

The uBAMBISWANO BULLETIN

August 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

I recently attended a talk entitled 'Educating for the Future', delivered by Peter Alkema, former CIO of Business Banking at FNB. There is a strong likelihood that many of the jobs we currently do will be replaced by artificial intelligence (AI) in the future. This obviously leads into a discussion about how we can prepare our children for this world – what skills and knowledge will they need? And while this fascinating topic dominated Peter's talk, I was most struck by his assurance that humankind's desire to seek purpose and meaning in life is unwavering. Making sense and meaning out of the learning experience is fundamentally a human experience and is always likely to be so. Good teachers are, thus, unlikely to be replaced by robots in the so-called 4th industrial revolution.

In South Africa, and in fact throughout most of the world, a teacher-shortage crisis is looming. Fewer young people are attracted to the profession, and many who are leave within the first decade of teaching. So, how do we attract young people to our profession and allow them the space to be nurtured and developed? I believe we need to change the conversations we have with our children about teachers. We should insist that they are respectful and we need to model that respect when we talk to and about teachers in front of them.

Interestingly, all futurists agree that our most important task in preparing young people for the modern world as educators is to teach empathy. A value like this is taught essentially through the hidden curriculum and has to be modelled by adults in everything we say and do in our interactions with young people. It directly contradicts the values of the 'i-generation' and is often strongly resisted.

The curriculum at uBambiswano is continually evaluated and developed. This ensures that it responds to the needs of the community it serves, and also provides for the broader South African and global contexts. Our educational philosophy is that each student, through opportunity and challenge, has the chance to explore the world and develop their unique talents in a safe environment. High achievers who need extra challenges are continually stimulated. And students of lesser academic capability can progress in a group that builds self-esteem and confidence. We focus on the skills necessary to develop critical, passionate, lifelong learners. At uBambiswano, academic excellence is achieved when students and teachers share a love of learning. Extending beyond the curriculum, we explore each subject in richness and depth, taught in a way that helps students thrive. The same dedication is also applied to music, sports, and the arts.

I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the smooth running of the school. We are very fortunate to have several people who work tirelessly to ensure that the uBambiswano students receive the very best education and care. These people give their time, energy, and enthusiasm – often working unseen and unnoticed, going above and beyond what is asked of them – and to them I say thank you. To the administrative staff, the catering team, the security staff, and the maintenance and cleaning team... thank you! It is my hope that, one day, our students will look back on this time in their lives and remember us well for our enthusiasm and steadfastness in the face of adversity. I would also like to thank Thina Mabuza, the directors of the St Andrew's Board, the uBambiswano Committee, the Heads team and Business Manager for their ongoing support and guidance. Thank you to all our dedicated teachers and interns who ensure that our students receive an excellent education.

As always, education requires teamwork and it needs parents and educators to collaborate to be truly effective. No one has all the answers but one thing remains true despite the change – the future is always brighter when we work together.

With my best wishes



Sipiwe Vilakazi
uBambiswano Head

Sipiwe Vilakazi (uBambiswano Head)



Farewell

Our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to **Yvonne Malika** on her retirement. Yvonne was part of our Supercare support staff. While we are sad to see her go, Yvonne has earned her upcoming rest and relaxation. We wish her many happy, healthy, and fulfilling years ahead.



Yvonne Malika
Supercare Support Staff

Welcome

A warm welcome to **Reverend Lea Marumo** and her family. We wish her many years of fulfilment in her new role as School Chaplain at St Andrew's School for Girls.

We welcome **Maïke la Barre** to the role of Yoga Teacher at uBambiswano. Maïke has completed her 200-hour Yoga Teachers Training, as well as being certified as a Kids' Yoga Teacher for ages 2–17. Maïke spent four years teaching English to children aged 3–16, both in Taiwan and South Africa.

Welcome to **Daniela Regal** in the role of Educational Psychologist at uBambiswano. Daniela is part of the St Andrew's School Wellness Department, and she will be looking after the uBambiswano portfolio.

We are delighted to welcome **Sabrina Mdluli**, who is a sports intern at the St Andrew's Junior School. Sabrina has successfully introduced Physical Education at uBambiswano, and the students are responding positively to her lessons.

We wish **Rev Lea, Maïke, Daniela, and Sabrina** a happy stay at uBambiswano.



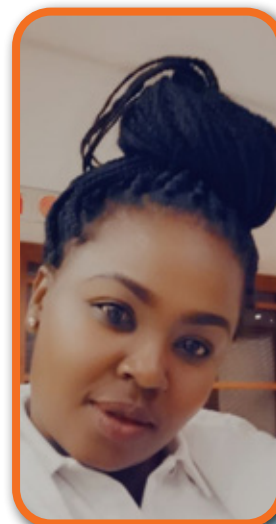
Reverend Lea Marumo
School Chaplain



Maïke la Barre
Yoga Teacher



Daniela Regal
Educational Psychologist



Sabrina Mdluli
Sports Intern

MAKE A DIFFERENCE LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

Our **Make A Difference Leadership Foundation** scholarship recipients were invited to participate in the **Annual MAD Leadership Summit**. The students enjoyed an amazing programme that included inspirational speakers. This summit was extra special because the Foundation is celebrating 20 years of making a difference.

Our students were also invited to a **gala dinner to celebrate 20 years of making a difference**. The students had such a great time. The dinner was also a wonderful networking opportunity. We wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our education partner for reaching this milestone.



Xolani Magagula
at the 2023 MAD Gala Dinner



Nkateko Ndlovu
at the 2023 MAD Gala Dinner



Bianca Mkhize
at the 2023 MAD Gala Dinner



Moeketsi Mashibini
at the 2023 MAD Gala Dinner



Students at the 2023 MAD Gala Dinner to celebrate 20
Years of Making A Difference



Precious Chezi and Lerato Makate
at the 2023 MAD Gala Dinner

CHESS LESSONS

A big thank you to the **St Andrew's Senior School Community Engagement Task Team** and members of the **Chess Club** for arranging chess lessons for uBambiswano students. The students enjoyed learning about chess and the techniques used in the game. It was also lovely to see the **wonderful interaction between Senior School and uBambiswano students**.



VISIT TO OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS

The uBambiswano team visited 10 primary schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa, where we were warmly received and where we were able to **connect with Principals and Deputy Principals**. At these meetings, we shared feedback about the 2023 Grade 5 and 6 intake, as well as our new and **exciting professional development programmes**. We value our special partnership with the community and our partner schools. **uBambiswano works with more than 20 primary schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa**. In Term 3, we will visit the remaining schools.

Professional Development Programmes



Inkatha ka Zulu Management team,
Head of uBambiswano,
PA to the Head of uBambiswano

DISCUSSION FORUMS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

uBambiswano hosted a discussion forum for Deputy Principals from ten of our partner schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa. The forum's theme was 'Holistic Education in a Post Covid Environment'. This gathering provided a platform for the Deputy Principals to learn from each other and also promoted more collaboration amongst our partner schools. There was an opportunity to discuss curriculum and co-curricular matters and, most importantly, how to reintegrate our students into a holistic learning environment post-pandemic.

We also hosted a discussion forum for 10 Principals from our partner schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa. The forum's theme was 'Leading through Adversity'. The Principals joined each other in the spirit of collegiality, benefitting from connectedness and time with others who know how it feels to lead a school at this time. Participants left feeling enriched, inspired, and with a renewed sense of purpose and hope.



Deputy Principals from our partner schools in Daveyton & Etwatwa



Deputy Principals sharing good practices & enjoying lunch



Forum for Principals - our Executive Head, Ivanka Acquisto welcoming principals from our partner schools



Siyabonga Mkhize from Umsamo Institute presenting to principals



uBambiswano Head and principals from our partner schools

MATHS WORKSHOP

uBambiswano hosted a Maths workshop for teachers from our partner schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa. The workshop's theme was **'Pouring From A Full Cup'**. Delegates included both Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase teachers. We would like to thank Ntokosi Skills Development and Spirit Animals for their excellent input at the workshop.



Maths teachers from our partner schools in Daveyton & Etwata



Our Executive Head welcoming the maths teachers to St Andrew's



Maths workshop facilitators L-R, Siyabonga Mkhize, Ntombi Mota & Sipiwe Vilakazi



Maths workshop presenters L-R, Siyabonga Khumalo, Ntombi Mota & Dave Morris

SPELLING BEE COMPETITION AND MATHS OLYMPIAD

We are incredibly proud of our uBambiswano students, who have performed exceptionally well in the **Spelling Bee Competition and Maths Olympiad**, run by the Gauteng Department of Education. Well done to all the participants.



Vowels

Nouns



5 6 7 8 9

COMPUTERS DONATED TO OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS IN DAVEYTON AND ETWATWA

uBambiswano would like to thank **Supergroup Dealerships** for donating **35 computers** to five of our partner schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa. The deliveries were made to **Daveyton Intermediate School, Inkatha ka Zulu Primary School, Enkangala Primary School, Madingoane Primary School and Moshoeshoe Primary School by Suzuki Bruma**, who are part of Supergroup Dealerships. We appreciate the continued support that we receive from Supergroup Dealerships.



The management team of Moshoeshoe Primary School



The management team of Daveyton Intermediate School & Staff members from Suzuki Bruma



MANDELA DAY DONATION

We would like to thank the Healthbridge team for making and donating 800 sandwiches to uBambiswano as part of their Mandela Month initiatives. The sandwiches were delivered to one of our partner schools in Daveyton. Over 1200 students benefited from this generous donation. Siyabonga kakhulu.



YOGA CLASSES

Our students continue to enjoy their **yoga classes with Maïke la Barre**. Besides the obvious physical benefits, yoga has been proven to **help children manage their anxiety, increase their body awareness and mindfulness, and enhance their concentration and memory**. It can also boost their self-esteem, especially when they manage to achieve a difficult pose!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSONS

Physical Education is a critical foundation to **encourage lifelong healthy habits**. Inactivity, and the health consequences of this, as well as increased mental health issues owing to socio-economic and environmental stresses are all compelling reasons to encourage movement and physical activity. Our students enjoy their Physical Education lessons with Sabrina Mdluli. These lessons form part of our whole-child development programme. We are so blessed to have Sabrina on our team, heading up our Physical Education programme.



PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING COURSE

We have been running an exciting **Public Speaking and Debating course called iSpeak 1.0**. This course is offered to us by the **Coach Itu Academy to all students from Grade 5 to Grade 9**. This course will be most valuable to the students as it prepares them for a **wide range of public speaking scenarios, including impromptu toasts and prepared speeches**. It will also prepare them for their various subject orals, and eventually their Matric orals in both their First and Additional Languages. The students will also be able to use this certificate for their President's Award portfolios. Besides needing to be an accomplished speaker in the classroom, **it is an essential leadership and business skill to be able to present oneself well, and skilfully navigate through life verbally**. Thus, these are skills for life.



Coach ITU Mohanoe - Executive Director of Coach ITU

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

Teaching **entrepreneurial skills to children and teenagers has become crucial in the 21st century**. According to a World Economic Forum report, nearly half of the work we do right now will be automated by 2055, resulting in the creation of new job roles and opportunities that require creativity and critical thinking. We are excited to share that **we now offer Entrepreneurship as a subject to our students**. Our students have already impressed us by creating business plans, logos, and budgets for their business simulation project. Entrepreneurial education empowers individuals to develop real-world skills that will help them succeed in the rapidly changing world.



Students sharing business ideas

WELLNESS DAY

We would like to thank the **St Andrew's Wellness Department** for their ongoing support. The Wellness Team ran an **excellent workshop with our Grade 5 to 8 students around managing anxiety**. The Team also shared some effective study skills that students can apply when preparing for academic assessments. It is **our goal that each student feels a sense of belonging to the School Community** and has the opportunity and support for emotional, social, and academic growth.

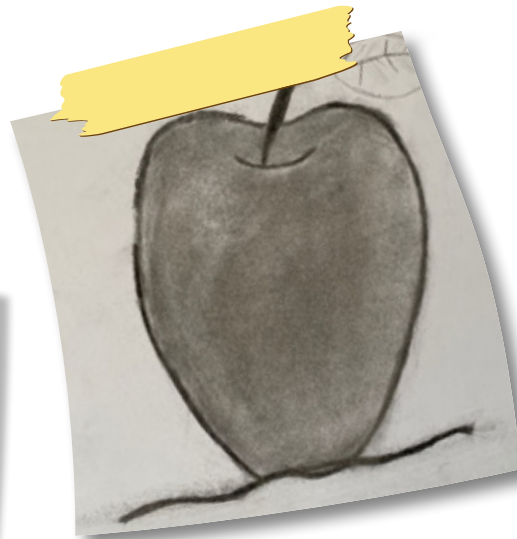


Health



ART LESSONS

At uBambiswano, the **Art students learn about appreciating the visual world** and responding to it creatively. **Self-expression, imagination,** and broader social issues are explored, while creating work of the highest quality. So far, our students have produced **artwork to commemorate the Human Rights Day, Africa Day, and Youth Day.**



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 uBambiswano alumnus, **Moeketsi Mashibini**, who was recently awarded a **Bachelor of Business Science** at the University of Cape Town. **We are proud of his wonderful achievement.**

Congratulations to uBambiswano alumnus, **Mncedisi Siphon Thenjekwayo**, who was awarded a **Bachelor of Accounting Science and Post Graduate Diploma in Accounting** at the University of the Witwatersrand. Mncedisi is currently working as a management consultant and completing his articles to become a Chartered Accountant CA(SA). **We are incredibly proud of his achievements.**

As an organisation, **uBambiswano is committed to playing an active role in transforming society**, and to making a meaningful contribution to education in our country. The students of uBambiswano (both former and current) have achieved academic and personal success as a result of their involvement with the Saturday School programme. It is these satisfying results that have motivated and energised us for more than 30 years.



Moeketsi Mashibini



Mncedisi Siphon Thenjekwayo

#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