

The uBAMBISWANO BULLETIN

Dec 2022

Holding hands for our future
uBambiswano

INDEX

A Letter from the Head	Pg 2/3
Staff News - Congratulations	Pg 4
Grade 9 Prize Giving Ceremony	Pg 5
St Andrew's Preschool Stationery Drive	Pg 6
Junior School Marula House Donation	Pg 6
Scholarships	Pg 7
2023 Student Intake	Pg 7
uBambiswano Teacher Development Programme	Pg 8
Heritage Day Celebrations	Pg 9
Phendulani Literacy Quiz	Pg 9
Gold Reef City Outing	Pg 10
Student and Staff Wellness	Pg 11
The President's Award and the Grade 9 Ezemvelo Hike	Pg 12
The St Andrew's 120 years Birthday Bash Celebrations	Pg 13
Special Lunch at George's Restaurant	Pg 14/15
End-of-Term Celebrations	Pg 14/15

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.

Merry Christmas



A LETTER FROM THE HEAD

Dear uBambiswano family,

By now, we are all tired of talking about “the pandemic that shall not be named”... However, I am not tired of talking about the positive ways that uBambiswano and our community responded to certain challenges presented by Covid-19, and the many ways that we have continued to reap the benefits of being agile in a fraught time.

One of the rewards that we are reaping is our wellness programme, which was borne out of a need to reintegrate our community and ensure that our students, their families, and our staff remained emotionally, physically and mentally well during and after the intense lockdown period.

Our challenge was especially difficult because our students come from under-resourced communities and attend partner schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa where there are limited resources when it comes to these types of wellness programmes.

That did not deter us. Our philosophy has always been to focus on the whole child, and so we did not only focus on a curriculum recovery programme, but on a wellness programme for our whole community. As a team, we provided resources, advice, and even did some family interventions where necessary. Here, the St Andrew’s Wellness Department and social workers, with whom we partnered, were instrumental. They assisted us with supporting our community, particularly around mental health.

This has been the first full year since we’ve been back in the classroom since March 2020, and it has been an easier transition because of our commitment to ensuring that our students are healthy and resilient in all facets of their lives. We have seen our students thrive and, instead of slowing down our efforts to engage with them on their physical, mental, and emotional well-being by offering all kinds of enrichment activities that promote mindfulness and resilience, it has spurred us on.

We have seen the immense value that it has brought to the students and the programme. We are convinced that our students’ good results continue to prove that our approach works and that children who feel safe and valued achieve better results.

We are feeling energised for a new year, where we can continue to expand our enrichment programmes even further, helping us to ensure that uBambiswano continues to be a place that encourages students to develop and grow, not only academically, but emotionally and spiritually, too.

This has been a very successful year for uBambiswano in many regards. Thanks to all our sponsors who make it possible for us to do what we do. Special thanks to Safripol, Supergroup Dealerships, and Flexilube. Of course, there are many private individuals and families that have donated time, money, or items, and we would like to express our gratitude for your kindness. A special thank you to the St Andrew’s Community and the Parents’ Association, as well as the Preschool, Junior School, and Senior School for all their fundraising efforts.

Thank you to our education partners, Tomorrow Trust, Confident Kids, Ntokosi Skills Development, Umsamo Foundation, MikiMaths and Ubuntu Mathematics Institute, for the ongoing support.

We would not be able to do what we do without the unwavering support of our partner schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa. Thank you to the teachers and principals, who support their students and us, and for trusting us as we continue on our mission to uplift and inspire these communities.



A special word of thanks also to the Ekurhuleni North District Office for supporting our various initiatives in Daveyton and Etwatwa. I have described a few of these below:

- This year, we relaunched our teacher development programme to further support our partner schools. This initiative has been a huge success and has increased our reach and impact. Thank you to all of the teachers who have attended. We hope to have a long and fruitful relationship of mutual respect and learning from one another.
- We continue to strengthen our partnership with regular visits to our partner schools, where we strive to listen and learn about some of their challenges and successes. We do this not to check up on the schools, but to understand how we can provide the best support to our students.
- We also launched the Principals Forum, which aims to create a platform for school leaders to come together to share good practice and encourage collaborations amongst neighbouring schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa.

None of our successes would be possible without the commitment and hard work of the uBambiswano teachers, and many other people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the students receive a world-class education and that they are well cared for when they are in our care. These special people give up countless hours of their time to prepare lessons and resources, prepare meals and outings, activities and more.

Likewise, without the continued support of the students' parents and caregivers, we would not have such a well-attended and successful programme. We have been delighted to see an increase in parental involvement and participation this year, and I cannot tell you what a difference it makes to the children to see that you are interested and invested in their education and their lives. Thank you for everything you do. You should be very proud.

To the uBambiswano students – thank you for being our bright light and also our guiding light! We are so proud to be a part of your education and life journey. Thank you for your commitment to the programme and to yourselves. Lastly, I would like to thank St Andrew's Trust, Board, and uBambiswano Committee for their continued support and guidance.

I am going into the last stretch of 2022 with a deep sense of gratitude and satisfaction. For me, uBambiswano is not only a place of hope, but also a place of community, wellness, and connection. It is these things that make this programme so special, and ensure that we all thrive.

I wish the matric class of 2022 strength and hope as they wait for their results in the new year. I hope that all of your hard work has paid off.

Have a good holiday! If you are travelling over this festive season, please do travel safely, and to everyone who celebrates Christmas, may it be a joyous one.

With my best wishes



Sipiwe Vilakazi
uBambiswano Head

Sipiwe Vilakazi (uBambiswano Head)



STAFF NEWS - CONGRATULATIONS

To **Olga Mahlangu**, Assistant to the Head of uBambiswano, who has accepted the position of Head of Boarding at the St Andrew's Senior School. Olga has been a live-in assistant boarding staff member for the last four years, and this is a natural next step for her. It has been an absolute joy to have witnessed Olga's personal and professional growth over the past few years. We congratulate Olga and wish her much success and fulfillment in her new position.



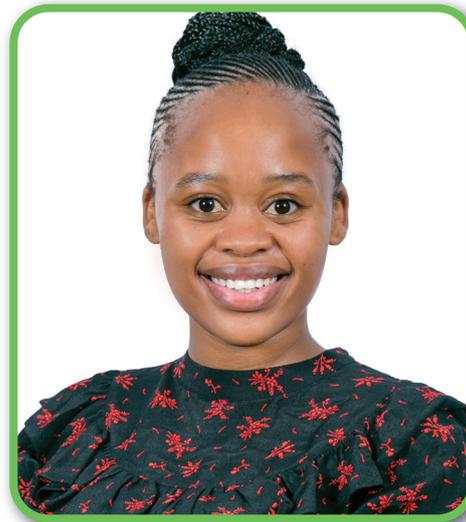
Olga Mahlangu
Assistant to Head of uBambiswano

To **Thato Huis**, who was recently awarded a Bachelor of Education at UNISA. Thato is uBambiswano's Grade 6 Natural Sciences teacher. We are proud of her wonderful achievement.

To **Sibulele Zingitwa**, our Grade 8 and Grade 9 Maths teacher at uBambiswano. Her article is featured in the latest edition of the Independent Education magazine, which is published by ISASA. Sibulele has been a champion in growing the love for Maths amongst our students. Sibulele is also an intern at the St Andrew's Senior School and a live-in boarding assistant. We are so proud of her wonderful achievement.



Thato Huis
Natural Sciences Teacher



Sibulele Zingitwa
Maths Teacher

All the best



GRADE 9 PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

On Saturday 19 November, we hosted the **Grade 9 Prize-Giving Ceremony** to celebrate the achievements of our Grade 9s. The day began with a lovely and an encouraging message from our chaplain, Rev Alison Thabethe, and was followed by a warm welcome from Executive Head, Ivanka Acquisto, who also read a beautiful poem she had commissioned as part of the St Andrew's 120th birthday celebrations. Our Head of School, Sipiwe Vilakazi, delivered his speech to honour the Grade 9 students and those who are involved with the Saturday School programme. Our Guests of Honour were Musawenkosi Gumede, who was crowned Miss Soweto 2019, and Itumeleng Parage, who was the Miss South Africa 2022 finalist. Their address was **inspiring and heart-warming**.

We also thanked Olga Mahlangu for her wonderful contribution to uBambiswano. Olga will be taking up her new role as Head of Boarding at the St Andrew's Senior School in the new year. Lelo Jiyane the current Head of Boarding was also acknowledged and celebrated for her role in assisting uBambiswano-sponsored students with their transition to St Andrew's and boarding.

The Grade 9s staged two beautiful performances, which were well received by the audience. This ceremony was truly special.



ST ANDREW'S PRESCHOOL STATIONERY DRIVE

Huge thanks to the Preschool community for the generous **stationery donation** to uBambiswano. We are exceptionally grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the Preschool community. Many thanks to **Lee Milner** and her team for all the fundraising effort for uBambiswano. It is so appreciated.



JUNIOR SCHOOL MARULA HOUSE DONATION

We would like to thank the **Marula House students** for their generous donation to uBambiswano. We appreciate and value the continued support that we receive from the Marula House. Siyabonga kakhulu! Makwande!



appreciation

Thankful

blessed
Gratitude



SCHOLARSHIPS

Our uBambiswano students were selected to participate in Psychometric and Leadership Assessments for the **Make A Difference Foundation Scholarship**. 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. We are very pleased to share that six of our students have been awarded the Make A Difference Leadership Foundation Scholarship. This will give them entry to top-quality high schools, including boarding. We are extremely proud of them.



Hlelo Sibiya



Joy Segafa



Lesedi Malatsi



Nkateko Ndlovu



Noluthando Dhlamini



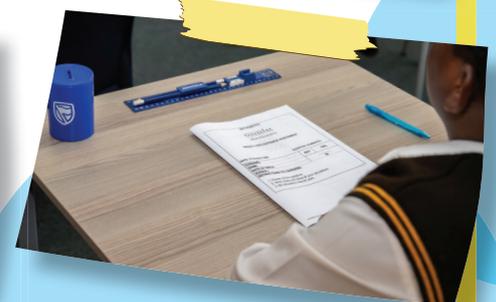
Xolani Magagula

Congratulations

2023 STUDENT INTAKE

Over the past 32 years, uBambiswano has been running a **Saturday School programme** at St Andrew's School for Girls. This programme – which is currently run for students from Grades 6 to 9 – has changed the lives of hundreds of children. We are delighted to inform you that we will be extending our programme to Grade 5 in the new year. As you know, in education, early intervention is often the key to long-lasting academic and personal success.

St Andrew's School hosted the **2023 Grade 5 and Grade 6 uBambiswano Entrance Assessments**. The prospective students, who are currently in Grade 4 and Grade 5, came from primary schools in **Daveyton and Etwatwa**. We were able to give them and their parents a chance to experience the beautiful campus of St Andrew's. We are excited to be able to begin working with young, promising children from Grade 5 to begin equipping them with the skills, attitudes and values that will stand them in good stead for high school and beyond.



UBAMBISWANO TEACHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

uBambiswano hosted two successful Mathematics workshops for teachers from our partner schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa. The first workshop's theme was **'Maths for all and by all'** followed by the second one, themed **'The Beauty of Numbers in Nature'**. The delegates for both workshops included the Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase teachers. We would like to thank our educational partners, Ubuntu Mathematics Institute based in Cape Town – Ntokosi Skills Development, and MikiMaths, for their inputs at these excellent workshops. We would also like to acknowledge our partner schools for their participation and cooperation. We value their kindness and continued support, and we thank them for their contribution to education in our country.



Neil Eddy from Ubuntu Mathematics Institute presenting to teachers from our partner schools



Vivian Mahlatsi sharing some teaching ideas with fellow teachers



Zinhle Sithole from Ubuntu Mathematics Institute presenting to teachers from our partner schools



Teachers sharing some educational games



Items donated by our sponsors



Wally Thiele from MikiMath presenting at the workshop



Siphiwe Vilakazi welcoming teachers and facilitators



Rebecca Mogoro with Ntombi Mota from Ntokosi Skills Development



Siphiwe Vilakazi, Ntombi Mota and Pontsho Moshikaro during the presentation of certificates



HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS

In celebration of **Heritage Day**, St Andrew's held a special assembly to showcase and celebrate our diverse cultures in South Africa. The students and staff performed various proudly South African songs, poems and dances. The uBambiswano students performed two songs "Zizojika izinto" and "Seana Marena" accompanied by the Bambanani Brass Band.



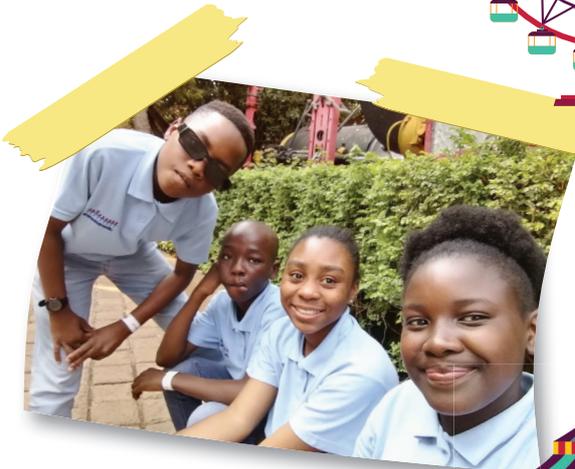
PHENDULANI LITERACY QUIZ

Our Grade 7 uBambiswano students took part in the **Phendulani Literacy Quiz**, which was held at Rodean School (SA), competing against 23 other teams from various primary schools. We are very pleased to share that uBambiswano took 4th place! Many thanks to our English teachers for their excellent work and, in particular, Tsholo Mhlanga who has been coaching the Grade 7 team for the quiz.



GOLD REEF CITY OUTING

Thank you to the **Smile Foundation** for sponsoring our **Gold Reef City trip**. Both students and staff had a fun day out, full of amusement park rides, refreshments, and lunch. For some of the students, this was the first time that they had experienced a day like this in their lives. We are grateful to the Smile Foundation for affording our students this wonderful experience.



STUDENT AND STAFF WELLNESS

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. At the end of Term 2, 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 ran another excellent session with our uBambiswano students this term. 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. We would also like to thank uBambiswano alumnus, Koketso Nkosi, for his excellent talk about the importance of mental health. During his talk, Koketso also shared with our students about his journey at uBambiswano and how the whole child development approach assisted him to increase his **awareness** around mental health issues.



THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD AND THE GRADE 9 EZEMVELO HIKE

Our Grade 9 students participated in a President's Award Bronze Level Hike at the **Ezemvelo Nature Reserve** in Bronkhorstspuit. This Award programme seeks to provide a balanced, non-competitive framework for self-development. The programme has shown itself to increase self-esteem and to increase young peoples' capacity to achieve in whatever context they may find themselves. These qualities enable them to become responsible, active citizens within their communities. The students thoroughly enjoyed their day out in nature. Thank you to JD Mostert, Hamilton Tshokwe, Thandiwe Nyembe and Thato Huis for leading the hike. It is so appreciated.



THE ST ANDREW'S 120 YEARS BIRTHDAY BASH CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations and many thanks to all our uBambiswano students involved in making bracelets, necklaces, and candles, which were sold at our stall at the Birthday Bash. The stall looked amazing, and you were all such fabulous ambassadors for uBambiswano.

The **St Andrew's Parents' Association** donated Allx cards preloaded with R200 to each uBambiswano student so that they could shop at the Birthday Bash celebration. We appreciate this kind and generous gesture. It certainly made our students' day more special and enjoyable.

Our Head of School, Sipiwe Vilakazi, was interviewed on Mix FM. The station broadcasted live from St Andrew's as part of the 120 years Birthday Bash celebrations. In his interview, Sipiwe shared some insights about uBambiswano and the wonderful work happening at our Daveyton and Etwatwa partner schools. Thank you to Caterina Cannone for arranging this interview. We appreciated the opportunity to spread the word about our programme.



SPECIAL LUNCH AT GEORGE'S RESTAURANT

Our Grade 6 students were treated to a delicious lunch at George's restaurant in Bedford Centre. This was part of the prize they won at the rebounding event during the 120th Birthday Bash celebration in October.



celebration

*delicious
food*

*yummy
food*

END-OF-TERM CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday 26 November, we hosted a **movie day** for our students. We hired a big movie screen and the students each received popcorn, slushes, and hotdogs whilst enjoying the movie. We also had an opportunity to thank our team for their hard work and **commitment** to the uBambiswano community. The day was enjoyed by all.



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

