

The uBAMBISWANO BULLETIN

April 2023

Holding hands for our future
uBambiswano

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A GLIMPSE INTO THE PROGRAMME

- uBambiswano is a [Saturday School programme](#) run by St Andrew's School for Girls in Gauteng
- The programme is attended by students from [schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa](#)
- We have a [33-year track record](#) of contributing to the lives of over 1000 students
- On average, [100 students from grades 5 to 9](#) attend the Saturday School over a five-year period
- While [literacy, numeracy, educational and life skills](#) are our priority, additional [enrichment activities](#) such as music, swimming and debating are included in the programme
- Our students call uBambiswano, [a place of 'hope'](#) as they believe the programme provides them with the hope of a better future.



Holding hands for our future
uBambiswano


St Andrew's School
for Girls
SKILLED FOR LIFE

A LETTER FROM THE HEAD

Dear uBambiswano family,

'Butterflies are a breath of beauty fluttering by, they are mystery chronicled upon wing, they bring forth the grace and wonder of this world to our eyes every day.' – K D'Angelo

Just like that, we are already a good four months into the year. 2023 got off to a busy, but exciting and positive, start. The Grade 5 and 6 students have settled in well. We are particularly proud of the Grade 5 cohort, because this is the first year in our more than 30 year history that we have invited Grade 5s to uBambiswano. All of our new students have already made such an impression, and are making the most of every opportunity.

With the good rains that have fallen in Johannesburg and the broader Gauteng, we have managed to keep up the energy of a new year still fresh in the air. We were also energised by the news of the excellent Matric results achieved by the Tomorrow Trust (our partner organisation) and St Andrew's School for Girls. Just as I suspected on the first day of school in January, we have everything that we need to make 2023 another great year.

Just as butterflies take on the greatest of journeys in small steps from garden to garden and end up crossing a continent and an ocean, no task is too big for us if we break it into its necessary parts. This is our message to the students this year – take it one step at a time. Through giving of our best every small step of the way, we are able to journey with confidence to excellence and flourish.

My wish for each member of our School is that we will strive to make every moment a positive one, that we will listen well and with understanding and empathy to others, that we will speak kindly and honestly, that we will choose the right option rather than the popular one, that we will remain curious, inquisitive and interested, and that we will participate with pride and care for our team and classmates. And that we will have some fun.

Thank you to the uBambiswano team for their hard work and commitment to the education of our uBambiswano beneficiaries. I would also like to thank Thina Mabuza, the directors of the St Andrew's Board, and the uBambiswano Committee for their support and guidance. To the Heads team and Business Manager...thank you! And, thank you to all our dedicated teachers and interns who ensure that our students receive a world-class education.

We also extend our gratitude to the sponsors, who make it possible for us to deliver the high standard of education and care to our students. And, of course, to the parents – your encouragement and pride in your children makes our job much easier.

I look forward to a fulfilling and invigorating year at uBambiswano.

With my best wishes



Sipiwe Vilakazi
uBambiswano Head

Sipiwe Vilakazi (uBambiswano Head)



STAFF NEWS - WELCOME

We welcome **Gillian Pule** to the role of PA to the Head of uBambiswano. Gillian previously worked in HR and has superb people and administration skills. Please join us in welcoming Gillian warmly to the uBambiswano family.



Gillian Pule
PA to the Head of uBambiswano

We also welcome **Gugu Mabona**, who is no stranger to the uBambiswano family. Gugu is an uBambiswano alumnus and now an English teacher at Jeppe High School for Girls. She has joined our English and Life Skills department. In the short time that she has been teaching English and Life Skills at uBambiswano, she has built a good rapport with her students.

We are delighted to welcome **Six Magula**, who is the Grade 3 Class Teacher at the St Andrew's Junior School. Six teaches Grade 5 Art and Grade 7 and 8 Entrepreneurship at uBambiswano.

We wish **Gillian, Gugu, and Six** a happy stay at uBambiswano.



Gugu Mabona
English and Life Skills



Six Magula
Art and Entrepreneurship

Welcome

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2022

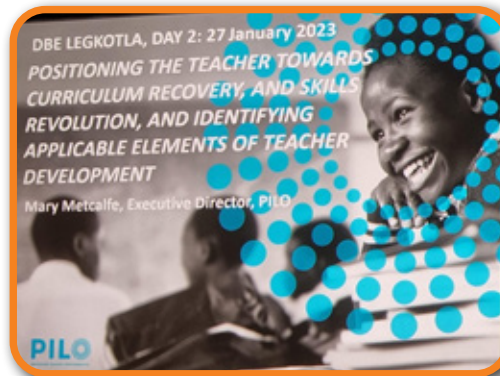
Our Head of School, Sipiwe Vilakazi, was invited by the **Minister of Basic Education** to the announcement of the **National Senior Certificate** results for the class of 2022. This opportunity presented an excellent platform for networking and marketing. Sipiwe also attended the **Department of Basic Education 2023 Lekgotla**, held at the Sandton Convention Centre.



National Senior Certificate top achievers honoured at Award Ceremony



Sipiwe Vilakazi at the announcement of the 2022 Matric results



A presentation by professor Mary Metcalfe who is the Executive Director at PILO



Minister of Basic Education Mrs Angie Motshekga welcoming delegates at the 2023 Lekgotla



President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered a keynote address at the 2023 Lekgotla



Sipiwe Vilakazi attending the Department of Basic Education 2023 Lekgotla at the Sandton Convention Centre

THE TOMORROW TRUST SATURDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Congratulations to The Tomorrow Trust Saturday School Programme's 2022 matric group, who achieved a **92% pass rate** in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations (76% of their students received Bachelor's Degree passes). All past students who came through the uBambiswano programme passed with **exceptional results**.



The Tomorrow Trust Saturday School Programme's 2022 matric group

Our partnership with Tomorrow Trust on the Saturday School programme continues to be mutually beneficial. The Tomorrow Trust offers our students an extension of the Saturday School Programme from Grades 10 to 12, including a Holiday and Post-Secondary Educational Programme. The classes take place at St Andrew's every Saturday from 8h30 to 15h00. The students are provided with breakfast and a cooked lunch.

The programme provides comprehensive **academic support** to students in English, Mathematics, Life Science, and Physical Science. This focused support ensures that Grade 10 to 12 students pass with improved results at the end of the year.

There was great **excitement** as the Tomorrow Trust Class of 2022 returned to St Andrew's on Saturday 4 February to celebrate their results.

We **recognise** and **applaud** every student who worked incredibly hard to achieve their personal best.



Committed students of The Tomorrow Trust



The Tomorrow Trust matric students writing their baseline assessments

ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS MATRIC RESULTS

uBambiswano would like to **congratulate** the St Andrew's School for Girls Matric Class of 2022 on their outstanding results. We wish the entire Class of 2022 well in their future endeavors.



Congratulations

ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS OPEN DAY

St Andrew's held their Open Day on 28 January 2023, and it was **wonderful** for uBambiswano to be part of it. We set up an information desk, at which we were represented by our Grade 9 students who worked in shifts throughout the day. Who better to market us than our students? Our students did a wonderful job. They happily chatted to prospective parents and students who enquired about uBambiswano, explaining who we are, what we do, our work in the communities of Daveyton and Etwatwa, and our relationship with St Andrew's.



Grade 9 students representing uBambiswano at the St Andrew's School Open Day

SCHOLARSHIPS

Our uBambiswano students were selected to participate in Psychometric and Leadership Assessments for the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, St Andrew's School for Girls and the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation scholarships. They completed a battery of psychometric tests. These tests determine, among other things, the applicant's aptitude, personality type, interests, drive, coping skills and leadership potential. This will give them entry to top-quality high schools, including boarding. **Congratulations** to the following students. We are extremely proud of them.

THE OPRAH WINFREY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FOR GIRLS

Huge **congratulations** to **Hlelo Sibiya**, who was offered a **Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls Scholarship**. This scholarship will cover her tuition and boarding fees from Grade 8 to 12.



Hlelo Sibiya

Congratulations

Congratulations

ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS TRUST

Congratulations to **Lesedi Mothibi** who was offered the **St Andrew's School for Girls Trust Scholarship**. Lesedi has joined the St Andrew's Grade 8 2023 group as a boarder.



Lesedi Mothibi

Delighted

THE ALLAN GRAY ORBIS FOUNDATION

A few months ago our students wrote assessments to be considered for **the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation High School Scholarship**. We are **delighted** that two of our students have been called back for the interview process. This is an important final step in the application process and we wish them all the best for the interviews. We will share the final results with our community as soon as we know more.



Nhlikanipho Madlanze



Thandolwethu Sihlangu

FOUNDERS' DAY

On 20 January 2023, St Andrew's School for Girls celebrated its **121st birthday**. This event was an opportunity to celebrate the school's birthday and the vision of our Founders in a service of thanksgiving. The service included prayers for continued healing in our community, pledging to celebrate our **diversity** and to solve conflict with love, open communication, mutual understanding, patience, and faith. The uBambiswano students spent the day on campus and participated in various activities.



diversity



Celebrations



ACADEMIC AWARDS ASSEMBLY

On Saturday 11 February 2023, we hosted an awards assembly to celebrate the **achievements** of our 2022 Grade 6 to 8 students. Our special guest was **Rev Alison Thabethe**, who is leaving St Andrew's at the end of Term 1 to take up a Chaplaincy role at St Mary's DSG in Pretoria. Her talk was **inspirational** and so well received by our students and staff. We thank Alison for her unwavering support for uBambiswano. As always, the awards ceremony was a feather in our cap – we are humbled by our talented students, and encouraged to continue working to inspire our students to reach for their dreams.



inspirational



Achievements



GRADE 5 NALEDI WORKSHOP

The workshop was facilitated by team of professional life coaches from **Naledi**. This organisation runs programmes to help young people to develop **self-awareness** and raise their emotional intelligence levels using interactive exercises and open discussion in an atmosphere of safety, low hierarchy, fun, and exploration.



CHAEI CAMPAIGN

The Chaeli Campaign is a **personal leadership programme** for Grade 9s. The impact of this programme is two-fold: firstly, the lives of the children who have received the assistive devices have been changed and improved, and secondly, the thousands of children at the schools where the programme has been presented and the challenges to raise funds have been accepted have been made aware about disability and educated, not only about various types of disability, but more importantly about the need for inclusion of disabled people in society.



SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming is such an important life skill and we are so **fortunate** to have wonderful resources through St Andrew's to offer our uBambiswano students swimming lessons as part of their extra curricula programme. We use services of certified professional swimming instructors and, in addition, the Grade 10 St Andrew's students volunteer to assist with the swimming lessons as part of their **Skilled for Life Programme**. This also gives them an opportunity to interact with uBambiswano students, which is always pleasing to see.



uBambiswano students enjoying their swimming lessons



Grade 10 students assisting with the swimming lessons as part of their Skilled for Life Programme

MISS INDIA SOUTH AFRICA 2022

We would like to thank **Miss India South Africa 2022**, Priyanka Reddy, for running an excellent first workshop with our uBambiswano students. Priyanka will be facilitating a series of workshops with the students over the next few months. Many thanks to Priyanka for so generously giving her time to work with our students.



Miss India South Africa with some of the students while at the first workshop.



Miss India South Africa 2022, Priyanka Reddy

GRADE 9 SUBJECT CHOICE WORKSHOP



Many thanks to Priscilla Reddy for facilitating the Grade 9 Subject Choice Workshop. Priscilla is the Academic Head for Life Orientation and Geography at the St Andrew's Senior School. For the first part of the morning, Priscilla shared various presentations with the Grade 9s. Afterwards, they were each loaned an iPad from our IT department to access various links, which was followed by fruitful group discussions. The workshop was enjoyed by all, and Priscilla will continue to work with our Grade 9s, as well as Grade 11 Tomorrow Trust students, as they navigate these two grades.



END-OF-TERM CHAPEL SERVICE

The uBambiswano community gathered together at the end of term for our Easter Service in the beautiful chapel at St Andrew's. Huge thanks to Reverend Alison Thabethe for giving such an energetic and exciting sermon. This term has been one where we have rallied together as a community and enjoyed lots of wonderful moments together.



ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to uBambiswano alumnus, **Bianca Mkhize**, for achieving excellent results (5 distinctions) for her Matric examinations. Bianca was a student at uBambiswano from 2016 to 2019. She joined St Andrew's School for Girls in Grade 8, where she has thrived for the past five years. Bianca has not only shone academically, but she has also continued to give back to her community, staying involved with uBambiswano on Saturdays. Our students enjoy interacting with her and we are so proud of her. We wish Bianca well in her future endeavours. We have no doubt that she can achieve anything she sets her mind to.

Congratulations to uBambiswano alumnus, **Lerato Makate**, for her excellent achievement in public speaking. Lerato's Grade 10 Public Speaking team at Jeppe High School for Girls walked away with an A at the South African College of Speech and Drama Competition. **Well done**, Lerato and team!



Bianca Mkhize



Lerato Makate

WELLNESS DAY

Our pastoral care, which focuses on students' emotional, social, spiritual and psychological well-being, is an **essential** foundation on which learning can take place. Research shows that students with good mental and emotional health are likely to achieve better academically and are more equipped to deal with life's challenges.



Essential

Wellness



We would like to thank the **St Andrew's Wellness Department** for their ongoing **support**. Anna Feist and Jacqui Da Silva ran an excellent workshop with our Grade 5 to 8 students around the importance of making good choices in all spheres of life. Anna and Jacqui also shared some effective study skills that students can apply when preparing for academic assessments.

SUPPORT



Anna Feist



Jacqui Da Silva

GRADE 5 SELF PORTRAITS



Gontse - Self portrait



Treasure - Self portrait

#Giveback: WAYS OF GIVING

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

The programme relies on external funding, mainly in the form of fundraising by St Andrew's School for Girls and external donations. The funds are used to pay for the teaching of the students, rather than the running of the environment, and includes learning and teaching resources, teachers' salaries and stipends for volunteers, outings and camps, transport, catering and student uniforms. Donations can be given in the following forms:

- A lump sum to support the overall programme
- Sponsorship of a child to attend the Saturday School annually
- Sponsorship of an uBambiswano fundraising event
- Contribution of in-kind products, services and networking opportunities
- Opportunities for post matric skills, training and internships.

Funding is also required in the form of bursaries and scholarships for our students to attend top-quality high schools.

uBAMBI SWANO CONTACT DETAILS

We would love to introduce you to this worthy programme.

Our contact details are as follows:

Tel: 011 453 9408

Email: holdinghands@standrews.co.za