

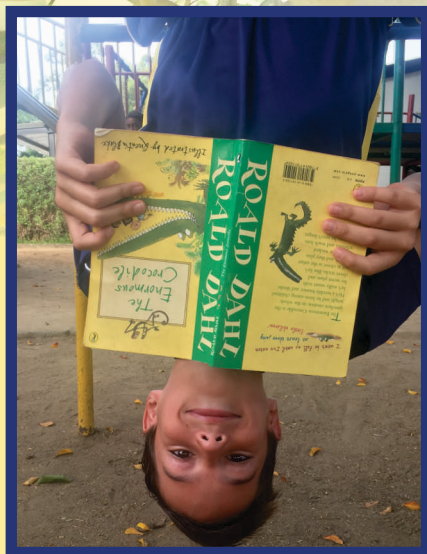
February 2020



I trust that you have enjoyed the first half of February. At Musikili we have enjoyed a couple of wonderful weeks in the classrooms and on the sports fields.

The youngest members of our school community have experienced some adventure-filled weeks. They continue to explore the array of animals found on our continent as they remain on their 'Safari' through the African bush-veld. Having my own child as a member of this Safari Team keeps me informed on all the daily happenings, coupled with most interesting stories about the lion, crocodile, buffalo and ostrich. There is absolutely no doubt that Mrs. Bray has the children eating out of the palm of her hand, while affording her 'rangers' the opportunity to live their educational experience.





Last week we celebrated World Read Aloud Day. I encourage you to read to your children as much as you can – and when they can read, they will love to share time with you, reading to you. For children to really benefit from reading, a love of books needs to be nurtured from a young age and continued in to their senior primary years. It can so often be in the informal setting where children develop the love for a story, as they are cuddled up next to their parents or grandparents, being swept away on an imaginative journey. It was fantastic to see our children scattered around campus reading to one another, especially our Grade 7s taking the time to read to our smallest children – very special.





Our 1st XI cricket team had a productive trip to the Falcon Cricket Festival and carried themselves well, making it into the play-off rounds of a very competitive festival. Importantly, all the boys had an opportunity to contribute with both bat and ball, developing their all-round game on every occasion. Two of our senior girls returned from the Falcon Tennis Festival all smiles, having been provided with ample games to showcase their ability over the course of the weekend. Both Peyton and Jodi embraced the competitive stage and represented their school well.

On the local scene, our U13 boys' and girls' teams participated in the ISAZ U13 Soccer Festivals in Lusaka. These festivals provide the platform for some of our soccer loving learners to really engage with the sport they are so passionate about. Both the boys' and girls' teams, which were comprised of a majority of U11 players, found the fixtures challenging, however, they need to be commended for their spirit and excellent conduct throughout.

This weekend our U9 boys and girls will enjoy their chance to participate in the ISAZ U9 Soccer Festivals in Lusaka. We wish them all the best in their first competitive matches of this nature. The U11 and U13 cricket and tennis teams travel to Vic Falls, to compete in a triangular against the host school Vic Falls and Petra. We hope the weather holds off, to allow for a wonderful weekend of camaraderie and competitive sport.





Ms Bowa's assembly this week touched on our ever-changing world and how we are quickly becoming consumed by technology and Artificial Intelligence. As important as it is to remain in touch with the changing world, there is an enormous amount of happiness that we can find for ourselves and children, by placing importance and an appreciation for the 'simpler' things. Ms. Bray's theme for her contribution to our Newsletter, highlights the incredible environment that our parents are providing for their children to be educated. One actually needs to pinch themselves every so often just to be reminded that we are extremely fortunate to have such a special place to call home! Look out for the dinosaurs..

Kind Regards

Rich





The Power of Imaginative Play

It was on a hot, humid January afternoon that I made my way across the Musikili field towards the hostel when I came across a young chap fully engaged, with his imagination clearly triggered as he looked down the barrel of his stick. “Hello my boy”, I said, as being new at Musikili I knew very few of the children’s names. “Afternoon Maam”, he replied. Maybe he didn’t know my name either. “What is that you have there”, I asked him pointing to the stick. “It’s my gun” he replied. “I see”, I replied. “What is it for?” “We are playing a survival game on a dinosaur island” he answered. I then looked towards the fountain, and there crouched in the curve of the wall were 3 more boys with ‘guns’, involved in the survival game, hiding from the jaws of some terribly ferocious dinosaur. I think the boys’ firepower must have been strong enough to defend themselves, as I have since seen them all very much alive in the dining room discussing their adventures and hatching new games. Oh wow, I thought to myself, when last did I see boys of 11 and 12 years old playing as these boys were playing.

The following article written by Katherine Wilde, and published online, discusses the importance and value of such play. As an educator, I am passionate about stimulating children’s imaginations, and celebrate that at Musikili there is space for children to be children and fight dinosaurs!

Why imaginative play is important for a child’s development What we call ‘child’s play’ may just be the most important and most powerful resource your child can turn to, writes Katherine Wilde Childhood is a time of magic and shape shifting, when beds become boats with sheets as sails, out on a wild sea made of pillows; a tea towel becomes a cape of invincibility, flying out behind a child who is now a superhero; a clothes horse and blankets transform into a castle where a princess cowers from a dragon. Yet what might look like simple fun is actually highly important work. When children use their imagination in play they are developing crucial psychological and emotional capacities that help them understand the world in which they live and their relation to it; they are learning to solve problems, create new possibilities, even change the world. According to child psychologist Sally Goddard Blythe, director of The Institute for Neuro-Physiological Psychology and author of *The Genius of Natural Childhood: Secrets of Thriving Children*, the importance of imagination in all areas of child development cannot be overstated.





“This kind of play allows children to tap into their creativity and really run with it, without any boundaries, in a way that’s very freeing,” she says. “Put simply, imagination is the ability to create visual images in the mind’s eye, which allows us to explore all sorts of images and ideas without being constrained by the limits of the physical world. This is how children begin to develop problem-solving skills, coming up with new possibilities, new ways of seeing and being, which develop important faculties in critical thinking that will help the child throughout life.” Imaginative play also allows us to explore both the physical world and the inner self at the same time, helping us to recognise our own emotional responses to things, which is a very healthy process. Studies have shown that imaginative play can foster important social qualities, such as co-operation, empathy, and appreciation of others’ feelings. In a 2013 study on “Pretend and Physical Play”, psychologists Eric Lindsay and Malinda Colwell observed that children who engage in imaginative play express more emotional engagement, thoughtfulness and understanding, and less negative emotional expression such as selfishness and anger, and score higher on tests of emotional regulation and understanding. The authors also noted how books, films and even video games can actually become fuel for children’s imaginative play. Kids can take on storylines they’ve been exposed to and extend them into a more elaborate and extended narrative, processing social situations and problems through the fantasy space of the story. According to Goddard Blythe, fuelling children’s imaginations in this way is essential. “By listening to or engaging with existing stories the child is then able to create their own version, design their own ‘set’, imagine how the characters look to them. They can feed off existing stories and develop them, explore them, transform and manipulate them in different ways that are suited to the issues they might be struggling with in their own lives.” The best news? Fuelling their imaginations doesn’t require anything more than the most basic tools. “Adults think children need more than they actually do to play – what they really need is the time, the space and the encouragement to do it. Most important is creating opportunities for the child to play freely, and then they can develop this in whatever direction their imagination takes them.” The power of a child’s imagination can change a twig into a magic wand, a cardboard tube into a telescope, a bubble bath into a deadly swamp. By sharing and encouraging imaginative experiences with your child you can help them transform and develop into creative thinkers and problem solvers who might even one day change the world.

Belinda Bray





FALCON COLLEGE CRICKET & TENNIS FESTIVAL

A 1800k trip for a weekend of sport always offers much debate as to the pros and cons. On this occasion, however, it cannot be argued that the boys and girls were exposed to some quality opposition in both sporting codes and were tested throughout the fixtures.

The girls' tennis was a mixture of singles and doubles and despite a few ominous rain clouds, plenty of tennis was played. Jodi Bawden and Peyton Zaloumis represented Musikili as our number 1 and 2 seeds respectively and as a double's partnership, offered much resistance, creating some wonderful rallies and going the distance in many of the sets. They came out with a 50% win / loss ratio in this format. Our inexperience in singles matches was evident as the girls battled with covering the space available, although Jodi was able to come through a 6 wins out of 10 games.

We are hoping that the experience gained over the weekend will permeate through to the rest of the squad as we take on Vic Falls and Petra Primary this weekend. T10 cricket is always always to adapt to, especially when preparations for longer versions of the game are well under way for the ISCF at the end of the month. Fear of failure and freedom to express natural skill is tough to balance when only 60 balls are available in an innings. This being said, the boys were able to manufacture some incredible strokes, equally valuable in any format and work on aspects such as running between wickets and extending their shot selection to represent a 360° wagon wheel. Being able to play all around the wicket at this level is of utmost importance and the boys are beginning to understand responsibility at the crease. The bowling, at times, was clinical and suffocating for the opposition. However, inconsistency and changing run-ups provided the quality batters on display, too many boundary balls and extras. This is an area of the game, which needs to be focused on in the next few weeks. The boys fielded with fire, taking some incredible catches, match changing run-outs and a number of lightning fast stumpings by both Benjy Coventry and Aiden Clubb.

With 3 retired innings and a total of 75 runs in 5 games, Benjamin proved the team's most valuable batsman. The highlight of the weekend was a simply superb hatrick bowled by Calen Coventry in a devastating over against Carmel, which produced 3 wickets and no runs – he was assisted by Ryan Jellis and Aiden with excellently held catches and a stumping by his cousin Benjy. Jamie Dunn also produced a scintillating over against Bryden, taking 3 / 8 in his over. Although all the boys fielded exceptionally well, the stand-out player in the field offering a lethal arm from the boundary, was Leo Clarkson. In the 3 pool games, we beat Carmel by 16 runs, Bryden by 7 wickets and lost by 8 runs against eventual winners – St John's Harare by 8 runs. We moved in to the play-off stages and were extremely unlucky to lose on the last ball against Luke Dancer's Hartmann House. The boys struggled in the last game against a clinical bowling display from losing finalists, Lilfordia going down by 15 runs in the end. The first of three festivals in Zim this February are done and dusted and we move on to Vic Falls in high spirits.

GARETH WEINRICH





Musikili Astroturf Development

We are excited to announce that our continued efforts towards providing innovative and relevant approaches towards education as a whole, have been extended to our sports curriculum. The development of the Astroturf is now well underway, with the foundations for the surface nearing 2/3rds completion. Extensive work, investigation and preparation have been given to these initial stages, to ensure that we are able to produce a product that is long lasting.

The development is scheduled for an April completion, which will ensure our children are able to have full access to this wonderful facility at the commencement of our 2nd term in May. We look forward to playing host to our fellow ISAZ schools in Lusaka and beyond, as we continue to invest in hockey development throughout Zambia. The drive behind the development stems from our belief that children need to gain exposure to practices that are relevant across modern trends in education, both in and outside of the classroom. With the majority of our children gaining entrance to leading Independent Schools in Southern Africa, it is imperative that we as a school lay the foundations for what is expected of them as they enter their senior schooling. Hockey is fast becoming the most favoured sporting option for both girls and boys and we are delighted that our children will have access to 21st century hockey. We are extremely fortunate to have a staffing component that not only have extensive experience and a diverse skill set, but are also in tune with the expectations and demands on children entering the elite schools in Southern Africa. Our staff are made up of personnel who have played the game at National, Provincial and 1st team school level, which complements our purpose behind this development. The surface will not only be utilized for hockey, but as a multipurpose facility to ensure we have uninterrupted participation in our extracurricular programme, from Grade 000 – 7.

Musikili is an extremely proud school and we are blessed to have the support of a wide-reaching community, who like us, understand the importance of providing children with the necessary grounding to excel in their educational journeys. We look forward to recognizing the many role players who have been behind this specific project when we officially open our new facility. Advancements such as this, as well as the ability to offer a broad range of services and opportunities to our children are imperative as we remain the best Boarding School option for families across Zambia.

