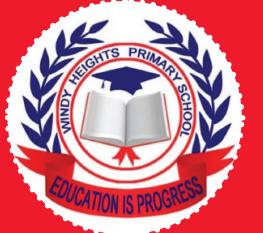


Windy Heights Primary School News

Making Education Compulsory, Fashionable & Fun



December 2023
Issue 03



ABOVE: (1) The Principal, Thembekile Makhanya, receiving an award from Umlazi District Director, Mrs Busi Mahlambi. (2) One of the awardees, Miss Thobeka Majola, receiving a trophy from Mrs Busi Mahlambi. (3) Miss Sithembile Maphumulo and Miss Nomathemba Hlatshwayo on the day of the event. (4) A group of teachers who received gifts.
Photos by KZN Department of Education

Celebrating 10 years of collective leadership



ABOVE: Foundation phase teacher Mrs Thuthukile Khumalo and Intermediate phase Departmental Head Mr Linda Makhathini looking stunning on the Teachers' Day celebration. TOP RIGHT: Trophies that were awarded to teachers to recognize their hard work. BOTTOM RIGHT: Teachers had a blissful night filled with reflective speeches and heartwarming messages.

By Thabisile Khomo

WINDY Heights Primary School has been in existence for 3 decades.

Over the past 10 years, the school has effected major developmental transformation and attained a number of achievements towards fulfilling its mission of providing quality education to learners from a disadvantaged community of Malukazi. This transformation includes the

introduction of skills, teaching of local history, installation and use of technological tools in classrooms, introduction of scarce sport codes and effecting changes in the schools' basic functionality that are in accordance with modern teaching, needs of society and all laws regulating public institutions of basic education. In celebrating this massive milestone, Windy Heights had a blissful and classy

World Teachers' Day under the theme 'Celebrating 10 Years of Collective Leadership' in October.

Teachers' Day is celebrated annually on the 5th of October to acknowledge the dedication and passion of teachers in shaping and transforming the future of the learners through education.

The event started with a formal gala dinner at Amanzimtoti Civic Centre. Some of the teachers who were speakers of the night, delivered speeches

where they reflected on their journey at the school.

"The school would not have achieved what we are celebrating today if it wasn't for the dedication of the teachers who clearly understand the school's vision and mission," said the Principal Miss Thembekile Makhanya.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

The Principal's Corner



committed staff who everyday ensure that learners receive quality education. This is one school which does not discuss absenteeism and late coming as the staff members are always at school on time and ready to teach our future leaders. Staff and learners are developed in many ways (professionally, leadership, public speaking, etc.) Educators are motivated as we

celebrate special days (birthdays, friendship, mother's, father's and teacher's days, etc.)

As a school this is what we have done to improve learner's performance:

- Participated in educational competitions, both internal and external and came out victorious.

- Improved reading program as we have received a donation of corner libraries in all 19 FP classes.

- We have an intervention program after every assessment to assist learners who did not perform well, which from next year will start in the first term to assist progressed and those who were not promoted.

- Successfully introduced Grade R showcase where learners were presenting all what they have learnt to their parents which will be an annual activity and include other grades.

- Introduced robotics and coding, computer lessons and the use of smartboards in teaching and learning.

- Successfully improved our curriculum as we are teaching and assessing local history (celebrating unsung heroes and heroines). This program will be improved in 2024

Learners are awarded for their performance quarterly which will improve next year as we will be adding more categories and what will be received by awardees.

We are highly involved in extra-curricular activities. We are participating and have improved in the following codes: rugby, swimming, drum majorettes and chess.

We are winners of Soccer tournament in Isipingo. We will be introducing mini

sport for our Foundation Phase learners. We are continuing with our skills program, our concentration was in Agriculture and Drama. In 2024, we will be doing all the skills which the school offers.

Our 2024 theme is 'Year of Teaching, Learning and Development'.

Our focus will be on learners with difficulties and to improve professional development for the staff.

This was not a good year for our school financially as we are a "NO FEE SCHOOL". We rely heavily on government subsidy which this year was received late and was half of what we expected.

These challenges did not and will not stop us in achieving our goals. We will soldier on as we have done this year. We are appealing for any kind of donation. As we conclude the year, we would like to thank our dedicated staff, SGB, parents and all stakeholders who contributed positively to the success of the school in 2023.

'Take pride in how far you have come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey'
Michael Josephson.

GREETINGS to the entire Windy Heights Society...

WE are at the end of the school calendar. When we look back in the year 2023 we can say it was a very successful year for Windy Heights Primary School.

We are proud to announce that we were able to implement all programs and achieved all the goals that we set for the year. We are proud of our dedicated and

As a school this is what we have done to improve learner's performance:

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- Improved reading program as we have received a donation of corner libraries in all 19 FP classes.

Preservation of local history continues



ABOVE LEFT: Grade 1 learners being taught by their class teacher Miss Gugu Majozzi about one of the local icons Florence Mkhize outside a block that is named after her. **MIDDLE:** Grade 5 learners being taught about Khuzani by their class teacher Mr. Bukelani Shezi. **RIGHT:** Prominent businessman Mr. Sandile Zungu is one of the local icons that supported the school. Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga

By Samukelisiwe Sibiya

WINDY Heights Primary School stops at nothing to keep learners informed. The road to teaching about local history has been met with so much excitement from learners and support from the local icons chosen by the school.

Earlier this year, the school introduced teaching of local history as phase 2 of the initial project 'Preserving Local History' that was initiated and launched last year. The objective of this program is to give

learners relevant information about local icons.

This extra-curricular program also serves as a source of inspiration to Windy Heights Primary School pupils.

Not only did they learn about these icons in class, but their success stories and profiles also form part of formal assessments, school's special days activities and morning programs. All subjects include local history aspects in their assessment tasks. They are featured in comprehensions, case

scenarios and summary writing. This year alone, learners were taught about the following local icons:

Dr Gcina Mhlophe, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Sorisha Naidoo, Nomusa Dube Ncube, Nomfundo Mcoyi Zondo, Edmund Mhlongo, Mbongeni Ngema, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, Dudu Khoza, DJ Black Coffee, Moses Tembe, Florence Mkhize, Jacinta Ngobese, Sandile Zungu, Nomzamo Mbatha and Khuzani Mpungose.

These icons were identified for each

month according to the positive work they do for the community. They are associated with events in the school calendar that speak to tradition and culture, friendship and humanity, women issues, liberation struggle, youth issues, entertainment, humanitarian work, women's role in the liberation struggle and business.

The school has so far received a very positive response from all the local icons involved who supported the program.

Teachers reflected on their journey at Windy Heights

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Umlazi District Director Mrs Busi Mahlambi who spoke on behalf of the provincial Department of Education commended the principal Miss Makhanya and her entire staff for the progress that the school has made. "You have shown that you are a school with a vision. We thank all teachers from Windy Heights and even those that have already retired. We also can't leave out the contributions of the non-teaching staff," she said.

Reading a letter that she had written for teachers, Mrs Mahlambi said: "You are a

light of the world, a beacon in the dark and hope that gives us strength to survive. Even if we do have people who are not teachers in the school, I know for sure that they went through the hands of a teacher."

On the day, the teachers looked ravishing in their outfits. The event also featured the recent retirees' farewell and teachers' awards.

Speaking on behalf of the retirees, the former Deputy-Principal Mr Raj Pursotham who retired earlier this year said he had no doubt that Windy Heights

was in good hands.

"After one has retired, there's nothing more comforting than seeing the place they have worked for growing. We are grateful for having worked at Windy Heights and at the Department of Education at large. We may have retired but we will always be part of this family," he said.

The event was graced by the school's stakeholders that included representatives from KCap and many officials from the Department of Education that included the Head of Communications Mr Muzi

Mahlambi, Circuit Directors and Principals from other schools.

The celebration was wrapped up with an outdoor picnic at Amanzimtoti Civic Centre Park on the second day where teachers changed to their casual outfits and danced to cool music that was dished out by several DJs.

Johannesburg-based artist, DJ Young, took the teachers back to the 90s with R&B classic hits.

Special lunch for top achievers



LEFT: Dux winner Sinethembelihle Mbonambi appealed to learners to learn from her. **MIDDLE:** Top achievers taken with the principal. **RIGHT:** Top achievers enjoying lunch at 305 Guest House. Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga

By Thabisile Khomo

THIS year's Dux award winner Sinethembelihle Mbonambi advised her fellow schoolmates to follow her footsteps.

Mbonambi spoke at 305 Guest House in Amanzimtoti, south of Durban recently. She was among 8 overall top achievers

who were treated to a celebratory lunch with the principal.

"To all my school mates who are present here today, please follow my footsteps. I took my school work seriously," she said. Mbonambi thanked all her teachers and the Principal for everything that they have done for her.

"My special gratitude goes to my mother

for the support that she has given me," said this Grade 7 learner who's now exiting the school.

Principal thanked the parents for cooperating with the school.

She further explained to them that celebrating with overall top achievers outside the school environment was a program that started in June this year.

"We take one learner who is a top achiever in each grade, starting with Grade R. This is to thank them for their hard work and determination. When we started, we went out with them for breakfast. This time it is lunch. Next time we may do dinner," she said.

Grade 7 learners exit in style



ABOVE: (1) Grade 7 learners on the day of their farewell. (2) Grade 7 learners dressed to kill on the day of their farewell. (3) Grade 7 learners taken with Deputy Principal (Admin) Mr Lindelani Mabaso. (4) Intermediate Phase Departmental Head Mr Linda Makhathini appealed to Grade 7 learners to represent the school well. Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga

By Thandeka Hadebe

GRADE 7 learners were urged to be guided by the values that Windy Heights taught them as they move to different high schools next year.

The appeal came from one of the school's Departmental Heads Mr Linda Makhathini who delivered a speech during these learners' farewell ceremony which marked their exit from primary school.

The event, where learners were dressed to kill, was held at Amanzimtoti Civic Centre at the beginning of December. "As a school, we wish you all the best. Wherever you go next year. Please represent us well. The values that were

taught to you will take you very far," said Makhathini. For fun purposes, learners participated in different games.

Learners' excellence rewarded



By Thabisile Khomo

AS per the norm of recognizing and rewarding learners' excellence, the school hosted this year's annual awards ceremony at Amanzimtoti Civic Hall in the south of Durban recently.

Delighted learners and their parents packed the hall to its full capacity. Emotions ran high as learners struggled to contain their excitement. The grades took turns on stage to receive their trophies, certificates and reading books. Sinethembelihle Mbonambi, a Grade 7 learner, came out tops and scooped the most eyed Dux Award which is given to an overall top achiever in the school.

The Dux award was an addition to several others that she obtained in different subjects.

Her grade mate Minenhle Khumalo bagged a fellowship award which

serves as the school's token of appreciation to a well-mannered learner with good interpersonal skills, who has worked extremely hard towards the development of the school.

Other learners who scooped several awards on the day included Dino Naicker and Adam Sango.

Performances of the day included storytelling, reciting poems and praises of the local icons.

The Principal Miss Themekile Makhanya congratulated all awardees.

She also assured parents that the school will continue keeping track of those learners who are going to different high schools next year.

Former Windy Heights learners from Rossburg High School were part of the event.

Meet
Windy Heights
Primary School
News
Editorial Team



Miss Thabisile Khomo
Editor



Mr Linda Makhathini



Mr Nhlakanipho Shinga



Mr Philani Mbitamkhono



Miss Zizile Buthelezi



Miss Samkelisiwe Sibya



Mrs Sthobile Madiba

Excitement as the school launches corner libraries



ABOVE LEFT: The LEARN CEO Ros Toerien, members of the Ignition Group and learners cutting a ribbon during the book corner launch. **RIGHT:** Grade 3 learners doing storytelling on stage. Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga

By Samkelisiwe Sibya

FOUNDATION Phase learners could not contain their excitement when the school officially launched the newly-installed 19 library corners in their classrooms.

The launch took place in August 2023. On the day of the event, the learners engaged in a number of activities that ranged from reading and storytelling to singing and reciting poems. A donation of the equipment was handed over to the school by The LEARN

Organization and its key sponsor, the Ignition Group in June 2023.

It consisted of 1140 books, book shelves, rugs, cushions, educational literacy posters and charts.

The LEARN organization is a South African non-profit trust that reaches out to schools and children in need. Their goal is to equip these schools with reading books and create sustainable libraries and classroom book corners. Speaking on the day of the launch, the Principal of the school, Miss Thembekile Makanya, said the school was grateful

for such a huge donation.

"It will take the school very far as it has a 2025 plan with which it aims to focus more on enhancing children's literacy and facilitating the functioning of book clubs formed earlier this year," she added.

Delivering her speech at the event, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of The LEARN Ros Toerien said her organization was on a journey of transforming schools through the power of books and literacy.

She then thanked the donor companies that supported her initiative.

Cooling-off after final exams



By Zizile Buthelezi and Thandeka Hadebe

THE end of final examinations marks freedom and a lot of fun for scholars all over the country, especially those residing in Durban.

This is because they get to put their books aside and enjoy exciting moments on the beaches and long trips to rural villages

where most of them spend their holidays. Learners from Windy Heights wrapped up their academic year in a jovial mood when the school took them on three separate excursions to Splash Water World in Amanzimtoti in the south of Durban in November 2023.

The excursion allowed learners to enjoy child-friendly rides and splashing in the large swimming pools with the slides.

The foundation phase went first and the intermediate followed thereafter. The last trip was for the senior phase where the learners started off in a formal function at Amanzimtoti Civic Centre. They then proceeded to Splash where they first had scrumptious meals at Spur eatery and thereafter went for swimming.



Another life lost on M35 Highway

By Brenda Mazibuko

WINDY Heights lost yet another learner this year.

S'mukelo Khanyile (9) was knocked by a car on the M35 Highway while rushing to get his shoes from a relative's house.

This Grade 3 learner's memorial service was held in September where his schoolmates and teachers gathered to celebrate his life.

It was a sombre moment for his classmates who struggled to hold back their tears.

His family members who were part of the service thanked the school for its support. S'mukelo's class teacher Miss Cindy Khumalo delivered a moving speech, citing that this little boy was very passionate about his school work.

"He was a quiet and very caring little man. There's nothing as heart-breaking as standing in front of the people in such an unfortunate gathering," she said.

The Khanyiles were given a token of grief by the school principal.

LEFT: The late Grade 3 learner S'mukelo Godwin Khanyile. Photo supplied

Hard work pays off for teachers



ABOVE: An intermediate phase educator Miss Nombuso Mthabela (second from left) was awarded for uninterrupted attendance. Photo by the KZN Department of Education

By Thabisile Khomo

THIS year's World Teachers' Day celebrations featured Teachers' Awards

with which the school aimed to recognize teachers' excellence and promote positive habits in the work space.

The awards were divided into two sessions. The first session had categories where winners were nominated and voted for by the staff members. The second session, Principal's Awards, had categories where the winners were chosen by the school management team. The winners in the first session were as follows:

1. Google Classroom Expert: Mr Philani Mbitamkono
2. Sports Phenom: Mr Philani Mbitamkono
3. Uninterrupted attendance: Miss Nombuso Mthabela, Miss Nokuthula Dladla and Mrs Nomvuyo Letsekga
4. Most Distinguished Voice: Miss Nosipho Ntuli
5. Early Riser: Miss Sinenhlanhla Mbatha
6. Intervention Guru: Miss Thuliswa Mathunzi
7. Fundraiser Hero: Mr Jaichand Sewnarain
8. School Comedian: Mr Gwinyai

Nyadundu
9. Energiser Bunny: Mrs Thuthukile Khumalo.

The winners in the second session (Principal's Awards) were as follows:

1. Edna and Desmond Makhanya Award: Mr Linda Simamukele Makhathini
2. School's Public Relations Officer: Miss Thabisile Khomo
3. School Innovator: Mrs Zenkosi Mthiyane
4. School Welfare: Mrs Cindy Pillay
5. Literacy Champion: Mr Dhanapalan Moodley
6. Most Artistic Teacher: Mr Nhlakanipho Shinga
7. Best Smile: Miss Thobeka Majola.

The SMT then awarded the principal with a Special SMT award named 'Legacy Builder', honouring her for her hard work towards the positive progress of the school.

Up-close and personal with some of the award winners

■ MR NHLAKANIPHO SHINGA Most Artistic Teacher

NHLAKANIPHO Shinga is a multi-talented young man whose work in Windy Heights Primary School truly reflects versatility.

If he is not in the classroom teaching Coding and Robotics and NS Tech, he is behind the lens of his camera taking school photos.

He is one of the teachers whose work was recognized on the night of the Teachers Day and he bagged the 'Most Artistic Teacher' Award.

"I felt very humbled and honoured to get such a recognition. I felt encouraged to do more, learn more and teach more," commented Shinga.

The 28-year-old teacher hails from the rural village of KwaNdelu in Umzumbe outside Port Shepstone in the South of the KwaZulu-Natal province.

He went to Lucas Primary School in Umzumbe before his family relocated to Umlazi in Durban where he completed his primary school at Khalipha Primary School.

Shinga matriculated at Ganges Secondary School in Merebank in 2013 and proceeded to the University of Zululand where he studied for 4 years



technology is so big that I have found ways to teach myself and also impart my knowledge to children. That is where my passion for teaching Coding and Robotics come from," he said. He added that when he grew up, his father had a camera that he used to take family

and obtained his Bachelor of Education Degree in 2019 with majors in Languages and Mathematics. During his spare time, Shinga listens to music, plays chess, paints drawings and does a lot of reading and research on computers. "From childhood, I have always been that child who is fascinated by computers. I have never studied towards Computer Science or any qualification of that sort but my passion for modern

photos. "He was a self-taught photographer who enjoyed taking photos as a hobby. My inspiration for photography started there. Just like my father, I was never formally taught how to use a camera but I taught myself. Luckily I work for an institution that recognizes teachers' skills apart from the work that they are hired for," he said. Shinga also teaches kids how to play chess.



■ MR DHANAPALAN MOODLEY Literacy Champion

In his 33-year experience as a Language Educator, Mr Dhanapalan Moodley has discovered that when learners have difficulties with reading, they feel frustrated and psychologically trapped and their learning becomes stagnant.

It is for this reason that the 58-year-old veteran teacher from Chatsworth in the South of Durban believes that reading programs must be done with a lot of empathy in order to eliminate initial fears and help learners gain courage and confidence.

Moodley became one of the teachers whose hard work was recognized on the night of the Teachers' Day in October. He bagged an award for being the school's Literacy Champion. With the award, the school was honouring him for his on-going reading program in Grade 4 where he tirelessly assists learners with reading difficulties.

The program started last year and the school discovered that learners who are part of it have shown immense progress in reading.

"Acknowledgement if this kind is lovely. The motivation for this comes from an internal sense of satisfaction. In the area where the school is located, there is more to be done," he said.

Moodley went to Asoka Secondary School where he matriculated. He holds two honours degrees, one in Education and the other one in Fine Arts. He has spent three decades in Windy Heights where he currently teaches English Home Language in the intermediate phase.

During his spare time, Moodley enjoys reading on philosophy and history. He also enjoys meditation and gardening.



■ MISS THULISWA MATHUNZI Intervention Guru

THULISWA Mathunzi (34), a passionate Mathematics teacher in the Senior and FET Phase, was born and bred in a small dusty and disadvantaged township called Umqanduli at Umthatha in the Eastern Cape province.

She went to the famous and historic Walter Sisulu University where she obtained a National Diploma in

Analytical Chemistry. She then proceeded to the University of South Africa where she studied and obtained a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education that qualified her to teach Mathematics and Physical Science in the Senior and FET Phases.

Mathunzi has been with the Department of Education as a teacher for 7 years, teaching Mathematics and Physical

Science mostly in high schools. On the night of the Teachers Day, she snatched an Intervention Guru award where the school honoured her for her efforts towards improving the performance of learners in Mathematics. Earlier this year, she initiated and implemented an intervention program that sought to assist learners who were struggling with Mathematics. The program saw a huge number of learners improving in their performance and succeeded beyond the school's

expectations. Detailing her passion for teaching Mathematics, Mathunzi said she realized at a very tender age that she was good with numbers and passing her knowledge through to others fascinated her.

"As a Mathematics teacher, I have also discovered that besides the normal school teaching hours, learners need extra hours in this subject. This extra time prepares learners to be able to answer all questions from different questioning styles," she said.

Mathunzi continued that her experience has equipped her with a better understanding of the needs of all learners under her wing.

"Learners do not understand what is taught to them in the same way. Others are very quick to grasp while others have moderate to severe learning difficulties. I have taken it as one of my biggest responsibilities to equip those with learning barriers from lower to higher levels. That is exactly what I'm doing," she said.

She added that through the positive change that occurred to her learners, she believed she really deserved an award.

"The award has given me more courage to continue doing more to help the black child," she concluded.

School promotes literacy



ABOVE LEFT: Foundation Phase teacher Miss Zizile Buthelezi talking to learners outdoors during the celebration of International Literacy Day. (Photo by Nhlakanipho Shinga). **MIDDLE:** Grade 7 learner Minenhle Khumalo who scooped position 1 in the essay-writing category during the Elocution competition. (Photo supplied). **RIGHT:** Grade 6 learner Siphesihle Cele participated in the spelling bee category and got the second place. (Photo supplied).

By Sinenhlanhla Mbatha

LITERACY boosts a child's confidence and serves as a foundation for their career. To promote an ability to read and write, Windy Heights yet again celebrated the World Literacy Day.

A special event was held in September where learners from all grades showcased their skills in storytelling, drama, poetry, stage plays and reading short stories in their mother tongue and

English.

Learners were beaming with joy as they engaged in these activities. Speaking at the assembly area on the day of the event, the Departmental Head Mr Linda Makhathini said the school was going to continue seeking ways of ensuring that children enjoy reading as that helps them grow and be confident enough to read instructions on their own during assessments.

"Literacy promotes stability and peace. We need to invest in education," he said.

ALSO, Windy Heights Primary School participated for the first time in the Elocution Competition for the foundation phase that was organized by the Department of Education under Umlazi District. The purpose of the competition was to promote the ability of communicating, literacy and good speaking habits. It took place at Platt Drive Primary School in Isipingo and 10 schools were part of it. Windy Heights learners participated in various categories and they returned

home with certificates. On the other hand, intermediate and senior phase learners participated in the Elocution Competition that was organized by the Progressive Managers where various schools under Umlazi District competed in different categories. A Grade 7 learner from Windy Heights, Minenhle Khumalo scooped position 1 in the Essay Writing category.

Grade R ready for next academic year



By Mishika Munsami

USUALLY, the Grade R showcase and graduation activities which both mark the end of an academic year for the little ones, are held on the same day. This year came with slight changes on this norm as these activities were held on separate dates just to eliminate time limitations on the kids' performances.

The showcase was held inside the school premises in September where the little ones were given a spotlight to show their parents what they have learnt throughout the year.

They wowed them with great performances and left them begging for more when they recited poems, sang songs, told different stories and danced.

The performances allowed parents an

opportunity to witness vast amounts of knowledge and skills that were taught to their kids.

All activities were in keeping with the Heritage Day and reflected different aspects of culture.

It was also an experience that gave every learner an opportunity to shine and boost their confidence.

The formal graduation ceremony took

place at Amanzimtoti Civic Centre in the South of Durban recently where all learners looked stunning in their graduation attire.

As per the norm, they were all given certificates and early Christmas prezzy's. The performances of the day included a Christmas stage play.

Learners put entrepreneurial skills to practice



ABOVE: Grade 7 learners selling different items during a Market Day. Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga

By Thandeka Hadebe

GRADE 7 learners had the opportunity to put their entrepreneurial skills to practice

recently.

They had a successful Market Day as part of their formal assessment in the Economic Management Sciences subject. The learners went all out preparing

products that they sold to their fellow learners, teachers and non-teaching staff within the school.

The products included items like burgers, shwarma, samosas, grilled meat,

sausages, sandwiches and soft drinks. Proceeds of the day were taken to the school account.

Positive talks on Women's Day



(1) Internationally-renowned storyteller Dr Gcina Mhlophe delivering her speech. (2) Jacinta Ngobese receiving a gift from Grade 6 learner Nompho Mgoma who recited her praises. (3) Radio DJ Jacinta Ngobese appealed to female teachers to support each other. (4) One of the female teachers Miss Nombuso Mthabela who shared her life story. (5) Female teachers who were part of the event. Photos by Nhlakanipho Shinga

By Thabisile Khomo

THIS year's Women's Day celebration was a feast of music and a platform for sharing constructive speeches on how women of the modern era are navigating their way to success and what sets them apart.

The event took place at Dr Gcina Mhlophe Library inside the school premises in August where Vuma FM radio DJ Jacinta Ngobese and Mhlophe herself also shared their own stories. The primary purpose of celebrating Women's Day is to recognize the role of the 1956 women in the liberation of the females of this country. However, Windy Heights changed the tune this year and created a platform for new and constructive ways of celebrating

Women's Day without dwelling more on what happened several decades ago. This formed part of recognizing the progress that the modern day women have made in terms of making difference in their own lives and that of others. Female teachers took turns in the podium and had their tummies in stitches laughing at how Jacinta joked about her real life stories and other general issues that affect women. "There was a time where I was really going through a rough patch but still I had to go on radio and talk to people. Listeners of the radio station that I worked for at that particular time hated my guts. I would cry myself to sleep but refused to put my life on hold just because people never liked me. What broke my heart was that most of those

people who made my life very difficult were women," she said.

Jacinta then appealed to women to live their purpose and be supportive to each other.

"Each and every one of you has a story to tell. We might have not heard it today but you have it. Just remember who you are and never feel less important. Destroying another woman will never make your life better," she said. The multi-talented Dr Mhlophe set the stage on fire with women's struggle songs from the past. She then shared a brief of her new project that formed part of her plans to ensure that history of certain women who played pivotal roles in the history of this country do not disappear.

"One of them is Nokukhanya Bhengu Luthuli, the wife to the late former ANC President, Chief Albert Luthuli. I have started seeking partnerships from other organizations because I felt that I could work on such a big project alone. I need partnerships," she said. She spoke highly of Nokukhanya, citing that her name has been wiped off the history book. "That needs to be corrected because people need to know about her hard work. We will shout her name until everybody knows about her. She can never be forgotten when we are still alive," added Mhlophe. Both Mhlophe and Jacinta are part of the school's program that seeks to preserve local history.

Teachers obtain sign-language certificates



■ **Miss Nomvuzo Ndelemane**

■ **Ms Thabisile Khomo**

■ **Ms Brenda Mazibuko**

■ **Mrs Nozipho Ngcongo**

By Brenda Mazibuko

LAST year, the school introduced the teaching of skills in all phases.

Considering the fact that sign language now forms part of the official languages in this country, the school deemed it necessary to teach it to learners as part of

skills.

However, the challenge was that there was a shortage of teachers who could teach it.

As part of equipping teachers with necessary qualifications to do this job, the school management then selected 4 teachers who went for a short course on

Basic Sign Language.

The course was rendered by one of the institutions that is registered with the Department of Social Development in Durban Central.

The selected teachers were, Miss Nomvuzo Ndelemane, Brenda Mazibuko, Thabisile Khomo and

Mrs Nozipho Ngcongo. They all passed with distinctions and obtained their certificates recently. The Principal Miss Thembekile Makhanya said it's very important for learners and employees in a public institution to be able to communicate with the deaf society.

Sports • Skills • Classified

‘Bring Her Up’ Golf Day fun



ABOVE LEFT: Learners being coached by one of the professional golf players. **RIGHT:** Learners warming up before a friendly game with another school. Photos by Thabisile Khomo

By Thabisile Khomo

A Johannesburg-based organization, Charlotte Manuya-Maxeke Foundation (CMMF), hosted another Golf Day in Durban recently.

The event, themed ‘Bring Her Up’ took place at Cotswold Downs Golf and

Country Estate in Hillcrest outside Pinetown in the west of Durban. Ten (10) Grade 3 girls from Windy Heights Primary School were yet again lucky to be part of this exciting event where they mingled with professional golf players and received free lectures on how this sport can open doors of success

for them.

They also got an opportunity to put their knowledge into practice when they played friendly games with a few other schools that were part of this event. The event formed part of CMMF’s program to empower and groom young girls in playing golf.

This organization held a golf day under a different theme last year at the Durban Country Club and Golf Estate near Moses Mabhida Stadium in city central where the same group of girls from Windy Heights participated for the first time.

CMMF is an organization that was formed in honour of the late struggle stalwart Charlotte Manuya-Maxeke who remains one of the very few women that contributed vastly to the liberation and development of this country.

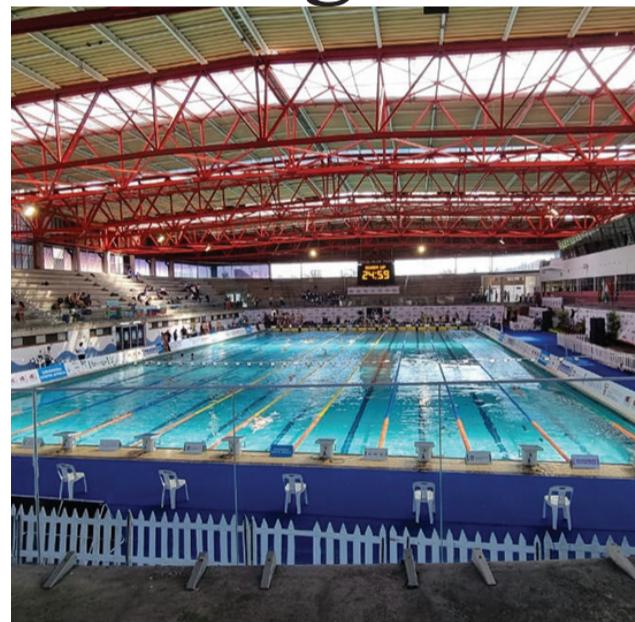
Its partnership with Windy Heights started last year when the school named one of the buildings after her.

This formed part of its on-going program of preserving local history.

Principal Miss Thembekile Makhanya said golf is one of the scarce sport codes in township schools that kids need to be introduced to.

“Doing so, we have to start with kids that are still in the foundation phase to that they will have enough time to learn as they move to higher grades within the school,” she said.

Windies take part in BRICS swimming event



ABOVE: Windy Heights Primary School learners were part of the BRICS Games this year. **EXTREME RIGHT:** Learners were excited to rub shoulders with professional swimmers from across the globe. Photos by Nozipho Ngcongo

By Philani Mbitamkono

A group of Windy Heights learners who participate in swimming had a golden opportunity to mingle with professional athletes from across the BRICS member countries this year in October 2023.

These excited learners were part of this year’s BRICS games that were held at Moses Mabhida Stadium under eThekweni Metro Municipality in Durban.

Although the games were for youngsters between the ages of 18-21 years, Windy Heights learners honoured the invitation

so they could gain exposure in professional swimming. National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in collaboration with the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial government were the organizers and hosts of the 2023 BRICS Games. Apart from attending this event, learners

successfully participated in a Swimming Gala at Penzance Primary School in September 2023 where they showcased the swimming skills they have acquired since the beginning of the training.

CHECKMATE!! Windies team did us proud!

By Philani Mbitamkono and Nhlakanipho Shinga

Learners recently participated in a Chess and Table Tennis Tournament that included schools from Ethekwini Region.

The games were played at Section D

Community Hall in Umlazi, south of Durban.

The learners who were part of the team performed very well.

One of them, Justice Zhou Zoe obtained position 3 and qualified for the next games at Moses Mabhida in Durban Central where he got the second place.

LEFT: A Grade 7 learner Dino Naicker in a chess game with a learner from another school. Photo supplied

