.

On Wednesday 7 September, Mr. Freedom Mukanga an expert on Weather Stations came to talk to staff members, educating them on the correct use of each instrument when recording different weather elements such as rainfall and wind speed. He also advised us on how to properly take care of each instrument. The training session was helpful and some of the staff members had this to say:

Having a Weather Station in our school is a brilliant idea. Our learners will now be able to understand weather concepts better.

MR. VENGANAI (5 RED)

I am glad we got the necessary information to enable us to teach the topic "Weather" effectively.

MRS. MARISAMHUKA (7 RED TEACHER)



Mr. Mukanga demonstrating how to use a thermometer.



The wind vane which is used to measure wind direction



Staff members paying attention during the training session

A week later staff from the Meteorological Station (Met Station) of Harare visited Gateway and trained a few staff on how to use a rain gauge to record rainfall figures.

GRADE 4-7 BULLETIN CONT...

A VISIT TO THE LION PARK - 4 BLUE



THE GRADE 4 BLUE LEARNERS DURING A DISCUSSION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION LED BY ONE OF THE LION PARK STAFF MEMBERS.



WATCHING THE KING OF THE JUNGLE!



NATHANAEL MACHIPISA AND ARIANNA KARAMBWA POSING AS LIONS!

MAKING PARACHUTES - 6 YELLOW

During a Science lesson, the Grade 6 Yellow learners learnt that gas or air pushes against things which are moving to create a force known as air resistance or drag. To find out more about air resistance and drag, they made parachutes.

During the experiment, the class found out that parachutes work using air resistance. They also discovered that parachutes should have a large surface area so that there is a lot of air caught as they fall down. This creates a lot of air resistance or drag.

The learners really enjoyed the experiment. Two learners from the class commented on the experiment:

Chiedza Chikomborero - I found that when making the parachutes you must follow instructions.

Ryan Ntore Nziza - The Parachute Experiment enabled us to see how gravity works. We now understand more about air resistance.

Below are pictures of some of the Grade 6 Yellow learners:



KIMBERLEY MACHANA & REJOICE MUCHOKO MAKING A PARACHUTE



TADANAISHE GWAGWADZA & RYAN NTORE SHOWING OFF THEIR PARACHUTES

**TIME TO MEMORISE SCRIPTURE!
AS THIS WEEK WAS SHONA WEEK, WE ENCOURAGED OUR
LEARNERS TO MEMORISE THE SHONA VERSION OF THE
MEMORY VERSE:**

**ACHAKUSIMBISAI KUSVIKIRA PAKUGUMA, MUVE
VASINGAPOMERWE MHOSVA PAZUVA RAISHE JESU KRISTU.
1 VAKORINDE 1 NDIMA 8**

**HE WILL KEEP YOU STRONG TO THE END, SO THAT YOU WILL
BE BLAMELESS ON THE DAY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
1 CORINTHIANS 1: 8**

**S. MUTSAKA
DEPUTY HEAD & DIRECTOR OF ACADEMICS**



COUNSELLORS CORNER

Dear Parents,

I wrote this article a couple of years ago, and thought it would be appropriate to revisit it, especially with Zimsec exams that have come early.

We, as parents, all want what is best for our children, but our idea of what is best for them might not always 'gel' with theirs. We, as parents sometimes struggle to find the delicate balance between encouraging and pushing too hard.

But, what is pushing too hard? At it's best, getting children to do things that are challenging for them will teach them grit and flexibility, while also widening their worldview – whether it's participating in sports, trying out for the school play or studying for exams etc. It's getting them out of their comfort zone.

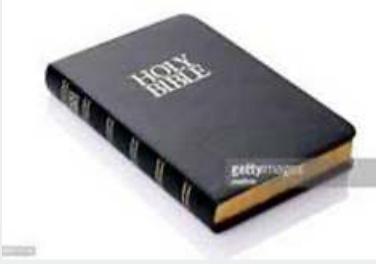
At its worst, pushing children too far can cause them to retreat inward, become resentful or develop greater ANXIETY. It can be difficult to determine how much parental pressure on children is healthy and when you should back off. We might also push children to do things in the hope that it will give them a competitive advantage eg. best schools, colleges, University, job ...

The most important factor in knowing when and how much to push is thinking about your child's personality. Consider their strengths and interests. If you are meeting resistance, then it might be time to examine your own motivations for pushing your child in a certain direction. Ask yourself "Am I pushing my child because it is in their best interest, or is it something I am doing for myself, my image as a parent." We need to remember our children are individuals and also under a lot of pressure with what we have been through. Often our own childhood experiences greatly impact how we parent. The things that motivate us as parents might not necessarily motivate our children. We need to be careful to not make our children feel inadequate and resentful.

So, children who are feeling overwhelmed or burned out (especially now when exams are looming), might benefit from an approach that focuses more on the present. Praise successes (no matter how small you think it is), praise new skills for their own sake and yours and you will get much more out of them

**GOD BLESS,
MRS BELINDA FERREIRA (DIRECTOR COUNSELLING AND LIFE
SKILLS)**

Bible Memory



Congratulations to the following students who are busy doing their Bible Memory Units this month:

Munashe Zhawu	Gr.5B	Unit 1 (Ephesians 6 v 10 – 18)
Matipa Manyowa	Gr.5B	Unit 1 (Ephesians 6 v 10 – 18)

Students can join Bible Memory with Mrs. Ferreira from Grade 3 to Grade 7, where they memorize set Scripture verses according to age. There are 5 units in all. With completion of the 5 Units the student receives a Bible and a certificate of completion.

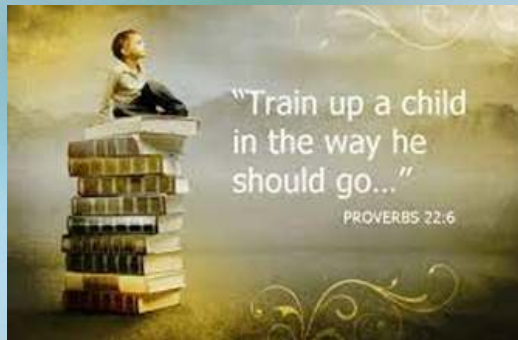
Within a week after the parent's signing, the child must have made an appointment (Tuesday and Wednesday breaktime), to say the passage to

Mrs. Ferreira. When a Unit is completed the student receives a certificate which is handed out at Assembly.

If a Grade 6 or 7 student has received five certificates within the year they will be considered by the Colours Committee. "Bible Memory" will be on the Colours badge, they will also be considered for the 'Cradwell Bible Memory' Cup.

Mrs. B. Ferreira
(Director of Counselling and Life Skills)

Library book week celebrates the importance of literature in style



The key to raising children the way they should be raised is to catch them young. In Proverbs 22:6 (ESV), the Bible clearly states, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Children's literature is extremely important because it gives them the chance to respond to stories and form their own opinions. Additionally, it fosters the expansion and development of personality and social skills; it encourages deeper thought, emotional intelligence, and imagination.

Children experience texts in ways that are frequently unknown, but which many of us strongly suspect to be very rich and complex. Children's books are also different from adult books in that they are written for different audiences with different skills, needs, and reading preferences. The findings of one of Durkin's studies from 1961, which showed that children who learn to read before entering first grade or at an early stage at home also showed that their families had a high regard for books and reading, support the benefit of encouraging children to explore a variety of literature. As a result, the Gateway school library or resources will encourage reading through a variety of events like the one listed in the third term 2022 school calendar. Children will be able to choose their favourite book character and attend school on the designated character day dressed as that character. The school library will be hosting the library week.

You can enhance the interest for reading and become a better reader by analysing the following:

- Who is/are the main character/s?
- Where is the story set?
- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- What do you think will happen next in your story?
- Which character do you like most? Why?
- Which character do you think would make a good friend? Why?
- What was your favourite part of the story?
- Did you like the ending? why / why not?

Please support your child(ren) on character day in October 2022!!!

*By Mr. A. Muvhunzwi
(School Librarian)*



Welcome back to the final term of what has been a great year of having sport back in full swing. We have a busy term ahead of us and the highlight for me is that we have Inter-Schools Swimming Galas which we last had in 2019.

CRICKET & TENNIS TRIP TO BULAWAYO

Our senior boys' cricket and girls tennis teams travelled to Bulawayo in week One and they played against Whitestone, Petra and Carmel schools. It was a very successful trip and it was good to get our boys and girls playing matches early in the season. It was good to see and catch up with Mr Makonese although he had the last laugh because Petra beat our cricket team. We finished the trip with some fun at Water World and it was awesome to see the boys and girls having fun.

HOW 3RD TERM SPORTS HAVE STARTED:

Our cricket and tennis teams had friendly matches in week two against Springvale and our fillies A and 1st teams took part in the Quadrangular against Barwick, Eaglesvale, and Hellenic schools. I would like to congratulate the 1st team girls' tennis for winning all their matches over that weekend. The tennis league fixtures have started and our boys beat Westridge 11 – 1, a great performance to start their season. More friendly and league matches will be played throughout the term.

It is only week three and a number of matches have already been played. I have been encouraged by the way the boys and girls have performed and I am looking forward to seeing more improvement this season. Our Colts A team has also had a tough start to the term but they are showing great character and are progressing well. Special mention goes to a group of Colts A parents who have organised their children to attend extra training at Old Georgians Sports Club, it will certainly go a long way in developing their cricket. Our Grade threes have been introduced to cricket this term and for many of them, it is their first time.

SWIMMING TEAM

The swimming team has been working hard this term. They have shown great commitment and I would like to thank all the parents for bringing their children to training during the last 2 weeks of the school holidays. I have heard from the swimming coaches that the team is beginning to take shape and are working hard to prepare for the galas lined up for this term. I would like to encourage the boys and girls to continue working hard as they progress this term.

SWIMMING PROGRAMME:

Please note that when we return after half-term, we will commence the swimming programme. This will run for 3 weeks as we prepare for the Inter-House Swimming Galas on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th November. Please note that your child will be required to participate in one and for some, both of these galas, depending on which one they are selected for. During this time, clubs will continue as normal, as will league fixtures but there will be no cricket, tennis or volleyball practices. Please be reminded that house training is also compulsory and children will not be excused during this time for extra lessons or for any other reason. Only children who provide a Doctor's note will be excused.

MR TARIRO CHAWAFAMBIRA
DIRECTOR OF SPORT & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION
SNIPPETS
09/22**



Dear Colleagues,

I wonder how many of you recognise the following:

One, Two, Three, BLOCK (followed by the name of the person caught). Or how about this:

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten- All my piggies out of DEN! Following which there would be a mad scramble for safety-out there somewhere!

By now you will have recognised that this is part of that well- loved game, “Hide and Go Seek”. Can you remember the comfort and relief you felt if you made it to “Den”? Family game designers try to recreate that feeling of being safe on certain parts of the board - that same feeling that you get in the real world where you are fortified and protected from danger. They are making the in-game emotional experience into a shelter from the outside-of-the-game troubles. They realise that feeling safe amidst the dangers is one of the deep longings of the human heart.

However, as Christians we are “marked in Him” from the moment of our salvation with the “seal” of the “Holy Spirit”-the guarantor of all the good that God has promised us! The Spirit is the means by which our Saviour keeps us. He ensures that we will never be lost and keeps us safe and secure with Christ forever. **In John 10:27 to 28 Jesus says, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand”.** This is much more satisfying than releasing the captives from den and Jesus is better than any safe place on a family board game. In the game we cannot stay in “Den” for ever! The game must go on or we lose. However the moment you move out of that safe zone you are fair game for your opponents. This is not the case in real life. The Holy Spirit goes with us when we face danger. He is with us whether we meet Satan’s temptations or our own sinful desires. A true friend will confront us with our bad choices. How much more will God’s Spirit do this for those whom He desires to be made more like Him!

So let us go confidently into the world knowing that we don’t fight for victory but from a position of victory.

K.M. Ricquebourg
ACSI ZIMBABWE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

ENROLMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICES

URGENT: SIBLING ENROLMENT - GRADE 1, 2024:

- Parents, please note that the deadline for submission of SIBLING forms for the above intake is Friday 2nd December 2022. Please contact the Enrolment Secretary if you have not completed the relevant form - if you are unsure of the School's SIBLING and OVER-AGE policy please check with her as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Note that only children born in 2018 (or previously NOT READY Sibling children, born in November/December 2017) will be considered for this intake.

NAME BADGE ORDERS:

- Parents, please note that name badges are ordered on a weekly basis - Therefore orders need to be in with Mrs Nyashanu (Admin) by Wednesday lunchtime at the latest. The price is USD \$1 per badge.

REMINDER!

ONE TERM'S NOTICE

We remind parents that A FULL TERM'S NOTICE is required if you wish to withdraw your child from this school before the end of his/her school career. Should this notice NOT be provided, we must remind you that a FULL TERM'S FEES are still required. This is in common with all other independent schools and is required to ensure places are filled as per our budget.



FOR EXISTING PARENTS:

If you have changed your cell number or e-mail address this year please send the updated information to our enrolment secretary.

E-mail contact information to:
enrolment@gatewayprimary.co.zw

Important Notice Re: School Uniforms

Please note in order to maintain uniform standards our two official stockists are GLEN ABBEY and ENBEE. Also note that ENBEE has opened a new branch at the Chisipite Shopping Centre. Should parents purchase uniforms from alternative stockists, which turn out to be incorrect style / fabric or of inferior quality, you may be requested to replace these uniforms in order to comply with school standards. Thank you for your co-operation. _

ALLERGIES



All children in the School who have any sort of medical condition (epilepsy, asthma, diabetes, etc), allergy or other condition that we need to be aware of, should send a letter to me as soon as possible.

The letter should give details of whether the condition/allergy is mild or serious; what action the school staff should take in the event of an attack (seizure, coma, swelling etc); what medication is taken and whether the school needs to have some on hand (in more serious cases this is usually prescribed by the doctor and needs to be supplied by the family).

If you have indicated the condition but have not asked for special treatment, the school will normally treat the child, put them in sickbay and contact the parents, but if we have not been notified that it could be serious it could become a life-threatening problem.

The school cannot be held responsible if we have not been given the correct information!!



Stationery and Sports Kit Labels

Contact Ginny Sinclair at 0772 286 907

Note: no sharing of stationery is allowed during lessons. Please ensure your child is coming to school with the required stationery, clearly labelled.

MEDIC ALERT EMBLEMS :

If your child has one of the above conditions, especially one that is life-threatening, and you haven't already considered investing in a Medic Alert bracelet or chain contact Mrs Nyashanu about applying for one.

The Medic Alert Foundation has left several application forms with her for interested families.

MRS Y. NYASHANU
ENROLMENT SECRETARY
ENROLMENT@GATEWAYPRIMARY.CO.ZW

