

GCU NEWS

October Edition

From Mario's Desk...

October has been and gone and what a month it has been. The projects are really moving and they have seen some huge developments in this last month. Between winning medals and a league, anger management and launching a tutoring program I really feel like GCU is making significant steps towards realizing our mission statement and making leaders for today and leaders for tomorrow. This month has made me think about a quote from Mahatma Gandhi

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

As you read the news everything that has happened, is happening and will happen has been a result from all the hard work from the coaches and children changing their own lives and ultimately changing others.



We have a few congratulations to give this month; firstly to our rope skipping girls who won 23 medals in the national championships which I think we can all agree is incredible. It is a true testament to their hard work and these girls are becoming role models for other girls to strive and succeed with determination and guidance. Our second congratulations goes to the U17 boys who won the league, after a shaky start to the season the boys have really pulled together, supported each other and the cup represents much more than football but about unity and boys becoming men.

We have had a huge push to coordinate the refurbishment of the library this month as the library before was a very cultured and uninspiring place to be. I have to say that it is the best face lift I have ever seen! With a fresh coat of paint, beautiful shelving and a dedicated librarian it is amazing what can be achieved in such short period of time. Rona our new librarian has pulled out all the stops to get the books on the shelves and books covered so they can last for the next 10 years and inspire generations to come with the world of books and imagination!



Woodworks came in to train the coaches in tutoring the U7 and U9 boys as from the assessments the need is huge. Many of these boys cannot read and with this new program we are already seeing significant improvements in the children's confidence and ability. One of the coaches said that 'as they become more confident with reading they don't want to leave the lesson; you can see the structure working!' The coaches have really done GCU proud in setting up this program and getting the kids reading and this is a positive start to a positive future.



The coaches have also been working hard on developing their life skills in anger management and leadership. GCU welcomed a new volunteer Lillian from Netherlands who has been giving the coaches daily workshops. The teams of coaches are really coming into their own and are starting to take more responsibility for themselves and others. The group are already starting to see the ripple effect of their change on others as the children are responding more positively and also learning to deal with their life in a more productive way and becoming more responsible members of the community.



GCU has also welcomed the return of Jenny from the UK. Jenny began with GCU in May this year and she has returned to work with GCU for a year to work with the coaches to develop the tutoring programs, work with the library and provide support for GCU.

Thank you!

Looking at the progress of the projects we could not have achieved it without your continuous support.

Please feel free to come and visit our project.

Any comments feel free to drop me and email on mario@gcu.org.za or contact me on 073 474 7769.

