

The uBAMBISWANO BULLETIN

Aug 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,

“Watching young people grow and flourish through the process of preparing for and giving a performance is something I’ll never tire of. Those once shy now shine. Those once unsure now certain. Those who knew they could prove they can. The Arts facilitate wonderfully holistic growth.” – Vaughan Fleischflesser.

This is how I felt after watching the St Andrew’s Senior School major production, Hairspray, which our Grade 9s were invited to attend. For some of them, it was their first time experiencing a live production, and it was obvious that it made a lasting impression.

Firstly, congratulations to the Senior School staff and students and, in particular, Kholu Motsweni, who directed this amazing production. It was excellently done, and so enjoyable to watch the beautiful talent at St Andrew’s, ranging from vocals, dancers, performers, artists, and more.

The production was slick, and it was a delight to experience the little tweaks that Kholu included to give the musical a witty South African flavour.

Afterwards, we were inspired to think about uBambiswano hosting our own production one day!

The arts play an important role in the whole child development, which is our ethos at uBambiswano. That’s why we are delighted to work in partnership with Confident Kids, who provide drama lessons to uBambiswano. Through this wonderful partnership, we have been able to produce snippets that the students perform at the prize-giving ceremonies, and various other platforms. A special thank you goes to Mandy Potgieter, Bongeka Ngubane, and Siphon Zakwe who have been championing uBambiswano’s development in this space.

Debating has been another exciting offering in the arts and culture space. The Coach Itu Academy has exceeded our expectations in their offering to our students. They have created so many wonderful opportunities for our students to engage in various competitions. I have personally seen how our students’ confidence has soared from being involved in these debates. Other than providing us with entertainment and offering exciting educational, spiritual, and personal growth opportunities, the arts also provide us with something important in today’s world: a distraction.

I acknowledge that our community is going through a difficult period with high inflation, rising petrol prices, as well as high crime rates and killings. I am humbled by people’s ability to continue on despite these challenges, and wish I had the right words to offer some comfort and hope. For now, we trust in each other to carry us through these difficult times, and look forward to brighter days ahead.

A warm thank you to our sponsors for the incredible support, and for helping us to ensure that we can continue to provide hope to our uBambiswano family and communities.

Thank you, also, to the uBambiswano team for their hard work and commitment to the education of our uBambiswano beneficiaries. We have dedicated teachers and interns, who ensure that our students receive a world-class education – uBambiswano could not function without them.

A special word of gratitude for Thina Mabuza, the directors of the St Andrew’s Board, and the uBambiswano Committee for their support and guidance, as well as to the Heads team and Business Manager.

Thank you all for being a bright light for me.
All the best for the rest of the school year!

With my best wishes,



Sipiwe Vilakazi
uBambiswano Head

Sipiwe Vilakazi (uBambiswano Head)



STAFF NEWS - CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELL

Farewell

At the end of Term 2, we said goodbye to our yoga instructor and member of the uBambiswano Committee **Yoliswa Mphahlele**. Yoliswa is emigrating to Australia. We wish to thank Yoliswa for her commitment to uBambiswano and for her willingness to go the extra mile for students.



Yoliswa Mphahlele with Sipiwe Vilakazi
(Head of uBambiswano)

Congratulations

Olga Mahlangu, the Assistant to Head of uBambiswano, will join the St Andrew's campus Transformation Task Team (TTT) as the uBambiswano representative. This will ensure that uBambiswano remains aligned with the School's Transformation journey. We wish Olga well in this new role.



Olga Mahlangu
Assistant to Head of uBambiswano

YOUTH MONTH ASSEMBLY

We hosted a youth month assembly to celebrate the achievements of our youth. Our special guest was Nomcebo Nyembezi, who shared her journey of completing a BA degree in Political Science, International Relations and Media Studies (Triple Major) and becoming a successful LLB graduate. She also shared how she overcame the challenges she faced along the way. Her talk was inspirational and well received by our students and staff. The Youth Month assembly was such a heart-warming occasion, and has energised us all for the rest of this school year.



The Youth Month assembly was held in the Alister Rogan Auditorium



Our guest of honour, Nomcebo
Nyembezi

AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS

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.

Our uBambiswano and Tomorrow Trust students **attended a panel discussion**. The theme was 'Africa Rising'. The panelists included the current Junior Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, an education consultant, a property entrepreneur, and students. The discussion centred around how every person can contribute to finding solutions for our continent's challenges. After an interesting and enjoyable discussion, the event ended off with a special African meal.

The Grade 7 and 9 students joined St Andrew's for the **Africa Day service and the Harvest Festival**. The Harvest Festival and Africa Day chapel service culminated in over 800 students and staff members celebrating unity in Africa as we filled in the shape of our continent and prayed for God's blessing.

The Africa Day celebrations were truly special.



uBambiswano Africa Day celebrations



St Andrew's School Africa Day and Harvest Festival celebrations

HEAL

PEACE
RESTORE

Prayer for Africa
God Bless Africa,
Protect our children,
Transform our leaders,
Heal our communities,
Restore our dignity,
And give us peace
For Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen

TRANSFORM
PROTECT



The panelists included the current Junior Mayor of the city of Johannesburg, a Junior Councillor, an Education consultant and a property entrepreneur

BLESS



uBambiswano and Tomorrow Trust students at the Africa Day panel discussion event

EDUCATION EMPOWERS SYMPOSIUM

Six of our Grade 9 students attended the **Education Empowers Symposium**, hosted by the Kasi Fundi Foundation in Orlando East, Soweto. The initiative was aimed at aligning students with the right career paths. It featured a panel that included young professionals across different fields of study, including accounting, public relations, digital marketing, business, and engineering. We hope after this event our students will have a different perspective of the study options and a clearer direction of where they see themselves. Our role is to inspire and show them that anything is possible. We would like to thank Thandeka Thusi for inviting our students to this amazing event.



Our Grade 9 uBambiswano students with the Junior Mayor of the City of Johannesburg

EMPOWERS YOUNG STUDENTS

RIGHT CAREER PATHS



Grade 9 students with Thandeka Thusi (founder of Kasi Fundi Foundation)

EDUCATION EMPOWERS SYMPOSIUM



Grade 9 students received goodie bags from PwC

MANDELA DAY

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a symbol of hope, reconciliation and a passionate believer in the power of education to encourage, enlighten and create change. At uBambiswano, we share that passion. We believe that education shapes a person's life and has a far-reaching impact on families and communities. Education gives people and communities hope.

It was with this hopeful spirit that we asked our St Andrew's community to donate R67 to uBambiswano and support our programme.

Donations make a significant difference in the lives of the children in our programme, which, in turn, positively affects their families and communities.

Thank you for supporting uBambiswano.



MANDELA DAY
18 JULY 2022

Please donate **R67** to uBambiswano by
31st July 2022 in aid of our beneficiaries.

To make your donation via EFT, please use:
Account Name: uBambiswano
Bank: Standard Bank
Branch: Eastgate
Branch Code: 018505
Account Number: 421574224
Reference: Your name or organisation name

BE THE CHANGE THIS MANDELA MONTH

"Education is the most powerful weapon which
you can use to change the world."

CELEBRATING
120
years
1918-2018
Nelson Mandela
Mandela for Life

- NELSON MANDELA

Holding hands for our future
uBambiswano



THE GLEN EDUCATION EXPO

Two of our Grade 9 uBambiswano students participated in The Glen Education Expo. Our students worked alongside the St Andrew's staff, parents and students in marketing our beautiful campus.

The day was enjoyed by all involved.



EDUCATION EXPO

2022 CAREERS EXPO

Our Grade 9 students were invited to the **St Andrew's School for Girls 2022 Careers Expo**. This function was arranged to give students a broad overview of some of the career fields open to them and to help them to identify different study routes that will be worth further investigation. Representatives from most of the major universities and tertiary institutions, as well as from companies offering gap-year suggestions, were invited to set up displays in the school hall. The students also interacted with tertiary institutions and found out more about the courses and how to apply, as well as student loans and accounts.

There was also an opportunity to meet all sorts of professionals from legal and accounting partners to entrepreneurs, engineering directors, specialised doctors, and more. Many thanks to **Priscilla Reddy** and her team for inviting our Grade 9 uBambiswano students to this very worthwhile and interesting event. Siyabonga kakhulu!



GAP
YEAR



SPECIALISED
DOCTORS



Accounting



ENGINEERS



ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS OPEN DAY

It was wonderful for uBambiswano to be part of the **Term 2 St Andrew's School for Girls Open Day**. 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 superb job in talking to prospective parents and students who enquired about uBambiswano, our relationship with St Andrew's, and our work in the communities of Daveyton and Etwatwa.

OPEN DAY



MISSION: JOY MOVIE PREMIERE

Our school heads and chaplain were privileged to watch the world premiere of the film Mission: Joy hosted by The Ridge School and the Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg. This fascinating documentary is a beautiful record of the meeting of friends Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama in 2015 and their reflections on finding and sharing joy.



Lee Milner (Head of Preschool) and Sipiwe Vilakazi (Head of uBambiswano)



Ivanka Acquisto (Executive Head) and Sipiwe Vilakazi (Head of uBambiswano)



Wayne Naidoo (Head of The Ridge School) and Bishop Stephen Moreo (The Bishop of Johannesburg)

WELLNESS DAY

Our pastoral care, which **focuses on students' emotional, social, spiritual and psychological well-being**, is the 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**.

We would like to thank the St Andrew's Wellness Department for their ongoing support. This term Mbali Mashaba and Anna Feist ran an excellent workshop with all the students around managing anxiety and also shared some effective study skills that students can apply when preparing for academic assessments. **The wellness team will run another session with our uBambiswano students in Term 3**. Our staff also had an opportunity to have an online coffee connect with the wellness team to chat about various support services that are available to staff.



THE ROUND SQUARE 5km HIKE

Our students participated in a 5 km 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.



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.

Congratulations to the following uBambiswano alumni:

- **Lindiwe Digoro**, who was recently awarded a Bachelor of Law at the University of the Witwatersrand
- **Raymond Ubisse**, a BSc in Mechanical Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand
- **Poledi Malala**, who was recently awarded a Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Civil Engineering at the Tshwane University of Technology
- **Malehlohonolo Lebiysa**, who was awarded a Bachelor of Diagnostic Radiography at the University of Johannesburg. We are proud of their wonderful achievements.



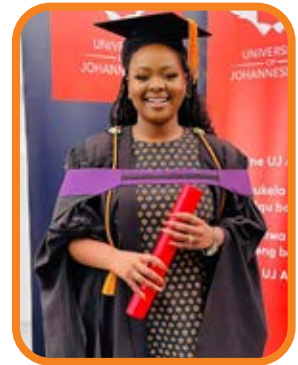
Lindiwe Digoro



Raymond Ubisse



Poledi Malala



Malehlohonolo Lebiysa

Congratulations

SPONSORSHIP

After months of negotiations, we have secured a significant donation from **SAFRIPOL**. We are pleased to be partnering with a company whose values are aligned to what we do at uBambiswano. Safripol's generous donation will be used to further advance the educational needs of our beneficiaries, sponsoring them so that they are able to gain access to good quality schools and institutions.

We have also received a commitment in writing from **SUPERGROUP DEALERSHIPS** that they will be making another generous donation to uBambiswano in September.

Thank you for supporting uBambiswano. Our Saturday School programme relies on your generosity.



Sponsorship

END-OF-TERM CELEBRATIONS

We would like to thank the Reddy family and friends who provided students and staff with a scrumptious meal for lunch at our end-of-term celebration. Both students and staff enjoyed the beautifully cooked bryani and various treats for dessert. The lunch was accompanied by some entertainment and was a wonderful way to close off a very successful school term.

The staff also took some time out of our busy days to have a Term 2 Birthday Tea, as well as to say farewell to Yoliswa.



END-OF-TERM CELEBRATIONS



#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