



Thandulwazi Times

Message from the Acting Head of Thandulwazi

Mrs Karen Walstra



Mrs Karen Walstra, Acting Head of the Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy

Education in SA

The recently published PIRLS comparative study of 50 countries, measuring literacy levels between 2011-2016, scored SA last in reading of the 50 participating countries. PIRLS tested 12,810 Gr 4 students from 293 schools in any of the 11 official languages and found that "Some 78%, or nearly 8 out of 10, Grade 4 students in South Africa, cannot read for meaning"

Further the gender gap in SA is the second highest in the world, with Gr 4 girls a full year of learning ahead of boys in the same grade.

As the Acting Head of Thandulwazi, it is exciting to share with you the highlights of the Thandulwazi programmes facilitated during 2017. Once again Thandulwazi has impacted many lives in a positive manner. The Teacher Development and Saturday School Programmes have successfully been completed for the year; and the Interns and Scholarship students have written their end of year assessments.

1 167 high school students (Grade 9 – 12) registered for the Thandulwazi Saturday School this year. Learners who attended expressed their gratitude for the lessons provided. A young student came up to me excitedly a few Saturdays ago, stating that her Maths and Science marks had improved from a fail to 60%, she said the Thandulwazi lessons had resulted in these changes! Another exciting impact, is that all Thandulwazi learners have access to *Mathletics*. The *Mathletics* reports reflect significant improvement and usage of the programme, driven by teacher involvement and dedicated *Mathleics* tutors setting curriculum activities for the learners. The Saturday School Closing Ceremony was a wonderful celebration of the learners who had achieved well in the *Mathletics* Challenge, annual English Competition and FIMO (UJ's Financial & Investment Management Olympiad). Sadly we said farewell to Mr Zeph Khoza, the Saturday School Programme Director, who has decided to pursue other career opportunities. We thank him for his contribution to the Thandulwazi Saturday School over many years.

The Thandulwazi Teacher Development Programme in Gauteng, facilitated many varied and impactful workshops during the year, ranging from Pre-Grade R to Grade 9 teacher, and five leadership programmes. The UNISA ECD pilot, comprising 60 selected Gr R and pre-Grade R teachers completed the two accredited courses. They have progressed well during the year, and found the sessions most beneficial and impactful on their learning environments. Many teachers and school leaders completed Microsoft courses, thereby upskilling themselves. The Leadership programmes concluded with school leaders being awarded SACE points for various programmes; and 22 leaders competently completed the SETA management accredited programme. The Gauteng Teacher Development programme, concluded on a high note with Iris Cupido, CEO of the SABC Foundation, delivering an inspirational address to the teachers at the Closing Ceremony held on 14 October 2017.

Following a full programme of workshops, facilitated over 12 sessions for 426 educators, the Closing Ceremony of the Thandulwazi-PEP Teacher Development Programme in Limpopo was hosted at Malekutu High School on 02 September. Attended by members of the PEP management team from Cape Town and the Limpopo region, it was a morning of celebration. The monitoring and evaluation undertaken in Limpopo demonstrated the positive impact that Thandulwazi is having on the schools in the area, with teachers committing that they look forward to attending in 2018.

An exciting new development next year will be the launch of a Thandulwazi programme for ECD teachers in the Modimolle region of Limpopo. Again this programme will be funded by PEP for three years.

This year the Thandulwazi Interns have progressed well with their studies. We received 458 applications for the Internship Programme for 2018, and will be growing our Intern numbers to 45 in 2018. The graduating interns are excited about moving into a classroom space of their own and are applying for teaching positions at various schools across the country.

Thanks to multi-year funding pledged by our generous funders, the Thandulwazi Learner Scholarship Programme for FET-phase students will provide academic scholarships for six learners to attend St Stithians Girls' College and Boys' College in 2018.

As the year comes to a close, the Thandulwazi Team thanks one and all for their generous support on many levels in 2017. We wish you and your families a blessed year-end.

Enjoy reading the final newsletter of the year!

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THANDULWAZI - inspiring a love of learning

THANDULWAZI *making a world of difference* in teacher education

THANDULWAZI TEACHERS CLOSING CEREMONY, 2017

The Thandulwazi Teacher Development Programme (Gauteng) hosted its 2017 closing ceremony on Saturday 14 October, in the St Stithians Boys' Preparatory Tree Quad. This annual event is a wonderful celebration of teachers, at which Thandulwazi recognises their commitment to the profession and their learners; their hard work; and their individual achievements over the year. It is also an opportunity to thank the Thandulwazi workshop presenters, volunteers and partners in education, and our generous funders.

The theme for this year's closing ceremony was *teamwork and collaboration*. Ms Iris Francis Cupido, CEO of the SABC Foundation, gave an inspirational address in which she focussed on three key messages:

- Teachers being more than just educators: *"children today need validation, they need to be inspired and told that they are valuable. For many children, their homes are no longer safe spaces so school becomes their 'happy place'"*.
- *"Everyone matters"*: The power of one's community and their networks and how important it is to treat everyone you meet with respect and dignity.
- Success is not determined by where you come from but by the decisions you make and how you develop yourself through opportunities of education.

Attendees enjoyed performances by the Thandulwazi teachers' marimba band and Djembe circle, directed by Mike Sibanda.

The ceremony was a celebration of another successful year of the programme. One beneficiary, Louis Bhenyu (Gideon Rambuwany Primary School) commented:

"Now, I am a totally different teacher from the one that walked into the gates of Thandulwazi"

Next year we hope to continue to inspire teachers to collaborate and embrace the journey of professional development.

Thandulwazi thanks the Saints Family and our many partners in education, whose contributions make the Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy possible. Special thanks to Pan Macmillan SA, Simplified Technology Solutions (Saints parents Paul McKay and Justine Lacey), and a donor, who has asked to remain anonymous, for the prizes donated for the Thandulwazi Teachers' Closing Ceremony.



THANDULWAZI INTERN TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

In 2018, the Thandulwazi Intern Teacher Training Programme will grow the number of trainee teachers on the programme to 45. Following a thorough recruitment process places were offered to 15 new Interns. On Thursday, 12 October 2017, the Thandulwazi Intern-Teacher Training Programme welcomed the new interns at an Induction Day. It was a jam-packed morning which focused on the following aspects:

- An overview of the Thandulwazi structures, presented by the acting head of the Thandulwazi Academy Mrs Karen Walstra;
- The St Stithians HR Manager, Gareth Low, spoke about *Building one's brand in the workplace*;
- An explanation of the intern-teacher employment agreements and policies was presented by Mrs Thobeka Mngambi, the Thandulwazi Director of Interns;
- How to survive as an intern at St Stithians College* was presented by two current intern-teachers, Mr Wiskey Ngobeni and Ms Ashley Turner,

The day ended with the Intern School Coordinators introducing the new to their mentors for 2018. This was a really special time where both parties had the opportunity to discuss their expectations on how to build an effective intern-mentor working relationship. The Thandulwazi Intern-Teacher Training Programme looks forward to making a difference in developing and building the future teachers of our country. The 2017/18 Thandulwazi Interns are pictured below.

THANDULWAZI INTERNS, 2017



THANDULWAZI HAS TALENT



Marcus Mogakala (left), a 1st Year FET-phase Maths Intern, is also a talented musician and violinist. Marcus played in the St Stithians College orchestra at Founders' Day in June 2017.

The gifted Tebogo Tlhapane, right, trained as a Jazz singer before joining the Thandulwazi Intern Teacher Training Programme as a Foundation Phase teacher. Tebogo sang at the farewell function held for the graduating Interns on 30 November 2017.



THANDULWAZI in Limpopo

2017 Limpopo Teacher Development Programme

“Research shows that an inspiring and informed teacher is the most important school-related factor influencing learner performance”

The Thandulwazi-PEP Teacher Development Programme in Limpopo is now in its second year of a three year cycle. Thandulwazi thanks PEP for the partnership in education and the generous funding provided in 2017, which allowed 426 HDSA teachers in the region to benefit from the professional development, upskilling programme provided.

Based on the feedback of the beneficiaries at each session and the post-programme visits to schools in the region, Thandulwazi is of the view that the objectives of the programme have been achieved in 2017; the project remained within budget and the agreed timeframes have been met.

One of the main objectives of the Thandulwazi PEP Teacher Development Programme is to empower, build confidence and improve the morale of practising teachers in the Limpopo Province. This is achieved by following an inclusive model; providing an effective, hands-on, professional development programme, facilitated by teachers for teachers; in a caring and non-judgmental environment. The feedback from the registered teachers would indicate that this was achieved.

NEWSFLASH

In partnership with PEP, Thandulwazi will offer a teacher development programme for 200 ECD teachers in Modimolle in 2018

Programme Director’s visit to a partner school in Limpopo, September 2017



“The Gamalebese school in the Maroke district has been in existence for 5 years. The school is poorly furnished; three store rooms are full of chairs that are in pieces. This school has no access to the CAPS document. Mrs Tebello has been teaching for 12 years and attended Thandulwazi in 2017. She was excited to show us the resources that were created for her group of Grade 3 Learners. She had recently created them along with her students and the purpose was to create a tool that can be used to teach counting working from an abacus as a base. Mrs Tebello noted that she had grown in confidence as a teacher since attending the Thandulwazi workshops and that the leadership of the school support her better now. She has also learnt to include the parents of the children in her classroom when working on different ideas with her children. We also noted how she had incorporated group seating in her class. This is something she learnt during the workshops.

“The teaching is nice and also wise. We use the hard work and we view different ways of teaching Mathematics” says Mrs Tebello of the Thandulwazi workshops.



THANKS TO OUR FUNDRAISING PARTNERS

Sincere thanks to the **Bryanston Country Club**, which nominated Thandulwazi as its charity of choice for the 2017 Charity Week. A series of fundraisers, including Golf Days, dinners and a Sunset Concert raised R200k for Thandulwazi.

Sunset CONCERT
 Featuring **Gavin Edwards**
 The Voice Finalist
 On the first fairway
 Sunday, 10 September 2017
 From 15:00 to sunset
 R100.00 per person
 Children under 6 free

OLDMUTUAL WEALTH

CENTURY
 PROPERTY GROUP

Thandulwazi Trust
 FOUNDATION
 ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO PHILELE FOUNDATION AND THANDULWAZI TRUST

Only 1 200 tickets available!
 Bookings at Reception - reception@bryanstoncc.co.za



THANDULWAZI FUNDRAISERS 2017

Team Thandulwazi, comprising 57 cyclists, raised R125k for a Thandulwazi academic scholarship, riding for a purpose in the 947 Cycle Challenge on 19 November 2017



During Youth Month, June 2017, CN&Co initiated a creative campaign, #smallbitesgobigger, with the **Thai Africa Restaurant Group** and in 2 weeks raised R36,131.82 for the Thandulwazi Saturday School.

thai africa restaurant group
 Johannesburg - cape town - south africa

kong 港
 so yum 好味

wangthai

To **Thandulwazi Trust** R 36 131.82

Amount **Thirty six thousand one hundred and thirty one rand and eighty two cents only**

#smallbitesgobigger
 June 2017



Thandulwazi Academic Scholarships for learners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2018 Academic Scholarships

Funds raised by *Team Thandulwazi/947 Cycle Challenge* in 2016 and 2017 and multi-year funding granted in 2017 by FEM (for 2018-2020) will enable Thandulwazi to offer three FET-phase academic scholarships for Grade 10 students in 2018. The scholarships were advertised in July 2017; and 94 applications, from Grade 9 students attending 21 high schools across Gauteng and Kokstad, were received for the 2018 Thandulwazi Learner Scholarships at St Stithians College. Following a review of the applications, 40 students were invited to write the scholarship examination (covering Maths, Natural Science, English and Problem Solving) on Saturday, 09 September. The top six students were all girls!

It was decided to invite the top 2 boys and top 2 girls and their parents to be interviewed by the panel (comprising the Acting Head of Thandulwazi, Girls' College Head/ Deputy, Boys' College Deputy and Deputy Head of Advancement on Saturday, 16 and 30 September.



The Thandulwazi Scholarships provide three-year funding to cover the tuition fees and development levy in full for the FET-phase; St Stithians Colleges make a contribution per student (capped at an agreed amount annually) towards add-ons; and students' parents contribute to additional costs depending on their financial circumstances.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2018 Thandulwazi academic scholarships:

- Wayne Ndlovu, currently attending Pretoria Technical High School (Pretoria)
- JR Lindelani Malunga, from Vuleka SSB High School (Randburg)
- Lindiwe Mabanga, attended Veritas College (Springs)



News from a Thandulwazi Graduate

Rofhiwa Mukhondo (left) was the first recipient of the Thandulwazi Galactic Unite Nash Scholarship (2014-16) and matriculated from St Stithians Girls' College. Rofhi was awarded an Allan Gray fellowship and has just completed her first year (BCom Accounting) at UCT. Rofhi writes:

"...the first year is finally over. I wrote my last paper on Thursday evening and yesterday was just consumed by all the packing I had to do and moving things into storage. I believe today will be the first day of actually living like a student on holiday.

I am in Cape Town until the 21st but I'm taking the time to volunteer at Home of Hope which is close to where I'm staying. I've organised some vacation experience in January with Phumlani Nkontwana, who started and owns a consulting firm (Phumlani Nkontwana Consulting). He is very deeply involved with the Allan Gray Foundation and I believe I will learn a lot from him and his team. I also spoke to Doug (Hoerrne) and we are in the process of arranging something in the second week of January just before I start with Phumlani. Other than that I will be working as a receptionist at Tugwell Residence next year, it's a very convenient job and because it's UCT, they have catered for lectures and tests and things. The hours are flexible. I'm also involved in the 2018 mentoring team which is set up for the incoming first years so I'm very excited for that.

This year has flown by and it's frightening to think about the speed at which things are going. I think this was a good year to find my feet and I'm definitely feeling more confident going into 2018 and dealing with it all. There are so many opportunities I would love to engage in and I feel prepared to handle it all. Thanks to all at Thandulwazi and Galactic Unite. Best regards Rofhiwa"

THANDULWAZI SATURDAY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

THANDULWAZI YEAR-END PRIZE GIVING

Following Saturday classes on October 21st, the year-end prize-giving was held at 12 noon in the amphitheatre. At this closing event the top achievers in the *Mathletics* Challenge, the winners of the annual English Competition, and the students who wrote the FIMO (Finance & Investment Management Olympiad) were awarded certificates and prizes. We were delighted to host Ms Pearl Phoolo of the Standard Bank, the major partner of the Thandulwazi Saturday School; Mr Londani Ntuli, Conco Group (funder of the Grade 9 Pilot); strategic partners (e.g. UJ/ FIMO and *Mathletics*), corporate funders and individual donors at this event. Sincere thanks to *Mathletics* and PanMacmillan SA for generously sponsoring the prizes for the winning students.



Mathletics soars at Thandulwazi

Greater emphasis has been placed this quarter on student usage of *Mathletics*. The computer lab sessions are more focused and greater numbers of students are making use of the *Mathletics* App on their phones. Students are being awarded printed *Mathletics* certificates when they achieve the targeted levels in the curriculum work set. 161 Bronze level certificates and 6 Silver level certificates were achieved by various students in September 2017. A fantastic achievement this year at Thandulwazi was the total number of hours online, completing Maths tasks, 2 900 hours. In previous years this number was around 950 hours. The learners have completed 202 000 curriculum questions. This has been driven by the setting of curriculum activities by the tutors, with the teachers involvement. We were delighted that two of the Thandulwazi students were listed on the *Mathletics* Hall of Fame on 05 October 2017—a great achievement. Both students went on to win the annual *Thandulwazi Mathletics* Challenge in their grades:

- Grade 9 - Winner: Desiree Marotola, Sqodiphola Secondary School
- Grade 10—Winner: Mila Bentsile, Cosmo City Secondary

Sincere thanks to our longstanding partner in education, Protea Chemicals, which has funded the *Mathletics* Licence at Thandulwazi since 2011.

HOW DOES THE HALL OF FAME WORK?

Mathletes Online

3,677

Lifetime Correct Answers

28,234,191,163



South Africa's Top 100 Students



Time remaining 09:43:11

Previous Current

Position	Country	Name	School	Points
1	South Africa	Mila B	Thandulwazi Saturday School - 2017, GT, South Africa	3060
2	South Africa	Desiree M	Thandulwazi Saturday School - 2017, GT, South Africa	2810
3	South Africa	Fife D	St John's Preparatory School, GT, South Africa	2000
4	South Africa	Adashya C	Crawford Preparatory - Sandton, GT, South Africa	1970
5	South Africa	Thomas H	St John's Preparatory School, GT, South Africa	1736
6	South Africa	Apostoli A	St John's Preparatory School, GT, South Africa	1684
7	South Africa	Oluhle M	St Mary's DSG - Pretoria, GT, South Africa	1572
8	South Africa	Lushil A	Woodlands International College, GT, South Africa	1500
9	South Africa	Klan M	St Benedicts Snr Prep, GT, South Africa	1470
10	South Africa	Oratlwe M	St Andrew's School for Girls, GT, South Africa	1460

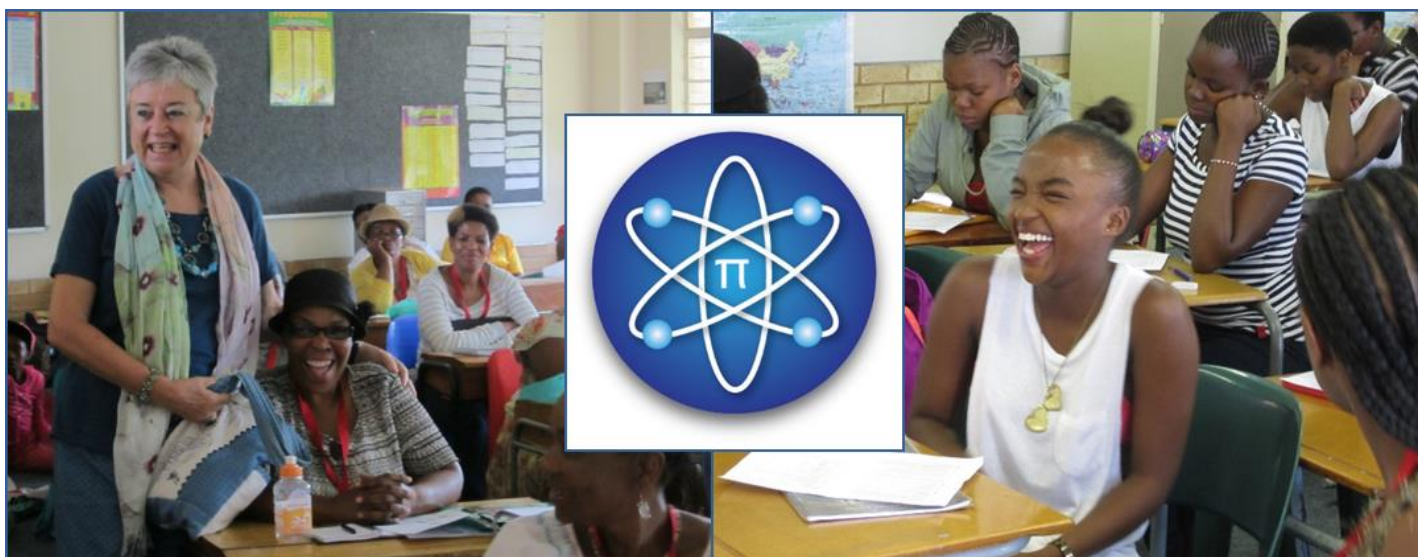
Thank you to our generous partners & funders, 2017

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

(Helen Keller)

The growth, impact and successes achieved by Thandulwazi and its beneficiaries, over the past 12 years, reflect the efficacy of the partnerships that have been forged since 2005, when the Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy was first established. Since inception, Thandulwazi has recognised that the task of reforming and revitalising education in South Africa was too big for government alone. To effectively address the educational challenges plaguing our beloved country, all sectors of society needed to collaborate, partner and make their contribution. Thandulwazi is blessed to have partners that share our vision and commitment to education. We thank One & All for the generous support provided, on many levels, to the Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy over the past year.

The Thandulwazi Trust is grateful for the go to the website (www.thandulwazi.com) or click on the link below for a full list of Thandulwazi's partners: in education: <http://www.stithian.com/thandulwazi/content/page/thandulwazi-funders-and-partners>



Thanks from a Thandulwazi Saturday School graduate

Dear Thandulwazi

I'm currently doing my second year in Information Technology (Software Development) at Tshwane University of Technology. It has been a bit challenging but I'm managing, since I am one of the top 5 students in my specialisation. Thank you Thandulwazi for the great work that you are doing.

Kind regards

Andiswa Ndlovu (Matric Class of 2015), Email received 06/07/2017

Thandulwazi dates to diarise - 2018

Thandulwazi Saturday School

- 27 January 2018 - Registration & Prize-giving for Matric 2017 Top Achievers (Mears Hall)
- 17 March 2018 - Thandulwazi Careers Day

Thandulwazi Teacher Development Programme (Gauteng)

- 03 & 10 February 2018 - Registration Day
- 13 October 2018 - Closing Ceremony

Thandulwazi-PEP Teacher Development Programme (Limpopo)

- 10 & 17 February 2018 - Registration for teachers - Sekhukhune programme
- 10 February 2018 - Registration for ECD teachers - Modimolle programme

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