

# The uBAMBISWANO BULLETIN

DEC 2021

CELEBRATING

30  
YEARS

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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 **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.



*Merry  
Christmas*

AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



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

## A LETTER FROM THE HEAD

Dear uBambiswano family,

This year, I have been thinking a lot about investment. Not the financial kind, necessarily, but rather the investment of time, love, and kindness, and how this can have a profound impact on ourselves and other people. I've been thinking about this because I have seen, first-hand, how investing time, love, and kindness has the power to cause great changes. We have seen it in the planning and execution of our distance learning programme. We have seen it in our students' results. We have seen it in the transformation work that St Andrew's – our parent school – has embarked on.

As you know, uBambiswano's philosophy is that it is important for development to be complete and whole. It is not enough to be academically successful. The happiest and most successful people are also resilient, kind, empathetic, active, and constantly learning. I have been so encouraged to see the staff and students embracing this approach wholeheartedly. This year, we introduced debating, and I am amazed at the intelligence and respect that our young students display when putting forth their arguments. I have great faith in their abilities to lead one day.

We also introduced the students to yoga and swimming. Both teach important life skills. Most importantly, these activities have shown the students that there is a mind-body connection, and that movement can be relaxing, rewarding, and fun. We have invested time in growing relationships. Our relationship with our partner schools is getting stronger. This year, we visited 20 primary schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa as part of our Grade 6 intake for 2022. I am looking so forward to welcoming our new students, and extend my heartfelt gratitude and admiration to the teachers and principals who have prepared them for this new adventure.

Then, there is the investment that others have made into our programme.

Firstly, the enormous investment that the uBambiswano staff make on a daily basis. Even though we are technically a Saturday school, I know that the work is never over for my team. They care deeply for the students' well-being, and are fully invested in helping them to achieve their goals. Thank you for everything you do for uBambiswano, and for me. Our sponsors also make it possible for us to offer the activities we do, and to do our work. We are so grateful for, and humbled by, their belief in us and what we are doing here. If not for the sponsors, we would likely be a purely academic programme (if we existed at all), and so we thank you for giving us the opportunity to offer the additional enrichment activities that support our philosophy of whole-student development.

Even our wonderful students have given their all this year.

An increased number of students received scholarships to top-quality schools in 2022, including boarding. This is so rewarding. Congratulations to all of them for putting in such an effort. But, no effort is not wasted. Every one of our students has shown themselves to be dedicated, driven, and worthy. My wish is that they carry this spirit through with them as they start their new school year in 2022. I have no doubts about them or their future success.

I recently read a wonderful book by Rick Warren, called *The Purpose-Driven Life*. In the book, the author says this: **"When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you'll never get back. Your time is your life. That is why the greatest gift you can give someone is your time."**

And so, lastly, to the parents and guardians of these impressive children. Thank you for investing your time and your love. Every child deserves to know that they have people that love them, believe in them, and like them. Be proud of your children, but also be proud of yourselves. Your children reflect well on you, and the sacrifices that you have made to raise them to be wonderful citizens and future leaders.

**Siphiwe Vilakazi**  
uBambiswano Head



Mr Siphiwe Vilakazi (uBambiswano Head)

*If this time has taught us anything, it is that success and how we measure it, needs to be redefined, and that the only person to whom you should ever compare yourself; Is who you were, yesterday. Make your growth game strong, and along the way, be kind to yourself – If you are doing your best, Then you are doing enough.*

*If this time has taught us anything, it is that it is more important now than ever before, to see the world through your own eyes. Begin by looking at yourself. Look honestly and look gently. Look inward with compassion and kindness and look outward with humility and appreciation.*

*If this time has taught us anything, it is that the opposite of love is not hate, but fear – and our greatest fear is losing that to which we have become attached. Yesterday is heavy, put it down.*

*If this time has taught us anything, it is that life really is about the journey, not the destination. And it must be, for surely we are not here merely to reach the destination, Be alive, for after all, life is all you've got. And when you pay attention to the things for which you are grateful, you soon forget about what you think you're missing, your reality, and what you perceive it to be, are seldom aligned. You need to beat your own pathway, without seeking the approval of others.*

*If this time has taught us anything, it is this: there is a source of resilience deep within us all.*

*If this time does not teach us that time itself is precious, then we will have missed the lesson. The lesson that never before have the past and the future been so irrelevant, and that the quest to find ourselves has been fruitless; only because we've been searching in all the wrong places. We are here, We are now, and to grasp with both hands, the fresh opportunity to learn, unlearn and relearn.*

*If this time is not wasted.*

*- 'If this time' by Kevin McCormack*

## STAFF NEWS

### Welcome

We are excited to welcome **Samantha Golding** to the uBambiswano family. Sam will teach Grade 6 and Grade 7 Life Skills. She will also run the student photography club. Sam has already impressed us with her creative photography skills and enthusiasm. We wish you a happy stay at uBambiswano, Sam!



Samantha Golding



## GRADE 9 CELEBRATORY CHAPEL SERVICE & PRIZE GIVING

uBambiswano hosted an end-of-year prize giving for the Grade 9 students on Saturday 20 November 2021. It was a day of celebration and reflection, honouring the achievements of our Grade 9s and showing our gratitude to the people involved with the Saturday School programme.

The day began with a lovely chapel service, led by **Rev Alison Thabethe**, followed by the prize-giving ceremony and speeches in the Allister Rogan Auditorium. A special thanks to our guest of honour, **Mr Arabile Thabo Junior Maphiri**, for his inspiring message.

We also honoured the outgoing chair of St Andrew's Board, **Mr Dave Morris**, for his significant contribution to uBambiswano. Our Events and Functions Manager **Mr Chris Boshoff** will be retiring at the end of this year and we were able to celebrate and thank him for his contribution. **Mrs Maria Msimango** was also acknowledged and thanked for her superb contribution to uBambiswano and the uBambiswano committee.

The awards ceremony for the Grade 6s, 7s and 8s will be held in February 2022, when we will hopefully be able to invite a larger audience.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Make A Difference Leadership Foundation Scholarship

Eighteen uBambiswano students were selected to participate in Psychometric and Leadership Assessments for the Make A Difference Leadership Foundation Scholarship. They completed a battery of psychometric tests, which determined, among other things, the applicants' aptitude, personality type, interests, drive, coping skills and leadership potential. We are delighted that eleven of our students were later called back for the interview process. This is an important final step in the application process, and we are pleased to share that the following students have been awarded the scholarship: **Xolani Buthelezi**, **Lerato Makate**, **Noxolo Msiza**, **Nhlanhla Sibisi**, **Buhlebukhona Vilane** and **Comfort Lephoko**. This will give them entry to top-quality high schools, including boarding.



Xolani Buthelezi (Grade 8)



Lerato Makate (Grade 8)



Noxolo Msiza (Grade 9)



Comfort Lephoko (Grade 10)



Nhlanhla Sibisi (Grade 7)



Buhlebukhona Vilane (Grade 7)

### Allan Gray Orbis Foundation Scholarship

We are very pleased to announce that **Buhle Mkhwanazi** was offered the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation Scholarship. She will join St Andrew's School for Girls in 2022 to begin her high school career as a boarder.



Buhle Mkhwanazi (Grade 7)

### St Andrew's School for Girls Trust Scholarship

Congratulations to **Alicia Morgan** who has been offered the St Andrew's School for Girls Trust Scholarship. She will also be joining the St Andrew's Grade 8 2022 group as a boarder.



Alicia Morgan (Grade 7)



## THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD & GRADE 9 EZEMVELO HIKE

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. Our Grade 9 students participated in a President's Award Bronze Level Hike at the Ezemvelo Nature Reserve in Bronkhorstspuit. They thoroughly enjoyed their time out in nature.



## IEB CORE SKILLS ASSESSMENTS

As an IEB school, we participate in the Grade 6 Core Skills Assessments. These are International Benchmarking Tests for English and Mathematics.

Many thanks to the St Andrew's Junior School for sponsoring the students' fees for these assessments. We look forward to sharing the results as soon as they become available.



## TLHATLOGANG SECONDARY SCHOOL

The uBambiswano team visited Tlhatlogang Secondary School in Mofolo, Soweto, to donate books. We took the opportunity to meet with the leadership team, with whom we had a mutually beneficial discussion about teaching and working with children. Thank you to the Tlhatlogang community for the warm reception.



Mrs Khosi Ntuli (Principal of Tlhatlogang Secondary School) and Mr Sipiwe Vilakazi (Head of uBambiswano)



## GRADE 6 2022 INTAKE



The uBambiswano team visited 20 primary schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa to launch and share information about our Grade 6 2022 intake. We also used the opportunity to connect with Principals and Deputy Principals from our partner schools. We value this special partnership.

St Andrew's School for Girls hosted the Grade 6 uBambiswano Entrance Assessments. The prospective students came from primary schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa. We were able to give our prospective students and parents a chance to experience the beautiful campus of St Andrew's.





## MOBILE LIBRARY

Our mobile library, which was donated by the St Andrew's Parents' Association, is fully stocked up with books donated by our partner organisations. With the assistance of one of the English teachers, the students have full access to a range of books, which they can loan out to read at home. At uBambiswano we encourage our students to be avid readers and we are happy with the interest that our students are showing to reading books.



## PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING COURSE

The public speaking and debating course offered by the Coach Itu Academy (CIA) has been a huge success. We are already seeing a noticeable improvement in students' self-confidence and reasoning ability as a result of this course. Also, we had more students this year who were selected for various scholarship opportunities. Our students will feature in a documentary that has been put together by the CIA, which will showcase the positive impact that debating has had in disadvantaged communities.





## STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

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](mailto:omahlangu@standrews.co.za) so that we can acknowledge receipt of your contribution and issue you with a tax certificate.

## #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)