

The uBAMBISWANO BULLETIN

AUG 2021

CELEBRATING
30
YEARS

INDEX



A Letter from the Head - Silver Linings	Pg 2
Staff News - Welcome & In Loving Memory	Pg 3
uBambiswano & Supergroup Dealerships Partnership	Pg 4
EyeBrainGym	Pg 4
St Andrew's Community Service Task Team Activity	Pg 5
Africa Day Celebration	Pg 5
Distance Learning Programme	Pg 6
St Andrew's Preschool Stationery Drive	Pg 7
St Andrew's Senior School Sanitary Products Drive	Pg 7
Grade 8 2021 Scholarship Recipients - Update	Pg 7
Round Square 5km Hike	Pg 8
Unpacking & Understanding Unrest Workshop	Pg 8
Student Sponsorship Programme	Pg 9

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 [30-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 cooking 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.



St Andrew's School
— for Girls —
SKILLED FOR LIFE

A LETTER FROM THE HEAD - SILVER LININGS

Dear uBambiswano family,

There was a collective groan across the nation when President Ramaphosa announced the country's move to adjusted Level 4 Lockdown on Sunday 27 June. While we were perhaps expecting it – especially here in Gauteng – another lockdown felt like a blow just as we were beginning to emerge from what has felt like never-ending social isolation.

For those of us who work with young people, we became immediately concerned. We have, of course, seen an uptick in positive COVID-19 cases in young people. Their health must be our primary concern, but we cannot forget the ripple effects on their emotional and mental well-being. We remember how hard many young people found the country's first hard lockdown and there is still some anxiety (felt by teachers and parents alike) about their academic progress.

Then, to add to the already pervasive anxiety, our country experienced a week of turmoil and violence that threatened our democracy, and certainly raised many questions about the general mood in the country. This was a stressful time for children, all of them too young to have to concern themselves with matters of violence and civil unrest, and yet old enough to have questions that urgently need answers.

The uBambiswano team certainly learned many valuable lessons in 2020 and the early part of 2021. So, when the latest lockdown and school closures were announced, we were ready! And when the civil unrest broke out, we also knew that our students needed us to step up and be calm in the storm.

Within a matter of days of the lockdown announcement, we had full packs of learning materials ready to be printed, packed and distributed to our students. Our communication networks also kicked back into gear and we revived our popular WhatsApp support groups.

Unfortunately, the Daveyton and Etwatwa communities were severely impacted by the civil unrest. Messages of hope and encouragement were shared with our community on our social media platforms and WhatsApp support groups. We also arranged a workshop for our students to help them unpack the events, where they could ask their questions and come to terms with what had happened in a safe and constructive way.

Over the past year and a half, our team has seen the need to be creative and flexible in our approach to learning and teaching. We have also seen the need to engage directly and honestly with our students on all important issues. This is part of their holistic education, and will go a long way to ensuring that they become the leaders we so desperately need.

Thank you to everyone who has supported uBambiswano, and me personally. Special mention to our donors, our sponsors, the uBambiswano committee, the directors of the St Andrew's Board and our partner schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa.

Finally, thank you to my own family for their love, support and prayers. It is because of your support that I feel able to lead this team of exceptional people, who give so much to the beneficiaries of this programme.

As Paulo Freire said; **"Education is an act of love, and thus an act of courage."**

Siphiwe Vilakazi
uBambiswano Head



Mr Siphiwe Vilakazi (uBambiswano Head)

STAFF NEWS

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome **Thato Huis** and **Thandiwe Nyembe** to the uBambiswano family. Thato and Thandiwe are both interns at the St Andrew's Junior School and are co-teaching Grade 6 and 7 Natural Science, which was previously only offered to Grade 8 and 9 students. Thato and Thandiwe have already impressed us with their creative content and enthusiasm. We wish Thato and Thandiwe a happy stay at uBambiswano.



Thato Huis



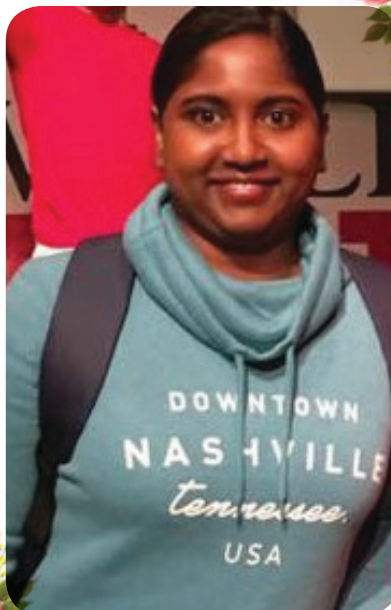
Thandiwe Nyembe

In Loving Memory of Loraine Chetty

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of **Loraine Chetty** on 30 May 2021. Loraine had been struggling with a non-Covid-related illness for some time.

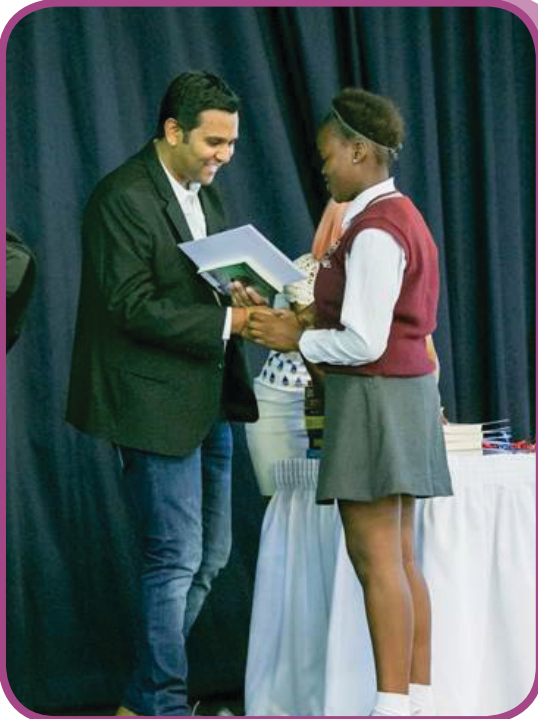
Loraine was a valued member of our uBambiswano Committee, as well as serving as our bookkeeper. We are forever grateful to Loraine for her significant contribution to the uBambiswano community. She will be deeply missed by all.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Chetty family.



Loraine Chetty

uBAMBISWANO & SUPERGROUP DEALERSHIPS PARTNERSHIP



Natesh Sing handing out the prizes on behalf of Supergroup Dealerships

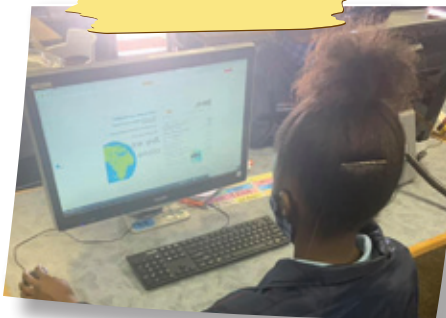
We continue to be very grateful for the generous support that we have been receiving from Supergroup Dealerships. It enables us to provide an excellent holistic education to our beneficiaries. We are so excited about the new initiatives that have been introduced to further strengthen the partnership between uBambiswano and Supergroup Dealerships. Two uBambiswano alumni have been offered an apprenticeship opportunity at Supergroup Dealerships. Both candidates went through the interview process, as well as completing a written assessment. Further to this, there will be a Bookkeeper/Receptionist position that will be offered to a member of our community who is currently unemployed but has the necessary skills to fill the role.

Thank you to Supergroup Dealerships!
We appreciate your generosity.



EYEBRAINGYM (EBG)

Gym for the brain! We are very pleased to share that we have successfully launched our EBG online programme. EBG helps our students perform a complete visual processing, reading and cognitive assessment that measures their processing speed and, based on their results, provides them with a targeted set of personalised visual processing and cognitive exercises to improve their visual intelligence.



Our students enjoying our EBG online sessions



THE ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY SERVICE TASK TEAM ACTIVITY

On 15 May 2021, the St Andrew's School for Girls Community Service Task Team (led by **Gugu Mashego**, who is an uBambiswano alumnus) collaborated with St John's College students to organise a fun-filled and educational afternoon for uBambiswano students. The afternoon was enjoyed by all, and was also a wonderful opportunity for the students to connect and get to know one another better.



uBambiswano students participating in different activities



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

AFRICA DAY CELEBRATION

Africa Day is celebrated every year on 25 May to commemorate the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (now the African Union). Africa Day gives us a chance to reflect on Africa's progress, and reinvigorates us to find our own solutions to the continent's current challenges. We also used the day to celebrate authors and artists from the African continent. In addition to this, each subject focused on the contributions made by Africans in their specific subject areas. Both the students and staff enjoyed the Africa Day activities.



uBambiswano students and staff dressed in their beautiful traditional attire to celebrate Africa Day

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME

Our distance learning programme became a reality again, replacing face-to-face lessons as a result of the nationwide lockdown. On Saturday 3 July, we distributed study material packs and pre-packed lunches to our students in Daveyton and Etwatwa. The students were provided with sufficient notes, activities and projects to keep them engaged and learning until we reopened for on-site learning and teaching on Saturday 31 July 2021. We also launched WhatsApp support groups to further assist our students.



Teaching and learning material ready to be distributed to our students in Daveyton



Olga Mahlangu (Assistant to Head of uBambiswano) and Sipiwe Vilakazi (Head of uBambiswano) distributing teaching and learning materials in Daveyton



Our students working through their learning packs at home

EXCEPTIONAL AND BALANCED EDUCATION

At uBambiswano, we are known for our academic prowess. Our small classes, with no more than 26 students per class, ensure that each student receives special, personalised attention from the teachers and is able to meaningfully interact with others in the classroom. Our students are never 'lost in the crowd'. They are individuals – to us, to themselves, to those around them.



ST ANDREW'S PRESCHOOL STATIONERY DRIVE

A huge thank you to the preschool community for donating stationery to uBambiswano. We are so grateful for this kind gesture and appreciate the ongoing support from the preschool community. *Siyabonga kakhulu!*



ST ANDREW'S SENIOR SCHOOL SANITARY PRODUCTS DRIVE



This term, the Community Service Task Team collected sanitary products for uBambiswano and our partner schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa. The drive was also intended to raise awareness and combat period poverty within our community. Period poverty continues to manifest as a prevalent issue preventing thousands of young women and girls from receiving an education.

Thank you to all the staff, students and members of the Senior School community who contributed to this important cause.

GRADE 8 2021 SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS - UPDATE

At the end of 2020, six of our Grade 7 uBambiswano students were awarded scholarships to gain entry to good-quality high schools, including boarding. We continue to give support to these students as they find their feet in their new schools, and are happy to share that they are all making very pleasing progress with their academics and settling well in their new environments.



Mpilwenhle Sithole
Grade 8 Jeppe High School for Boys



Precious Chezi
Grade 8 Jeppe High School for Girls



Kgaugelo Motloug
Grade 8 Jeppe High School for Girls



Thando Ngwenya
Grade 8 Queens High School



Karabelo Mofokeng
Grade 8 St Andrew's School for Girls



Thato Amigo
Grade 8 St Andrew's School for Girls

ROUND SQUARE 5KM HIKE



uBambiswano is proud to be part of the Round Square international community of schools. Round Square is centred on 6 IDEALS – Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism Stewardship, Adventure, Leadership and Service. These IDEALS underpin the Round Square Discovery Framework, which supports schools in developing and structuring holistic programmes that build character, competencies and life skills in our students. The Round Square IDEALS also provide a common platform, shared by all schools in their network, around which we can collaborate, swap and share learning resources and participate together in joint activities, such as conferences, exchanges and academic projects.

On 31 July, our students participated in 5km hike as part of Adventure and Environmentalism IDEALS. The hike was led by our Head of Outdoor Education and Round Square Coordinator **JD Mostert**. During the hike JD shared some knowledge on watershed areas and wattle as an alien invasive species. The students enjoyed the hike and the education aspect of it and reaffirmed our commitment to protecting and preserving the environment.

We would like to thank JD for his significant contribution to our outdoor education, which includes the President’s Award programme for Grade 9 students, and for creating opportunities for our uBambiswano students to be fully immersed in the Round Square activities.



JD Mostert - Head of Outdoor Education and Round Square Coordinator

UNPACKING & UNDERSTANDING UNREST WORKSHOP

We were joined by a team from Umsamo Institute to help our students unpack the recent unrest and violence that took place in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. As a school, we felt it was important to have a debriefing with our students to help them process their feelings and anxieties caused by the recent unrest and violence. Daveyton and Etwatwa were hugely impacted by the violent unrest and most of the families in these communities had to manage some form of ripple effects.



It was beneficial for all of us to have this safe space to ask questions and raise concerns. The students were taught some useful skills that they can go back and share with their communities. The level of engagement was impressive, and the Umsamo team were very complimentary of our children’s grit and resilience, and their comprehension of current affairs.



Civil Unrest: Tips for Parents

Foster Resilience Instead of Fear in children.



Create a Safe Space

Allow children to speak about what’s on their minds and reflect their feelings back to them.

Validate Big Feelings

This allows your child to feel heard and understood. There’s no shame in being overwhelmed by the chaos and uncertainty.

Being scared is OK

But we don’t allow fear to rule our home. At a volatile time for South Africa, we experience many emotions. This is normal for adults and children. Talk openly about these feelings.



SAPS Crime Stop: 10111
Childline: 08000 55 555

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

On Saturday 29 May, we were delighted by a visit from the former Junior School Head **Bridget Walton**. Bridget is sponsoring the annual school fees for uBambiswano student, **Buhle Mkhwanazi**. Bridget and Buhle had an opportunity to get to know each other over a cup of tea. Bridget strongly believes that it is important to know the child you are sponsoring, and to offer other forms of support, other than just financial. Bridget and Buhle look forward to staying in regular contact throughout Buhle's uBambiswano journey – and even beyond.

In order to continue our work with these amazing children, we are constantly looking for individuals and organisations to sponsor their involvement with the Saturday School. It costs just R8 000 per year to provide one student with everything they need to participate (including teaching staff, stationery, transportation and outings).

uBambiswano's bank account details are as follows:

Account Name: uBambiswano

Bank: Standard Bank

Account Number: 421574224

Branch: Eastgate

Branch Code: 018505

Reference: Your name or organisation name

Please send proof of payment to Ms Olga Mahlangu omahlangu@standrews.co.za so that we can acknowledge receipt of your contribution and issue you with a tax certificate.



Bridget Walton and Buhle Mkhwanazi

#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