



“Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together, they make this world a beautiful garden.” – *Anonymous*

## AWESOME KIDS



A new year means we get to welcome a new bunch of Grade 6 friends from Applewood.

It's always heartwarming to see how quickly the Applewood kids form connections with our children. On their initial visit, there might be a hint of jitters and uncertainty, but by the next visit, they arrive with smiles and much more confidence.

During their time together the children learn more about themselves, improve their communication and social skills, learn about feelings like empathy and compassion.

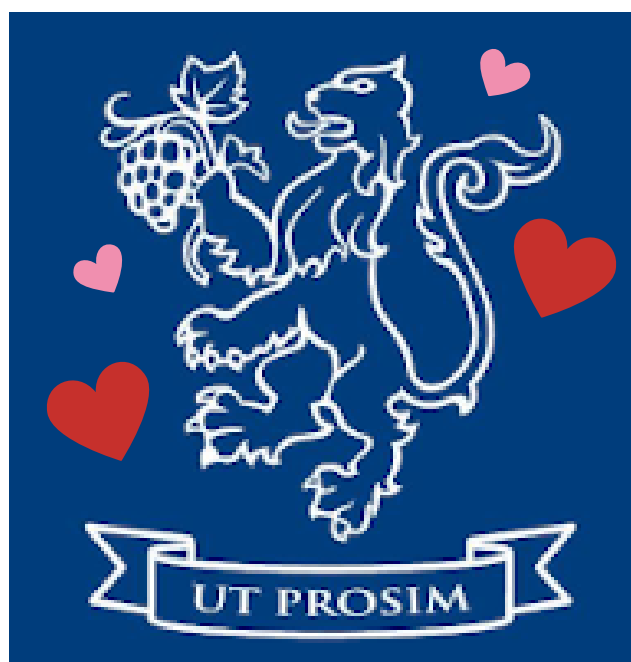
Isn't it just wonderful to have a friend to share smiles and laughter with? We all can't help but agree on that!

In February, we were thrilled to be chosen as the beneficiary of Beaumont Primary School's Lucky Packet Valentine's Day fundraiser!

Beaumont Primary School lives by the motto "Ut Prosim," which means 'That I May Serve.' Each year, they pick several charities to support and raise awareness for.

Since 2022, when the first group of prefects paid us a visit, we've built a wonderful bond with Beaumont.

Looking ahead to Term 2, we're excited to welcome the Grade 7 prefects for this year and can't wait to make new friends with them too!



# VALENTINE'S PARTY

This year, we are empowering our ECD practitioners by letting them take the lead in planning special days. For Valentine's Day, they went all out and organized a fabulous party for the children. The staff and children wore red, white or pink and brought their best singing voices. You know how much we love a good song and dance at Bizweni, so you can only imagine the happy atmosphere that filled the air that day!

Gaynore, Shannon, and Taylor truly shined as they unleashed their creativity with a delightful puppet show. It was a morning filled with laughter and happiness!



# FAMILY FUN

On the 24th of February we hosted our annual Family Day. Parents/caregivers and siblings of our children came to the Centre for a day of fun and to spend quality time together.

We kick started the day with a group dance as a fun icebreaker. Our ECD practitioners created different stations with interactive disability-friendly games.

It was great to see parents and children mingling and getting to know each other.



# SAY 'HELLO-UISE'

We are delighted to welcome Helouise De Wet to the team. Helouise has taken on the role of Program Implementer.

Helouise loves the special needs community and believes everyone has something special to add.

She enjoys long runs and is training for the Knysna marathon in June.

She believes there's nothing that can't be solved by a 5 second dance party. Shake it off!



# OUT & ABOUT

Outings bring our children so much joy and are also important. Here's why...

Outings are like real-life classrooms. They provide hands-on learning experiences that you just can't replicate indoors. Whether it's exploring nature, visiting the aquarium, or going to the theatre, there's always something to discover.



Our outings often provide experiences for our children that might otherwise be too challenging logistically and financially for our parents.

One venue that never disappoints is the stunning Vergelegen wine farm. The children thoughly enjoyed swinging, running and splashing in the playground and especially the



Stepping out of their comfort zones can do wonders for kids' confidence levels. Every new experience, whether big or small, helps them grow and believe in themselves a little more.

Let's not forget about the physical benefits! Outings often involve lots of movement and exploration, which is fantastic for keeping those little bodies moving.



free milkshakes!

Can you imagine a theatre experience tailored specifically for audiences with complex needs? Such a thing exists!! On the 19th of February, Classes 3 & 4 had a magical time at the Playhouse theatre where they enjoyed an interactive sensory experience. Huge thanks to Storywood Inclusive Arts for providing this incredible opportunity.

## THERAPIST'S TIP



Did you know that our brain and body work together to receive, organise and respond to sensory information from the environment? It is a process that typically occurs without us even thinking about it and it allows us to go about our daily tasks.

However, many of our children at the centre (including those on the Autism spectrum and those who have developmental delays) have trouble with this process and require intervention to allow them to participate in their daily activities.

Some of our children tend to seek A LOT of sensory input to fill their cups (regulate themselves) so that they can participate in the daily routine. Stimulating activities to fill our cups include jumping on the trampoline, going for a walk and even spinning in a hammock!

Some of our children, on the other hand, become easily overwhelmed by sensory information and avoid sensory information. Their cups need to be emptied to a certain extent so that they can participate in the daily routine. Slow, linear movements on a rocker is considered calming and organising to the nervous system.

Some of our children wear headphones to reduce background noises, so that they can participate in their daily routine tasks. A lot of our children absolutely love hand massages. Deep pressure such as hand massages is also considered calming to the nervous system!

## DID YOU KNOW...

- At the beginning of the year, every child is assessed and is given individual goals tailored to their abilities.
- The Western Cape government provides two wheelchairs each for the children who need it. One to use at home, and one to use while at the Centre.
- This year we celebrate our 26th Bizweni-versary. Can you believe that many people still don't know we exist?!
- Please help us spread awareness by sharing what we do.





**SUPPORT  
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**BIZWENI CENTRE**  
— FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES —

Connect with a child  
Learn more about disability  
See how your contributions  
impact a child's life

## 4 reasons to join

- 1 You will receive a welcome letter and scheduled updates to learn more about a specific child, and their disability. Feel connected to the Bizweni family!
- 2 100% of your donation goes towards providing holistic, hands on education, therapy and care for 66 children
- 3 We always have the children's best interests at heart. Good governance makes sure your gift is allocated where it can help the most.
- 4 Your gift is tax-deductible. Section 18A certificates are available for your tax purposes.



## IT'S EASY

Set up a monthly payment on the crowdfunding platform

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or through our website

[www.bizwenicentre.co.za](http://www.bizwenicentre.co.za)

**Only R300 a month**

Bizweni Centre for Children  
with Disabilities

ABSA Bank

Branch code: 632005

Account No: 9055830293

Any queries?

Please contact Debbie

[debbieb@bizwenicentre.co.za](mailto:debbieb@bizwenicentre.co.za)





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