

Kidz Chronicle



FEBRUARY

02

FRIDAY

Edition 2 Term 1



Dear Parents/ Guardians

Grand opening







Friday 19th January 2024 will be a date to be remembered and will bring a smile to all who attended the official opening of CityTotz, a brand-new early learning centre on Mooi Street, in the inner-city. CityTotz is the latest addition to CityKidz, the pioneering inner-city primary school. This heartwarming event brought together CityKidz staff, management and board, SA Corp, Afhco, neighbouring principals, parents and delightful young learners.

The little learners stole the spotlight. Dressed in tiny uniforms, their eyes sparkling, the children eagerly showcased their songs, engaged in interactive learning activities, and effortlessly won the hearts of everyone in attendance.

Katlego Vino Mabokela, a parent, said, **'From the smiles on the kids' faces you can tell they are having a beautiful time. Fun incorporated with learning is always the best way to teach kids.'**

Distinguished members of the community, including Mr Rory Mackey from SA Corp, couldn't help but be captivated by the genuine and uninhibited charm of the young learners. We were honoured to have Mr Rory Mackey conduct the ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the official opening.

Brenda Monama, a proud CityKidz parent said, **'CityKidz you are the best. You never stop to outdo/amaze us as parents. Thank you for being the best for our nunuberries.'**

The launch of CityTotz, was not just a formal occasion but a symbolic opening of doors to a world of possibilities for our little learners. Collete Steeneveldt and Shay Heydenrych expressed their admiration for the innovative learning spaces, state-of-the-art facilities and the commitment to early childhood development in the inner city.

CityTotz was once a panel beater's yard. Sharon Reynolds described her vision to Renney Plit. The derelict building had great potential and with creativity and a shared vision the space could be transformed into a stunning haven for tiny tots. Michael Lewis was tasked

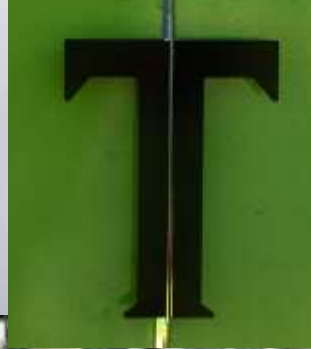
with managing the project. Collaborating with an entire team was a formidable task. It took a range of skills, including creativity, planning and practical considerations to transform the different areas. With the help of an architect, plumbers, electricians, building contractors, fire safety specialists, carpenters and IT specialists CityTotz was born within a short time frame! So it is possible that with a team of visionaries a dreary, dismal run-down space can be transformed into a colourful and bright early learning centre. Our architect, Leon Witbooi planned the layout of different areas such as play zones, comfort corners and administrative spaces. Appropriate zones for various activities like reading, playing, crafting, and resting were also considered.

Sadly, Leon passed away one week before the opening. CityKidz is proud to have been associated with his skill and expertise. Over the months, Michael Lewis the project manager, ensured compliance with building codes and safety regulations. For instance, child-friendly safety features were installed such as non-slip flooring, soft furnishings and secure electrical outlets. Dimly lit corners now resonate with sunshine and vibrant primary colours have turned drab walls into canvases of creativity. Charmaine Plit observed, **'An amazing space for the little stars of the future.'**

The outside area, some of it under an opaque roof, ensures ample natural light and protection, even on rainy days. Designated areas for imaginative play, sensory activities and gross motor skill development are integral to CityTotz. Young learners are able to climb on giant caterpillars, slide down mini slides and shoot hoops in a mini basketball hoop. These present opportunities for the Totz to develop physical skills and capabilities. The centre is well-equipped with age-appropriate toys and equipment for both individual and group play. Innovative storage solutions have been added and these storage areas are labelled with pictures and words to encourage early literacy. Last but not least, smart boards and digital technology are also part of the learning environment, offering opportunities for young Totz to be exposed to 21st century education. Angela Rivers commended CityKidz, for investing in the inner city. **'CityTotz is now a beacon of colour and inspiration on Mooi Street,'** said Maria King, teacher.

Despite setbacks like unexpected floods and the usual hiccups of building projects, CityTotz opened its doors on schedule. One parent said, **'CityTotz is a colourful and inviting space. It gave us, as Lesedi's parents, confidence that we made the right choice by choosing CityKidz and the belief that Lesedi will have the freedom to learn here, express himself, as well as grow in his educational journey.'**





Fun at our Superhero Parents' Tea

The bright and breezy Saturday morning of 27 January saw a collective effort by all CityKidz staff, as they transformed the soccer and netball fields into a stunning venue that would host the Superheroes Tea.

Over two hundred new parents and learners marvelled at the emphasis of the school's friendly and inclusive atmosphere as they were ushered into the splendid arena. The soccer field was completely covered by a colourful awning, while gazebos kept the sun away from the refreshments on the netball field.

A symphony style seating arrangement for the audience faced a raised stage whose highlights were the colourful balloons and a dazzling backdrop of an array of coloured streamers.

The programme kicked off with lively performances of songs and dance from the Foundation Phase classes, whose costumes depicted the theme of the day, Superheroes. Their teachers looked stunning in their striking Superheroes T-shirts which showcased teaching as their super power.

Heads of department introduced the teaching staff and their areas of specialisation. An overview of **the school's policies, its approach to education, including the line of communication was discussed.**

The dance challenge was great fun as both the staff and parents participated. The Maintenance staff gave a resounding performance of the song Nkalakatha. Dance challenge winners smiled all the way to the tuck-shop, with their vouchers.

At the end, teachers and parents had an opportunity to mingle over refreshments, whose highlight was the delicious superhero biscuits.

Siphiwo Leta and Jacky Bellon





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Grade1 First two weeks of school

We cannot believe that our little ones have completed two complete weeks of Grade 1. It has been a whirlwind of events, learners settling in, making new friends and diving straight into formal learning.

Our main focus this week, has been to strengthen fine motor skills to help with correct pencil grip during exercises which include drawing themselves and writing their names. Essential activities were carefully selected to facilitate the natural development of the small muscle in tiny hands. Moulding with clay while focusing on consonants and vowels, threading and untangling and building puzzles were just some of the activities.

Learners were very engaged in the activities when using different colours of clay, beads, blocks and strings which held their interest and attention. However, their fine motor skills were tested and extended as sometimes they had to make several attempts before they were able to change the positioning of a block or hold the string at the correct angle. Their tiny fingers needed to squeeze and pinch, to carefully mould clay until they got the end product right. Not only did our learners focus on threading as a finger exercise but they also counted 5 blocks per string, a Maths activity. These are excellent ways of learning through engagement and action. The Grade 1 team looks forward to a jam-packed year with our little munchies.





My child is in a new Grade or Phase!

It is the beginning of a new year. You feel satisfied that your child ended the previous year successfully. There's nothing to worry about and the coming year will simply be a repeat of the previous one. OR, your child did not have a good year and you sincerely hope to see positive change in the coming year.

It doesn't matter what your expectations are. Children develop individually and we need to pay attention to the signs they give us, in order to assist them. Sometimes those contextual signs are so hidden under family and financial pressures, social media, hormones and a host of other factors that we can easily miss them. Fortunately, school is not only there to benefit and guide children, but also parents and educators.

The process of schooling is synchronised with a child's development. When children reach a certain age, they are ready to proceed to a next grade or higher phase and onto more complex learning material. With every year, children grow and mature until they reach school leaving age and are ready to proceed to the next phase as independent young adults.

Here's the good news! If you need support to help your child grow into a balanced young adult, the school system helps you identify the various development stages and areas of interest for age appropriate assistance. Look out for tips in our next newsletter. **Mrs Vorster**



Kudos to you!

All teachers dread the knock of an unannounced inspection. When an Education Department audit arrived at CityKidz last week, they opted to observe a class Ma'm Annalene was teaching. Thereafter, she was asked to produce document upon document and file and file, some information dating back a few years. It was with some trepidation that the outcome of the audit was awaited. Administrative paperwork can often be the bane of teacher's lives but the Education official beamed when they could see all the i's were dotted and the t's were crossed. It is rare indeed for an education official to sing the praises of any teacher. CityKidz HOD, Annalene Vorster, showcased the dedication, organisational skill and administrative competence that makes CityKidz stand head and shoulders above the rest. Congratulations. Well done, Annalene, for your sterling work and exemplary organisation.

Academic Scroll for Omphile Ngcobo

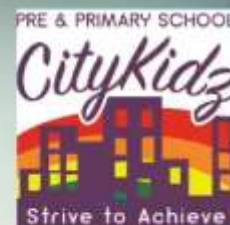
CityKidz assembly gave thunderous applause for the remarkable achievements of Omphile Ngcobo who received not one, not two but four certificates. Gold for Social Science, English and Life Skills PLUS Platinum for an Academic Award. This means that she has an average of 80% LEVEL 7 or more across the board to qualify for an academic scroll. Her father attended the assembly to cheer her on. A parent's pride, evident for all to see is incredibly heartwarming! Attending an award ceremony for academic achievement is more than just watching your child receive an award. It's a celebration of their journey, a testament to their resilience, and a glimpse into the bright future that awaits them. As a parent, you witness firsthand the culmination of countless hours spent studying, the battles fought against distractions, and the unwavering determination that led them to this very moment. CityKidz is extremely proud of Omphile's achievement.

Parents, the next time you find yourself beaming with pride at your child's academic award ceremony, remember that it's not just about the recognition, but about the journey it represents and your investment at CityKidz.



CityKidz always gives back! Toys4Totz is our new charity drive for 2024.

Your contributions will make a huge difference in the lives of children in need. We will announce class collection dates throughout the year. Every toy, game or item of children's clothing will put a smile on their faces and help create brighter futures. Get involved today!



**What's
Happening**

over the
next two
weeks?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
05/02	06/02	07/02	08/02	09/02
CASS FP and IP Sports Practice RR-1	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 2&3	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 4&5	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 6&7	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12/02	13/02	14/02	15/02	16/02
CASS FP and IP Sports Practice RR-1	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 2&3	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 4&5 CIVVIES VALENTINE'S DAY	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 6&7	



CityKidz's Annual Sports day is a special event for both the children and the school community. Our Annual Sports Day will take place on Saturday 24th February 2024 at Holy Family College, 40 Oxford Road, Parktown, Johannesburg.

It is VERY IMPORTANT to take note that the venue for our sports day is at the Holy Family College. We will communicate via WhatsApp messages, letters, our website and once again it will be mentioned in our newsletters so you can plan for that day.

Once again, the Principal of Holy Family, Mr Sobreira, has kindly loaned us the facilities and field for our sports day. This is incredibly kind. We are guests at his school, so we all need to take cognizance of this and always respect the premises and keep the venue clean and litter free. We want to establish a healthy venue relationship with Holy Family to ensure possible future events. I have full confidence in our staff, children, and parents to respect and leave the venue spotless.

It's your child's big day! Imagine their smile seeing you in the crowd cheering them on as they cross the finish line. Sports day is definitely a memory-maker at CityKidz. Be there to capture their joy, sweat, and determination on camera.

Show your child you value their participation and effort, win or lose. Your presence means the world to them. By highlighting the joys, memories, and benefits for every child, "Enjoy the sunshine, games, and the festive atmosphere." one involved, you can encourage parents to mark their calendars and join the fun! Children will be divided into teams according to the school houses. All learners must wear their PET uniform with the colour of his /her school house. The house colours are as follows: Eland – Yellow Impala – Green Roan – Red



24



29° /17°

Events commence promptly at 8:30 am and will last through the morning to mid-afternoon. Please ensure that your child is at the venue by 7:30 am. If your child misses his/her race, we cannot run the race again- so please be punctual.

SPELLING BEE



collateral
confinement
colleague
confiscate
collide
conflict
collision

conformist
collusion
congealed
columnist
congregation
combatant
conjunction

Quote for the Week

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

Jane Goodall



General Knowledge Question for the week.

What is the name of the fairy in Peter Pan?

Answer to the question in our previous newsletter.

What does a "fathometer" measure? The depth of the ocean or any other water bodies



CityKidz Pre & Primary School is Accredited by Umalusi, Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training - Accreditation number 18 SCHO1 00576



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Registration number
2007/014450/08

Warm Regards

Mrs S Reynolds

PRINCIPAL

BEHAVIOUR BANK AWARDS

Most Merits for Term 1 Week Ending 02 February : Year 2024

Grade	Name	Surname	Grade	Name	Surname
Grade RRa	Warona	Ramonetha	Grade RRb	Grace	Moyo
Grade Ra	Alex	Gyasi	Grade Rb	Qaqamba	Madikane
Grade RC	John	Ndlovu	Grade 1A	Alwandle	Ndlovu
Grade 1B	Calvin	Nleya	Grade 1C	Lubambo	Tofule
Grade 1D	Zokuhle	Mayila	Grade 2A	Mhlengi	Ngidi
Grade 2B	Gabriella	Khumalo	Grade 2C	Kealeboga	Maaka
Grade 2D	Wenzokuhle	Gwala	Grade 3A	Jodan	Pieterse
Grade 3B	Sbahle	Maphosa	Grade 3C	Kganya	Tsotetsi
Grade 3D	Amu	Sambo	Grade 4A	Wesley	Robinson
Grade 4B	Thandolwethu	Mabona	Grade 4C	Khanyisa	Ngobeni
Grade 4D	Sinothile	Phakathi	Grade 5A	Boninkosi	Ngwenya
Grade 5B	Kgatliso	Mokgosi	Grade 5C	Lwandile	Maseko
Grade 5D	Eleazer	Mazana	Grade 6A	Kyla	Ngwenya
Grade 6B	Buhlebendalo	Sikhosana	Grade 6C	Ashley	Magodiela
Grade 6D	Phemelo	Choene	Grade 7A	Fanelesibonge	Khobani
Grade 7B	Lesedi	Tshwale	Grade 7C	Omphile	Ngcobo