

# Windy Heights

## Primary School News



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Issue 02

— Making Education Compulsory, Fashionable & Fun —

## Khuzani shares childhood adversities with Windies on Youth Day



**ABOVE:** Maskandi musician Khuzani Mpungose performing with Windy Heights Primary School's cultural group. **INSERT LEFT:** Khuzani arriving at the school. **INSERT TOP:** Staff members dancing on stage as part of Youth Day commemorations. **INSERT BELOW:** Khuzani Mpungose receiving a token of appreciation from the school Principal Miss Thembekile Makhanya. *Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga*

By Thabisile Khomo

**KHUZANI Mpungose is a busy man with a number of gigs all over the globe.**

However, that didn't stop the 33-year-old maskandi musician from taking time off his busy schedule so he could commemorate this year's Youth Day with Windy Heights Primary School in honour of the 1976 youth.

Delivering a lengthy keynote address, the much-celebrated star from the dusty rural village called Mandaba in Nkandla, northern-KZN, touched many hearts when he revisited his own past. He heartily reminisced about his childhood in a destitute family and shared with learners all the events that occurred on his way to stardom.

The event was held within the school premises in June and it unfolded into two sessions.

Khuzani had been invited for the first session as one of the exemplary local

youngsters whose accomplishments speak volumes to children who are still navigating their way to adulthood. Opening his speech after a brief performance, he emphasized the importance of education to learners, citing that life without it is nothing but misery. "Education enriches one's mind and improves their level of thinking. An educated person does not nod to everything that is being said to them, but they ask for clarity when there is a need," said Khuzani. He then touched on his schooling years and the adversities that he had to overcome to complete Grade 12 at Isibhakabhaka Combined School. "My family was less-privileged and I could not get the basic necessities that I needed for school. In Grade 9, I had no school shoes. The seasons of the year would change but my situation remained the same. However, I did not quit school because I desperately wanted to finish matric. I was a brilliant learner but

circumstances barred me from going to university to further my studies as I had wished. At a very young age I had to leave home and go to Johannesburg to look for a job," he said. Khuzani went on to say that when he started his career as a musician, he was working as a full-time security guard who ran errands for the owners of the building that he guarded in the Johannesburg city centre. "I remained in that job until I had recorded four albums. People would see me in mainstream media and wonder because they couldn't understand why a famous musician would guard a building. I too was ashamed to explain to them what was happening. I persevered until one Good Samaritan channelled my music career to greener pastures. I then got my breakthrough and the fruits of my hard work are out in the open now," he said. After watching the learners' performances, he commended the school for offering skills. "It gives me a great

pleasure to see that learners from this school will have a variety of career options to choose from when they complete school. The reality is that there are learners who are destined to succeed through skills," he said. Khuzani pleaded with the learners to respect their teachers. "Do what they tell you to do. If you set your mind on positive things, the future becomes so bright that you even forget the challenges of your past," he said. The Principal, Miss Thembekile Makhanya thanked Khuzani for honouring the school's invitation. "We are hopeful that this is not the last time we see him within these premises," she wrapped up. She then handed over a token of appreciation to him. The second session after Khuzani's departure also had a rich programme where young teachers participated in a number of activities that included a debate on youth issues, dances, speeches and music.

■ **Term 2 top achievers got to share a breakfast meal with the principal at a guest house in Amanzimtoti**  
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■ **Learners engaged in various quiz games in celebration of Maths Day**  
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■ **Learners enjoying Kellogg's noodles given to them by Kellogg's SA's marketing crew**  
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■ **Foundation phase teachers helping learners read books in their new library corner**  
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# Coastline break for Windy Heights staff as they wrap up Term 2



By Samukelisiwe Sibiya

**WINDY Heights Primary School's management team together with staff members take pride in work well done. They also believe that hard work should be rewarded with a little bit of fun.**

After working extremely hard in term 2, they felt the need to catch refreshing breath near the coastline.

The school had its end-of-term event at Lords and Legends Sports Café in Amanzimtoti, south of Durban.

This establishment provided a relaxed scenery where teachers feasted on scrumptious meals and enjoyed drinks. The dining area was filled with music and chatty voices as the staff members sang and conversed while enjoying their meals.

The Principal, Miss Thembekile Makhanya seized the platform and extended well-wishes to two of the staff members, a Grade 5 form teacher Miss Thandeka Hadebe and an intermediate phase Departmental Head Mr Linda Makhathini who fell ill in the beginning of the term. They each received a basket filled with goodies.

ABOVE: Windy Heights staff members wrapped up the term with scrumptious meals at Lords and Legends Sports Café in Amanzimtoti. Photo supplied

## WINDY HEIGHTS WELCOMES A VISITOR FROM AUSTRALIA



By Thabisile Khomo

**WINDY Heights had the pleasure of welcoming a visitor from Australia earlier this year.**

Margaret Fayers-Oakes (*above*) came to see a block named after her late father Morris Fayers. She was accompanied by her two sisters, Monica Fayers and Sandra Fayers-Coleman. A wall plaque with Morris's name was unveiled in Margaret's absence towards the end of last year.

"It gives me a great pleasure to set my feet on these grounds again after so many years. My family lived here for decades before we gave our land to the Department of Education in the mid-80s," said Margaret.

The school hosted a huge event last

year where 10 local icons, including Margaret's father, were honoured for the roles they played towards social development. The school blocks were named after them and plaques with their names were unveiled.

Morris and other residents who lived in Malukazi in the mid-80s played a pivotal role ensuring that the community of Malukazi had a state-of-the-art primary school. "My heart beamed with joy when I heard that my father was being honoured in such a special way.

## Deputy-Principal (Admin) bows out

By Thabisile Khomo

**BEING in the Department of Education for 38 years taught Mr Raj Pursotham a lot about kids and even got him to set a philosophy that kept him going throughout his entire career.**

Bidding farewell to the school earlier this year, this veteran teacher who has been a Deputy-Principal at the time of his retirement, shared his philosophy with young educators. "Seek growth in your career every day and always treat learners in the same way you would treat your biological children!"

Pursotham served Windy Heights Primary School for 25. He joined the school as a teacher over two decades ago and later escalated to higher ranks within this institution. He extended his gratitude to the Principal Miss Thembekile Makhanya for affording him an opportunity to serve in the school management. "I'm also thankful to the entire staff of Windy Heights for making my stay a pleasant one. I wish you all the best. You have a very good set up and I can see that the school is going far. Treat kids well and they will thank you in the later stages of their lives. There is no better feeling than seeing children you have taught succeeding and thanking you for playing part in their success," he continued. Hinting on his plans after retirement, he



ABOVE LEFT: Deputy-Principal (Administration) Mr Raj Pursotham retires after 38 in the Department of Education. Photo from Windy Heights Primary School archives  
ABOVE RIGHT: Mr Raj Pursotham taken with DJ Black Coffee during one of the school events towards the end of last year. Photo by Nhlakanipho Shinga

said he could not wait to spend more time with his family. "I will miss you all. It has not hit me that I'm retiring but part of me is happy that I will be spending more time with my wife. She has done and sacrificed a lot for my family. We have done a lot for our children as parents. I guess we have reached that stage of

life where we have to spend more time together" he said.

Pursotham then vowed to avail himself should the school need his services. The Principal, Miss Thembekile Makhanya wished him well on his retirement. She pleaded with him to keep his relationship with the school alive.



ABOVE PHOTOS: School Principal, Miss Thembekile Makhanya and Public Relations Officer (PRO) Thabisile Khomo leading the Fayers sisters to a block named after their late father. They ended their little tour near their late father's plaque. Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga

However, I was a bit heart-broken because I live halfway across the world and I could not make it to South Africa on time.

However, my sisters were part of the event. So the first thing I thought of

when I got a chance to land in South Africa was visiting this school to witness what my family has shared with me," she continued.

Margaret then thanked the school principal for preserving history of her family and cited that they want to establish long-lasting relationship with the school. "You will be seeing more of the Fayers family members coming here. Even though we are scattered all over the world due to work among other reasons but this is where our roots are. This is where we lived and grew fresh vegetables. We are grateful for such a big honour," she added. The school Principal, Miss Thembekile Makhanya welcomed the Fayers sisters with warm hands and took them on a little tour around the school premises. "We are all about preserving history of our local icons," she said.



# Breakfast with the Principal

Top achievers share breakfast with the Principal



**PHOTOS:** (1) Top achievers enjoying breakfast with the Principal, SMT members, their form teachers and parents. (2) Top achievers with their parents and form teachers outside the guest house in Amanzimtoti. (3&4) Term 2 top achievers took photos outside the sea-facing guest house. (5) The Principal, Miss Thembekile Makhanya delivering her brief speech before the breakfast meal at 305 Guest House in Amanzimtoti. Photos supplied

By Thabisile Khomo

**WINDY Heights Primary School recognizes learners' excellence and continues to seek ways of improving parents' involvement in their children's education.**

Over the past years, the norm has always been that top achievers receive their certificates at the end of each term, occasionally have high-tea inside the school premises and reader books in December. Usually the school would take three top performers from each class. However, term 2 of this year came with an exciting change. Eight top learners got an opportunity to share a breakfast table with the Principal Miss Thembekile Makhanya, the school management team, their form teachers and parents. The chosen learners were overall performers from Grade R to 7. They were taken to a classy guest house in Amanzimtoti where their parents engaged in talks with the principal while enjoying their scrumptious meals. The talks were based on how parents can assist the school improve the quality of education offered to the kids. Opening her speech, Miss Makhanya

said the intention was to motivate the chosen learners and also get a chance to share ideas with their parents. "This is our first programme and I'm hopeful that it is going to be a success," she continued. Parents commended the principal for creating such a platform and came up with a number of opinions and suggestions. S'thabiso Sawoni, father to a Grade 1 learner, said he was grateful to the school for its continued efforts of rewarding learners' hard work and finding ways to improve their education. "I have never seen something like this in a township school where parents get to share breakfast with the school management and have such a positive conversation. As parents, let us find ways of working with the teachers. This habit of only popping up at school when there is a complaint must come to an end," he said. Another parent Gugu Majola said: "Let's find ways to improve the performance of those learners whose marks are low." Hlelolwenkosi Sibiya said kids need to be reminded regularly about the negative impacts of bullying.



## Windies scoop awards in road safety competition



**PHOTOS:** (1) A Grade 7 learners Minenhle Khumalo (second row, left) got position 1 in the speech category. (2) Minenhle receiving a certificate and trophy from the municipal official. Photos supplied

By Thabisile Khomo

**THE Windies came out tops again in this year's Road Safety Schools Competition run by eThekweni Municipality.**

The competition, which promotes road safety practices among learners, was held at Moses Mabhida Stadium in June 2023 where winners in different categories were announced. A Grade 7 learner Minenhle Khumalo (13) scooped first prize in the Speech Category for the senior phase. She bagged R7 000. From this amount, R4000 went to the school. A Grade 2 learner Siyabonga Sibiya got position 2 in the poetry category for foundation phase and was awarded R2000. This annual competition challenges

learners to prepare speeches, essays and poem about road safety concerns around their respective schools and the interventions undertaken to address them.

It also aims to support the national curriculum on road safety education in schools and promote good road safety practices among learners and to raise public awareness. According to eThekweni Municipality, R30 000 worth of prizes were given out to winners from different schools this year. The Municipality partners with the South African Road Federation (SARF) and the Department of Education for this initiative.

Last year, Windy Heights got position 1 in the poetry category and position 2 in the speech category.

## Photo of the term!



**ABOVE:** Deputy-Principal Mrs Patience Magwaza (in a red coat) struggling to contain her excitement upon the arrival of maskandi musician Khuzani Mpungose. Khuzani came as a keynote speaker at the Youth Day commemoration event that was held at the school in June 2023. Photo by Nhlakanipho Shinga



## Meet the News Editorial Team



**Miss Thabisile Khomo**  
Editor



**Mr Linda Makhathini**



**Mr Nhlakanipho Shinga**



**Mr Philani Mbitamkhono**



**Miss Zizile Buthelezi**



**Miss Samkelisiwe Sibiba**



**Mrs Sthobile Madiba**

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# UKZN Professor hails Zulu warriors

Learners receive a lecture on the battle of Isandlwana



**PHOTOS (Left):** Members of a drama group that performed on the day. **(Middle):** Grade 6 language teacher, Miss J Maistry during the launch of a book club. **(Right):** Cultural expert and UKZN Professor, Sihawukele Ngubane delivering the keynote speech at Windy Heights Primary School during the commemoration of the Battle of Isandlwana. Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga

By Thabisile Khomo

**CULTURAL** expert and Head of Performing Arts at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Professor Sihawukele Ngubane hailed the fallen Zulu warriors who were part of the Isandlwana battle as heroes.

"If it wasn't for them, we were going to lose some parts of this province to the colonisers," he said.

Ngubane was delivering the keynote address at Windy Heights Primary School earlier this year during the commemoration of the battle of Isandlwana.

This historic battle took place on the 22nd of January in 1879 between the British

empire and the Zulu kingdom.

The Zulu warriors allegedly displayed good fighting tactics that led to their victory. Although they won, scores of warriors from both parties lost their lives. Kicking off his speech, Ngubane alluded that the province still owes these warriors a dignified funeral and compensation to their families.

"We are proud of their victory. The battle of Isandlwana is one of the significant events in our history as a Zulu nation that we will forever be proud of," he said. Ngubane commended Windy Heights Primary School for commemorating this day as part of preserving local history. Sharing the same sentiments, the school Principal Miss Thembekile

Makhanya said: "It is important to educate our learners about historic events because they must know where they come from."

**ON** the same day, the school launched different clubs that will assist learners with skills and certain aspects of their academic work.

The clubs included Music and Drama, Home Economics, Quiz, Environment and Science and Book Club.

A guest from one of the school's partners, Isipingo Library said: "We wish the school everything of the best. Should the learners or teachers need assistance with anything, please come to us. Our hands will always be open."

## LIFE AND TIMES OF LITTLE S'MUKELO

By Thabisile Khomo

**WINDY** Heights Primary School bid farewell to a Grade 4 learner S'mukelo Shezi (10) from Malukazi area who tragically lost his life after being severely burnt in a shack fire earlier this year.

His memorial service was held in May 2023 where his fellow schoolmates and friends got an opportunity to celebrate his life.

The school received the sad news of S'mukelo's passing during the Easter holidays.

It is alleged that he was rescued alive from a burning shack but had sustained severe wounds. His family said he was rushed to Prince Mshiyeni Memorial



**PHOTO:** Learners praying during the memorial service of a deceased Grade 4 learner, S'mukelo Shezi. Photo supplied

Hospital in Umlazi where he succumbed to his injuries after spending a few days in the Intensive Care Unit. His burial was held in Mid-Illovo near Umbumbulu in the south of Durban in April.

Delivering her speech, in the presence of the Shezi family, the Principal Miss Thembekile Makhanya said the passing of S'mukelo was saddening. "The school

organized a memorial service to give learners an opportunity to find closure. It is so sad that today we officially remove S'mukelo from our systems. As we close his chapter in this life, I am hopeful that God will give strength to his parents and family," she said.

The deceased's aunt Thabile Shezi thanked the school for the support. "We never expected to see the Principal and her staff members at the funeral service. Mid-Illovo is a rural area with a poor infrastructure. You really showed us that we made a good decision by bringing our child to this school," she said.

Thabile continued that seeing her nephew fighting for his life in hospital during his final moments really broke her heart. "He was a little boy and his death was so unexpected. We loved him so dearly."

A token of condolence was then handed over by the principal to S'mukelo's father Vusi Phakathi.

## Another exciting musical concert by the KZNPO

By Thabisile Khomo

**WINDY** Heights, together with the world-renowned ensemble KZN Philharmonic Orchestra (KZNPO) hosted another exciting musical concert in March this year.

As usual, learners were taught about musical instruments and also given a chance to perform with this giant ensemble. They were blown away by classical songs from different music genres that included

Afro-pop hit tracks by Mafikizolo and some melodies from popular movies.



**PHOTOS:** Learners had a blast watching the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra's performance. Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga



# Donors reach out to Windy Heights



**PHOTOS:** (1) Acting Deputy-Principal (Admin) Mr Lindelani Mabaso and foundation phase teachers during a meeting with The LEARN agents who brought donations to the school library. (2) The LEARN Trust Founder and CEO Ros Toerien assisting the foundation phase teacher Ms Cindy Pillay. (3) The LEARN Trust Founder and CEO Ros Toerien assisting the foundation phase teacher Ms N.G. Ndeleman. (4) Foundation phase learners excited after receiving books from The LEARN Trust. Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga



**PHOTOS:** (1) Recipients of the Gift of the Givers hygiene packs taken with teachers and agents from the foundation. (2) They were taken receiving hygiene packs from a Gift of the Givers agent. Photos supplied



**PHOTOS:** (1) Swimming coach Benedict Mabaso handing over swimwear donated by Westville Swim Shop to a learner. (2) Recipients of swimwear donation taken with the teachers. (3) The school received a donation of garden tools from the Rotary Club of Durban. (4) Intermediate phase learners enjoying Kellogg's noodles given to them. Photos supplied

**By Thabisile Khomo and Mishika Munsami**

**WINDY Heights is one of the primary schools with the biggest enrolment under Umlazi District.**

The area where the school is situated says a lot about the background of the learners that it admits and the challenges that affect their learning.

However, the school goes an extra-mile in terms of ensuring that the quality of education it offers to these learners is in the same par as the one received by learners from well-resourced and more privileged schools. The school's efforts towards achieving

this goal include building and strengthening relations with other institutions, local brands and other stakeholders. This idea has seen Windy Heights receiving a number of generous donations from local brands that are lending a hand in the school's effort of bettering the lives of young people. One such donation came from a non-profit trust called The LEARN. The donations included books and equipment to set up mini-library corners in all foundation phase classes. Ms Ros Toerien who is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of this trust said they reach out to schools and

children in need and equip them with reading books and classroom library corners. Earlier this year, a number of learners received school shoes from Durban Solid Waste, one of eThekweni Municipality's unit that deals with waste management. The paper-producing giant, Mondi donated office furniture that included modern office chairs and tables. The largest KZN-based vehicle manufacturer, Toyota, donated hygiene hampers to a group of nearly 100 learners. Gift of the Givers Foundation donated hygiene packs earlier this year.

A Westville-based swimwear shop donated a number of swimwear items to learners who take part in swimming lessons. The breakfast cereals and soft meals producers, Kellogg's South Africa visited the school and offered free noodles to learners. A Morningside-based organisation called The Rotary Club of Durban donated a number of garden tools which included spades, watering cans, slashers, bush knives, hoe blades and handles.



# Grade 6 visits UKZN's home of Science and Technology



**PHOTOS:** Grade 6 learners learnt a lot at UKZN's Westville campus during their visit. Photos supplied

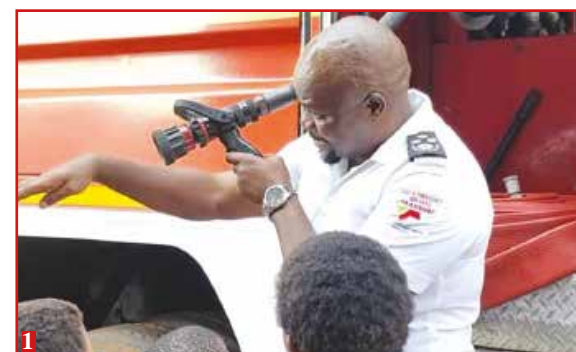
By Samukeliwe Sibiya

**GRADE 6** learners had a privilege of visiting the University of KwaZulu-Natal's home of Science and Technology, Westville campus, earlier

this year.

This trip was part of their Coding and Robotics learning programme that the school offers. They got a chance to operate real motor robots and learnt a lot about Science and Technology. They

couldn't hold back their excitement when one of the university lecturers presented science experiments to them. Learners also took a short tour around the Faculty of Science and Technology Exhibition Centre.



## Transnet equips learners with fire-safety tips

By Thabisile Khomo

**FIREFIGHTERS** from Transnet National Ports Authority shared fire-safety tips with Windy Heights Primary School learners in May.

This was done as part of observing International Firefighters' Day. According to Transnet, this also formed part of their outreach programme to educate learners about fire-safety and proper response to fire emergencies in the wake of the winter season. Windy Heights is situated in the middle of an informal settlement where there have been many reports of fire incidents that have

claimed lives, especially during the winter season. "The winter season usually sees an increase in fire related incidents. Many people, including children, lose their lives. Spreading awareness helps to equip children with essential knowledge and skills to reduce such incidents," a Transnet official said. On the day, firefighters conducted lessons that included demonstrations on how to extinguish fire. The school Principal, Miss Thembekile Makhanya said the school was privileged to be visited by Transnet and that learners really gained a lot of knowledge from the programme.



**PHOTOS:** (1) A firefighter giving fire-safety tips to learners. (2) Transnet official talking to learners. (3&4) Learners raising hands to answer some questions based on what they were taught. Photos supplied

# School helps learners improve numeracy and literacy levels



**PHOTOS:** (1) Grade 5 learners with their English teacher Mr D. Moodley on Story-telling Day earlier this year. (2) Windy Heights Primary School learners and intermediate phase Departmental Head Mr Linda Makhathini on stage at Bluff Showgrounds where Dr Gcina Mhlophe's Mother Tongue Celebration was held. (3) Learners with their English teacher Miss Jabulile Mthembu on Read Aloud Day earlier this year. Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga

By Mishika Munsami

**MATHEMATICS** and English Language are fundamental subjects that all learners are compelled to pass.

This requires primary school educators to find ways of ensuring that learners get a solid foundation that will enhance both their numeracy and literacy levels. Mathematics provides learners with an effective way of building mental discipline and encourages logical reasoning while English Language helps

them read and communicate well. Windy Heights celebrated three significant days earlier this year to help learners add on their knowledge of these subjects.

In February, learners from all grades excitedly gathered outdoors and read interesting stories to celebrate the Read Aloud Day. Later in March, on Story-telling Day, teachers assisted them to tell interesting stories and answer each other's questions. Part of this celebration saw a group of learners, accompanied by

the language teachers, being part of Dr Gcina Mhlophe's event titled 'Mother Tongue Celebration' that was held in Bluff Show Grounds.

This event was part of Dr Mhlophe's Nozincwadi programme where she encouraged children to read books and tell stories in their mother tongues. Windy Heights learners had an opportunity to share the stage with this icon and other international artists. They recited poems and told interesting stories in their mother tongue.

"I have invited my friends from Windy Heights Primary School to be part of this event. I'm glad they are part of us," said Dr Mhlophe referring to learners. In March the school celebrated World Maths Day where learners gathered outside and engaged in various activities that tested their mathematical skills. Teachers had prepared multiple activities and games for them to engage in as well as different methods that could be used when solving mathematical problems.



# Windies join anti-bullying workshop



PHOTOS: (1) Grade 7 learner Sinethemba Mbonambi making a hand mark on a poster with anti-bullying messages. (2) Sinethemba Mbonambi engaging in a conversation with one of the teachers in a workshop. (3) Windy Heights Primary School learners who attended the anti-bullying workshop taken with their teachers. Photo supplied

By Thabisile Khomo

**BULLYING is a serious plague in the institutions of basic education that has shuttered so many children’s dreams.** Consequences of this plague sometimes become so dire that victims end up committing suicide or quitting school before they complete Grade 12.

Windy Heights joined this year’s anti-bullying workshop for primary schools which is a drive by the Provincial Department of Education and eThekweni Municipality to root out this plague from schools. A group of learners who represented the school learnt a lot about different types of bullying amongst other things.

They also engaged in different anti-bullying activities that included writing and reciting poems and composing songs. First session of this workshop was held at Umlazi Comprehensive Technical High School and the second one at W-Section Hall in the South of Durban towards the end of term 2.

# Africa Day celebrations at Windy Heights



PHOTOS: (Left) Two learners who were part of the Africa Day celebrations showing off their traditional garments. (Right) Female teachers taken with one of the Departmental Heads Mrs Anita Maniram (third from right) during Africa Day Celebrations in May 2023. Photos supplied.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Admissions for 2023 will commence on August 1, 2023.
- School uniform will now be sold by Nu Shop’s Mega City branch.

### IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	EVENT	THEME
28 July 2023	Men’s Month celebration	How have you contributed positively to someone, community or society?
31 August 2023	Women’s Day celebration	What is it that you have done that makes you proud of yourself?
20 September 2023	Grade R showcase	Nurturing young minds and talents.
05-06 October 2023	World Teachers’ Day	Celebrating 10 years of collective leadership and bidding farewell to retirees.
20-22 October 2023	Foundation Phase Indaba	Their future is in our hands.
08 November 2023	Grandparents’ Day	Learners who stay with their grandparents are performing better than those who stay with their parents (Teachers vs learners debate).
10-13 November 2023	Strategic Planning	We’re making difference (We’re MAD)
17 November 2023	International Men’s Day	Celebrating our male icons
20 November 2023	Introduction of 2024 prefects	
21 November 2023	Grade R Graduation	
28 November 2023	Grade 7 Farewell	
29 November 2023	School Orientation	New learners and parents (2024)
30 November 2023	Awards Day	

## THE PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

WARM greetings to parents, learners, stakeholders and the staff of Windy Heights Primary School.



Our excitement continues as we are issuing out volume 2 of our newsletter. As Herbert Spencer would say: “The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.” 2023 is a year of action as we have dedicated it to teaching and learning. Our main target is the foundation phase. These grades were mostly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the school will be introducing new and exciting programmes that are intended to tackle children’s literacy challenges. Poor literacy levels in young children is a serious global challenge that compels the institutions of basic education to work even harder, especially in the foundation phase. One of these programmes will be INDABA and we will be starting with the foundation phase this year. This programme will look into the challenges that teachers and learners face and how they can be addressed so that the learners’ performance will be improved in the next phases. The school is continuing with sports and skills that will now include entrepreneurship and leadership. This year, the school is celebrating 10 years of collective leadership. This is a journey that includes achievements that led to us defining ourselves as a unique brand. It gives us an opportunity to look back where we come from, where we are now and glance at the possibilities of the future. We have introduced a number of programmes that help us instil basic morals to our learners, motivate them to do better in their school work and also broaden their career options. These programmes include the following:

- Teaching and assessing them on local icons.
- Introduction of clubs (Book, Maths, science, environment, Drama and Music)
- Introduction of campaigns (Bullying, litter-free, gum-free, greeting and know your address).
- Drug and HIV/AIDS-free campaigns will be addressed in term 3.
- Youth Day commemoration led by young staff members.
- Grade R showcase.
- Sports League.
- Swimming classes.
- Entering drum majorette’s competitions.
- Introduction of sports codes in the foundation phase.
- Breakfast with the Principal for top achievers which also features parents, educators and members of the SMT.

We have great plans for term 3 and 4 where we will be celebrating teachers and their accomplishments. We are proud to say that the success of the school is because of the dedicated staff. We thank them for ensuring that learners from a disadvantaged community receive best education. Their commitment has put this school ‘on the map’, as it is known today. This reminds me of Henry Ford’s words which say: “Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

Until next time,  
Miss Thembekile Makhanya



# Sports • Skills • Classified

## Sports Briefs

■ The school introduces sports houses

By Philani Mbitamkono

**FOLLOWING** the successful introduction of different sport codes early last year, the school took another huge leap towards internal sports development at the beginning of this year. The sports committee formed and introduced four sports houses that staff members and learners were allocated to.

This is an initiative that will assist in terms of facilitating internal sports competitions referred to as Windy Heights Primary School Sports League (WHPSSL) and ensure massive learner-participation in different codes.

The houses are Woodpeckers, Pelicans, Herons and Starlings. Chairman of the sports committee Mr Philani Mbitamkono unpacked the details of this initiative in a staff meeting where staff members were given an opportunity to ask questions and share their own opinions. The internal league competition is set to kick start in term 3.

All the houses have formed teams in all sport codes. However, the internal league only includes soccer, netball, volleyball and table tennis for now. "Plans to ensure that it also features other codes that the school has are in place. The league will be played throughout the year to develop learners' skills," said one of the committee members.

■ Volleyball team claims 2nd-place in a tournament

By Philani Mbitamkono

**THE** school's volleyball team scooped second position and bagged a silver medal in the Isipingo Volleyball Tournament.

The games were played at Kamalinee Primary School. One of Windy Heights' team coaches Miss Bongile Vezi said the team played very well.

"In the first round of the tournament, they only lost one game. They went through to the semi-finals and won in a game against Primrose Primary School, thus proceeded to the finals with Kamalinee. They were defeated by 21 - 17 points. They got position 2 and received silver medals," said Vezi.

## Swimming lessons have begun!

**PHOTO:** FOUNDATION and intermediate phase learners began their swimming lessons earlier this year. The lessons take place at Penzance Primary School's swimming pools in Umbilo. Photo supplied



## Rugby players selected by The Sharks



**PHOTOS:** Windies rugby team (middle, in blue) has made huge progress. In the first and third photos, they were taken while they were playing a game with Penzance Primary School at Umbilo in term 2. Photos by Philani Mbitamkono

By Philani Mbitamkono

**WINDY** Heights Primary School's rugby team has made huge progress over the past few months.

Two of the players, Andile Ndlovu and Thapelo Mthembu were selected by The Sharks' under 13 provincial team and made their first television debut on DSTV's Super Sports channel.

The selected players were initially three.

The Sharks' authorities urgently needed the parents' consent to include the boys in their games. The school struggled to reach the third boy's parents on the phone and his offer was cancelled.

The other two boys participated in the massive Kearsney Easter Rugby Festival that took place at Kearsney College in April. The competition was televised on SuperSport. "The school extends its gratitude to Coach Ntso Mkhwanazi of Ogwini Bafana Rugby

Club and Brian Msibi. They have made it possible for these boys to make it this far," said one of the WHPSS sports committee members.

The school's rugby team has participated in a number of external competitions this year where they won, played draw and lost in different games.

Some of the major competitions they participated in included Durban High School Rugby and KZN 10s Festivals.

## Windies soccer team got silver in a major tournament



**PHOTOS:** Windy Heights Primary School's soccer team claimed second-place in the Premier Skills Tournament. Photos supplied

By Philani Mbitamkono

**THE** Windies' soccer team brought home a silver medal and claimed second-place in the Premier Skills Tournament for primary schools.

The competition, which unfolded into two legs, started off at Umlazi Comprehensive Technical High School in May 2023.

The first leg of this tournament included Windy Heights, Sthokozisi and Egijima

Primary Schools.

This leg was played using a point system where Windy Heights won 1 - 0 against Sthokozisi and drew 1 - 1 against Egijima. They scored four points and took first place while Sthokozisi came second. Both position one and two proceeded to the second leg games that were held at Merebank Sports Field.

The primary schools involved in the second leg were Saphinda, Mbokodweni, Windy

Heights and Sthokozisi.

Windy Heights and Sthokozisi both shared 7 points and the tie was solved by using the goal-difference strategy where Sthokozisi took position 1.

Windy Heights came in second place and took home a silver medal.

Before the tournament, Windy Heights players had prepared themselves very well and won 2 - 1 in a friendly match against KwaMakhutha High School.