Brylin Primary school

 Port Elizabeth

15 February 2017 Lindi’ithunzi Totana

Bee writing competition Grade 5

The job of a beekeeper

One Saturday morning at home; I woke up, washed and got dressed. When I was about to go outside and play, I saw my mother and all my cousins at the door. I was confused, but then it came to my mind that it was bee day. I was very excited and worried at the same time because the bees might sting me. We arrived at the Beeland and met a beekeeper. He showed us around and told us about his job and said: “Beekeepers give bees a home in order to keep them safe.” He also told us that a location where bees are kept is called an apiary or bee yard.

He told us very interesting facts which can be found in their bee dictionary. The dictionary says that a beekeeper is a person who takes care and owns bees, in order to collect their honey to pollinate crops or to produce bees for sale to other beekeepers. Another interesting thing he told us is the scientific word for beekeeper which is apiarist. The outing was great and extremely interesting especially the new information we got about bees. We also learned that bees can be dangerous and the beekeeper needs to keep them away from other people. The first beekeeper had to go on a lunch break and another beekeeper came. The second beekeeper told us about the two main types of beekeepers, which are: Amateur beekeepers and the bee inspectors.

Amateur beekeepers keep a small amount of bees. They have less than forty beehives. He keeps the bees to produce honey and sometimes farmers use the bees for crop pollination.

The bee inspector has a lot of experience in his job. Then he told us about the history and origin of beekeeping and said: “Beekeeping started years ago in ancient history.”

They used smoke to calm the bees and the honey was stored in jars. He also said that some people do beekeeping as a hobby and some people do it as a full time business. A beekeeper must have tools and equipment such as the hive, tools, the smoker and protective gear like the hat and veil.

It was time for us to go because I was also going to my friend’s party. I learned so much about bees and luckily I did not get any bee stings. Unfortunately for me, I am so afraid of bees and therefore I will never become a beekeeper.