

# The uBAMBISWANO BULLETIN

MAY 2022

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 [32-year track record](#) of contributing to the lives of over 1000 students
- On average, [100 students from grades 6 to 9](#) attend the Saturday School over a four-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,

In his book “Schools that Learn”, Peter Senge describes the exciting process of schools becoming true learning organisations: places where people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire; where new patterns of thinking are nurtured; and where people are continuously learning together.

Almost 12 million children are delivered into the hands of South African teachers every day. Schools have a responsibility to shape young minds and provide skills and opportunities through learning. This is a privilege that must be taken seriously. I trust that our commitment and dedication to our work is evident through our students’ achievements and physical, social, emotional, spiritual (values-based), and cognitive development.

uBambiswano is also a place of healing and dignity. It is a place of learning where young people acquire essential knowledge and skills; a place of empowerment and encouragement, where young people are invited to find – and stretch – their potential; a place where both character and competence are developed. I believe that the development of a strong character cannot be separated from academic performance or excellence.

We place emphasis on the development of the whole child – in fact, the whole person, because our children will grow up and become independent. For us, there is nothing more important than providing tools and skills to our students that they can use throughout the rest of their school careers and beyond. One of these tools is a focus on a healthy body and mind. We emphasise this because we know the importance of overall well-being for a content life. In this busy life, with all of its demands on our time and energy, it can be easy to avoid prioritising our physical and mental health. We encourage students to prioritise themselves because we know that this is the key to resilience.

A powerful way of remembering to prioritise yourself is to follow the NURSE protocol:

**N – nourishment**  
**U – understanding (in other words, kindness towards yourself and others)**  
**R – rest, relaxation, recreation**  
**S – spirituality**  
**E – exercise**

By incorporating these into your daily life (even in the smallest ways), you will find that you are better able to handle stress and find enjoyment in being alive.

At uBambiswano we are in pursuit of developing thinking, caring, happy, young people, who understand that there is a higher purpose in life than to live for oneself. We nurture this belief in everything we do: in the way we learn, through the lessons we teach, and how we ought to meet each other with respect and dignity.

With my best wishes,



**Sipiwe Vilakazi**  
uBambiswano Head

Mr Sipiwe Vilakazi (uBambiswano Head)



## STAFF NEWS - CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELL

### Congratulations

Our Head of School, **Siphiwe Vilakazi**, completed his Leadership Development Programme (LDP) through the Wits Business School. The LDP equips managers and leaders to understand the different components of school leadership, and to adopt new and improved ways of managing and leading themselves as well as working effectively with others. Modules offered included: Authentic Leadership, Basic Legal Principles, Marketing, Strategy, Accounting and Finance, as well as modules on Diversity, People and Operations Management. Delegates represented Heads, Deputy Heads, Bursars and other future leaders from schools throughout Southern Africa.

Congratulations to **Thandiwe Nyembe**, who was recently awarded a Bachelor of Education at UNISA. Thandiwe was an intern at the St Andrew's Junior School whilst teaching Grade 7 Natural Science at uBambiswano. She is now a full-time teacher at Spark School Kempton Park and continues to teach at uBambiswano on Saturday. We are proud of her wonderful achievement.



**Siphiwe Vilakazi**  
*uBambiswano Head of School*



**Thandiwe Nyembe**  
*Grade 7 Natural Science Teacher*

### Farewell

We bid farewell to **Wendy Sibeko** who taught Grade 8 and 9 Maths. Wendy was also a Math intern at St Andrew's School for Girls, as well as working in the Boarding House. Wendy is relocating back to Mpumalanga to be closer to her family. We wish her well and thank her for the contribution she has made in the lives of our uBambiswano students. We have no doubt that she will continue to achieve great things.



**Wendy Sibeko**  
*Grade 8 & 9 Maths Teacher*

## ART COMPETITION

Our uBambiswano students participated in an art competition organised by the St Andrew's Alumni Committee. There were submissions from all four St Andrew's schools, which are Preschool, Junior School, Senior School and uBambiswano. The idea behind the art competition was to get students to submit an artwork (drawing/painting/mixed media) that captures their favourite part of St Andrew's. Winners will have their artworks turned into a set of greeting cards and other memorabilia in celebration of St Andrew's 120<sup>th</sup> birthday. The alumni will then sell these cards to raise funds for bursaries. The eight uBambiswano students who made submissions of their artworks had an opportunity to visit **Hannelie Coetzee art gallery in Victoria Yards**. Hannelie uses industry waste or obsolete archives, often with unlikely partnerships, to build site-specific artworks where the meaning of the artwork is also carried in the material she uses. Her artworks are sometimes permanent, but often ephemeral.

The students also had an opportunity to visit the **David Krut workshop at Arts On Main**, where we were met by past St Andrew's Senior School Head Girl, **Britt Lawton**. On the day, the students learned about David Krut, the workshop and his projects. The printmaking team showed the students some techniques and ways that they collaborate in studio. We would like to thank the St Andrew's Alumni Committee for arranging these two visits for our students.



uBambiswano Art Competition Participants



Hannelie Coetzee with uBambiswano students during a visit to her art studio



Siphwe Vilakazi (Head of uBambiswano), Hannelie Coetzee (Hannelie Coetzee Art Studio) and Olga Mahlangu (Assistant to Head of uBambiswano)



uBambiswano students working on their artworks for the art competition



Britt Lawton and her team welcoming uBambiswano students and staff at the David Krut Workshop at Art on Main

## FOUNDERS' DAY

On 22 January 2022, St Andrew's School for Girls celebrated its 120th birthday. The day was enjoyed by all who attended, including uBambiswano students and members of the uBambiswano community.

The day was punctuated by many special moments. The uBambiswano students spent the day on campus where they joined the Grade 7 Junior School girls for their lessons and activities. This integration between the St Andrew's students and the uBambiswano students was testament to the mutual respect and generosity of spirit between the students at both schools.



Maths teachers Sibulele Zingitwa & Wendy Sibeko with Executive Director of ISASA Mr Lebogang Montjane



Representatives from the 4 St Andrew's schools during the cutting of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake



Rev Alison Thabethe, Bishop Stephen Moreo, Canon Thandi Chaane and Heads of School



uBambiswano students using beads to make the 120<sup>th</sup> birthday badges



Our students holding birthday cards with their birthday messages for St Andrew's

## ACADEMIC AWARDS ASSEMBLY

On Saturday 12 February, we hosted an awards assembly to celebrate the achievements of our 2021 Grade 6 to 8 students. Our special guest was **Dr Nhlanhla Vilakazi**, who comes from a similar background to that of our students. He shared his journey of becoming a successful medical doctor and how he overcame the challenges he faced along the way. His talk was inspirational and so well received by our students and staff. 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.



Dr Nhlanhla Vilakazi (Guest of Honour), Precious Chezi (top student in Grade 8 2021) and Mrs Ivanka Acquisto (Executive Head)



Dr Nhlanhla Vilakazi (Guest of Honour)



Dr Nhlanhla Vilakazi (Guest of Honour) Mr Siphwe Vilakazi (Head of uBambiswano) and Mrs Ivanka Acquisto (Executive Head)



Ms Sibulele Zingitwa, Mrs An Salot, Ms Thato Huis, Mrs Joline Geldenhuys, Mr Siphwe Vilakazi, Ms Olga Mahlangu, Ms Marta Gaspari, Ms Thandiwe Nyembe, Ms Tsholo Mhlanga and Dr Nhlanhla Vilakazi



Dr Nhlanhla Vilakazi, Amukelani Kheswa (top student in Grade 6 English) and Mrs Joline Geldenhuys

## THE TOMORROW TRUST SATURDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Congratulations to The Tomorrow Trust Saturday School Programme's 2021 matric group, who achieved a **91% pass rate** in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations.

**70% of their students received Bachelor's Degree passes.** All the students who came through the uBambiswano programme passed with exceptional results.

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.



Basetsana Seboyane



Dineo Phala



Lethula Moloji



Lungile Hadebe



Patience Temba



**Basetsana Seboyane:** Basetsana achieved an overall average of 89% with seven distinctions in IsiZulu, English, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Accounting, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences. She was also the top-achieving learner in the entire community of Thembisa.

**Dineo Phala:** Dineo achieved an overall average of 87% with five distinctions in English, Geography, Mathematics, Life Science, and Physical Science.

**Lethula Moloji (uBambiswano Alumnus):** Lethula achieved an overall average of 81% with two distinctions in Life Sciences, Physical Sciences.

**Lungile Hadebe (uBambiswano Alumnus):** Lungile achieved an overall average of 80% with three distinctions in English, Life Orientation, Religion Studies.

**Patience Temba (uBambiswano Alumnus):** Patience achieved an overall average of 86% with five distinctions in English, Geography, Mathematics, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences.

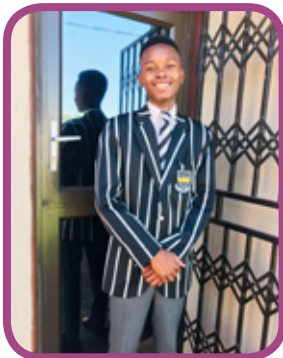
## SUPERGROUP DEALERSHIPS

Thank you to our sponsor, Supergroup Dealerships, for their generous donation of branded backpacks and stationery for each uBambiswano student. The donation was received with much excitement and appreciation. We are grateful to Supergroup Dealerships for their continued support and kindness.

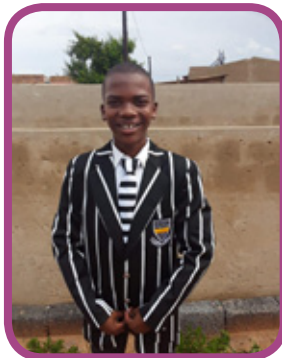


## OUR 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

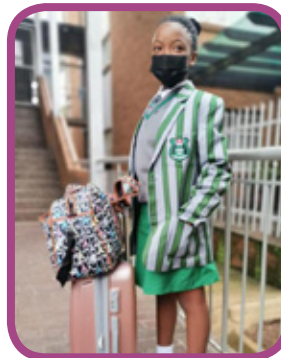
Our special thoughts go to our 2022 scholarship recipients, who started a new chapter of their lives at their new schools. We wish them all the best and encourage them to keep us abreast of their achievements in the future.



**Comfort Lephoto (Grade 11)**  
*Make a Difference Leadership*  
Jeppe High School for Boys



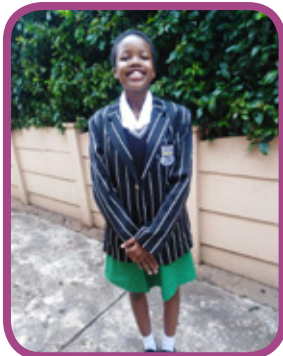
**Xolani Buthelezi (Grade 9)**  
*Make a Difference Leadership*  
Jeppe High School for Boys



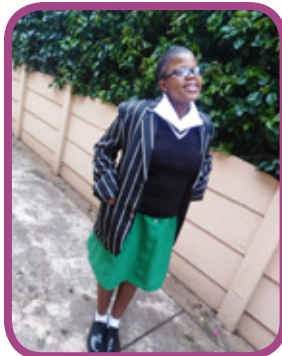
**Buhlebukhona Vilane (Grade 8)**  
*Make a Difference Leadership*  
Queens High School



**Alicia Morgan (Grade 8)**  
*St Andrew's Trust Scholarship*  
St Andrew's School for Girls



**Lerato Makate (Grade 9)**  
*Make a Difference Leadership*  
Jeppe High School for Girls



**Noxolo Msiza (Grade 10)**  
*Make a Difference Leadership*  
Jeppe High School for Girls



**Nhlanhla Sibisi (Grade 8)**  
*Make a Difference Leadership*  
Jeppe High School for Girls

**Buhle Mkhwanazi (Grade 8)**  
*Allan Gray Orbis Foundation*  
St Andrew's School for Girls

## DEBATING

Our uBambiswano debating team participated in their first debating competition at St David's Marist College Inanda in Sandton. Many thanks to the Coach Itu Academy, who have been working with our students to ensure they are ready for the debating competitions.

**Mr Siphiwe Vilakazi (Head of uBambiswano) and the uBambiswano debating team**





## ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS OPEN DAY

St Andrew's held their Open Day on 5 February 2022, 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?

The students who represented us 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.

# OPEN DAY



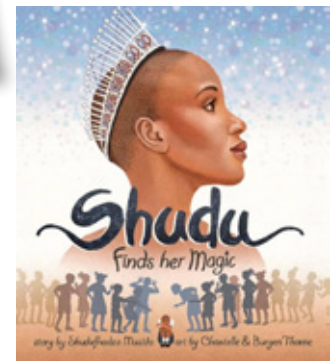
## WELLNESS DAY

The well-being of all students at uBambiswano is of paramount importance and a strong pastoral support system is in place so that each student can timeously seek out the correct help when the need arises. This may include academic challenges and educational support, physical health, spiritual wellness and growth, as well as counselling or psychological assistance. The Wellness Day was facilitated by a 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.



## ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR SCHOOL FOUNDATION PHASE DONATION

uBambiswano would like to thank the St Andrew's Junior School Foundation Phase parents for donating ten signed copies of the book, *Shudu*, written by former Miss South Africa, Shudufhadzo Musida. We will use the book as part of our mentor group discussions. Siyabonga kakhulu.



## ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK TEAM

We would like to thank the St Andrew's Senior School Community Engagement Task Team for organising two fun-filled activities for our uBambiswano students this term. Our students have enjoyed interacting with the Task Team members and they are looking forward to more interactions in Term 2.

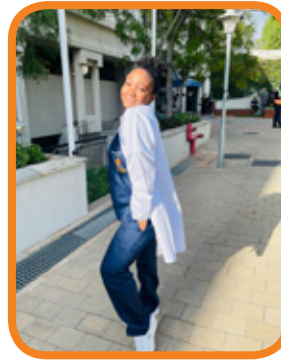


## ALUMNI NEWS

One of the ways that we measure the success of uBambiswano's Saturday School programme is by tracking the progress of our alumni. We are delighted to hear from past students, who often contact us years after they were in the programme to tell us about their successes and progress.

**Amukelani Manda**, who was a student at uBambiswano from 2014 to 2017, is only one example. Amukelani joined St Andrew's School for Girls in Grade 10, matriculating in 2020 with outstanding results. Her results allowed her to enrol for a BSc at the University of Pretoria where, after completing her first semester with superb results, she converted to Medicine. Amukelani is now doing her second year of Medicine.

Another alumna, **Gugulethu Mashego**, entered St Andrew's in 2018, after four years in the uBambiswano programme. Five years later, Gugulethu continues to shine academically, and has also grown into a kind young woman. She has stayed involved with uBambiswano, working with students on a voluntary basis on Saturdays. Gugulethu has been accepted to a BSc programme in Biological Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand.



Amukelani Manda



Gugulethu Mashego

## GRADE 9 SUBJECT CHOICE INFORMATION MORNING

We would like to thank **Priscilla Reddy** for facilitating the Grade 9 Subject Choice Information Morning. 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 morning 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.



Mrs Priscilla Reddy and Grade 9 uBambiswano students



uBambiswano students working on iPads during the Subject Choice Information Morning

## THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD AND ROUND SQUARE ASSEMBLY

Many thanks to **JD Mostert** for presenting the President's Award Programme and Round Square to uBambiswano students. JD heads up our Outdoor Education and Round Square Programme. Over the past two years, JD has successfully integrated Round Square ideals into the uBambiswano programme. We are so grateful for all the groundwork that he has done to ensure that the uBambiswano students are fully immersed in Round Square activities.



Mr JD Mostert and uBambiswano students



## #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.

## UBAMBISWANO 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](mailto:holdinghands@standrews.co.za)