



THREE2SIX
Refugee Children's Education Project

Friends of
Three2six
Newsletter

**Volume 16,
2020**



MARCH 2020

NEWSLETTER

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, our children at Three2Six are our main priority and we will commit to working even harder to provide them the care and education they need.

As we have communicated previously, the project had to close its doors for children on 13 March.

Before we had to do so for lockdown, we sent our children home with lessons about the virus and basic hygiene rules to prevent its spread.

For now, the nationwide lockdown in South Africa will extend to the end of April.

We will reassess the situation and decide when they will come back to school. In the meantime, we have continued to support the families with food vouchers.

We are also continuing to broadcast lessons using a Catholic radio channel and are working towards providing hygiene products for our families to keep safe and healthy during the lockdown.

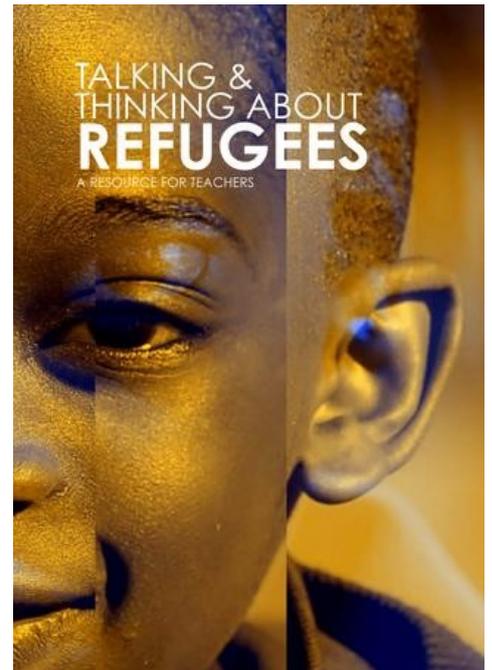


Advocacy update

On 4 March 2020, Andre Croucamp from our partner Mindburst Workshop delivered a lecture at St Augustine College on our teaching resource "Talking and thinking about refugees". Andre spoke about the work conducted at Three2Six project. He told the audience about the ways in which the pupils have been given space to express themselves through two films made with the children. He also spoke about the play put on at the College by the children. Both of these projects allowed the children to explore what it was like to be a refugee child in South Africa. Andre referred to the resource "Talking and Thinking about Refugees" which was developed to inspire teachers to teach lessons to get children thinking about the refugee experience in South Africa.

The strength of the presentation was that he spoke about refugees as people with agency. Andre related the story of the development of the book as a resource and how a team of people from MindBurst workshop helped the author of the work to put the project together.

Andre spoke about the privilege of being able to facilitate holiday programs with the Three2Six children since 2010, and he also referred to the books and art exhibitions that were created as a result of those programs. He emphasized the importance of instilling confidence and opening opportunities for children. The audience was surprised when someone in among them identified himself as being part of the project when he was a boy. This young person is now a student in higher education. He was able to share the challenges he, as an orphan, had in trying to get the correct documentation in South Africa.



Saturday parents English class



On 7th March 2020, our Saturday English classes resumed. The classes are coordinated by our partner, the Turquoise Harmony Institute. The initiative started in September 2019.

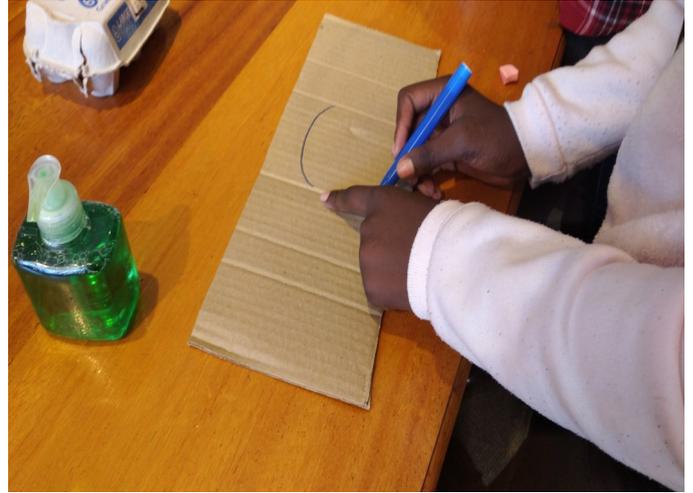
The classes were initially intended only for the mothers of our children but our male parents have also participated; and this year, couples have also joined.

The same program is running within a few other refugee organizations, but our parents prefer to join the Three2Six one. They prefer our classes as they are easily accessible and free of charge. The lessons are also an ideal way for parents to connect face to face, to gain a sense of belonging to the project.

As per the COVID-19 preventive measures, the program is on recess until further notice.

We thank the Turquoise Harmony Institute for their continuous support!

Alumni day



Our latest Alumni Day was held on Saturday 7th March, and it was a fabulous day for all involved. We were very excited to have Sarah Weirich come and join us for the day. Sarah is a researcher from Wits University focusing on Migrant Youth in South African Schools.

We started the day with Sarah running a workshop, and opening with some ice breakers. We then had our very own Three2Six Volunteer, Jakob run a wonderful Science themed program, where the Alumni were able to conduct various experiments. The highlight was the egg drop challenge – we ended up dropping the eggs from 2 storeys high!

A huge thank you to all our volunteers and Alumni that attended. We had a wonderful day.

International women's day

On Sunday, 8th March 2020, our grade 5 learners went to the Christ the King Cathedral in Doornfontein to celebrate International Women's Day, together with the Catholic Women's Council.

The primary focus of the celebration was dignity and equality for women.

One of the themes addressed was the plight of migrant women. It was said that, even though many of these women are well educated, they cannot access decent positions of employment. They are often exploited in domestic work; and some of them are forced into marriages.

Migrant women encounter language barriers as well as difficulties in accessing information and documents. Most of these women rely only on faith to survive, but some of them have managed to get their way through the many challenges of being in a foreign land as a migrant or a refugee woman.

Another focus was on Gender Based Violence. Some of the ideas shared were along the lines of not living in fear, self-ownership and empowerment.

Lawyers for Human Rights took the opportunity to talk about the rights of migrants and they highlighted a few facts about how gender equality is still a concern all over the world. There is currently no country on track with gender equality, and women are still underrepresented in



workforces, where men still constitute 80% of the workforce, leaving only 20% of work opportunities to women.

There will be a global pilgrimage to Rome in November 2021 to talk about women's dignity and equality. Our children have already assembled messages to send with the people who will be going on the pilgrimage.

COVID-19 talk with our children



On the 9th March 2020, Sacred Heart College Nurse, Sister Peta Ann Munnik, visited the Three2Six children at their assembly to explain some facts about COVID-19.

After explaining to the learners what kind of illness it is, she demonstrated to them the different ways to prevent it and limit its contamination.

Aesop's fables play

On 12th March 2020, our Grade 4s and 5s watched the Aesop's Fables play at the National Children's Theatre.

Apart from the highly commendable skills the drama students exhibited on the stage, our children learnt a lot from the morals taught in the play, about the ants gathering food while the grasshopper is singing; the fox and the sour grapes; the tortoise and the hare racing; the lion and the mouse; the boy who liked to call wolf; and the sun and the wind.

The children learnt life lessons about perseverance, hard work, gentleness, telling the truth and being considerate, even with small friends.

We thank the National Children's Theatre for giving us such an enriching learning experience.

Staff update



On 17 March 2020, we were sadly informed about the termination of the volunteering contract of Jakob Mauser, our German volunteer from Kindermissionswerk - Die Sternsinger.

He has been suddenly called back to Germany along with other German volunteers in different organizations all over the world, following the current global effort to manage the spread of COVID-19.

We have worked with Jakob since August 2019, and we are very grateful for the support he has rendered to us and his dedication to the project over the last seven months.

Our children and teachers had a chance to bid him farewell before they closed school which was heartwarming.

We wish you the best, Jakob. We will miss you!