



# Thandulwazi Times

## Message from the Head of Thandulwazi

Mr Velaphi Gumbi



Mr Velaphi Gumbi  
Head: Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy, 2018

*"just as no education system can move beyond the quality of its teachers, no child can succeed without firm foundations in both literacy and numeracy"*

(Dr Nic Spaul)

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Looking from the outside in, one gets the impression that the Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy is a small organisation that comes alive only on Saturdays. This is particularly due to its two major programmes, viz. the Thandulwazi Saturday School and Teacher Development Programmes, running on this day. This is what I thought before I joined the Academy as the new Head of Thandulwazi in July 2018. I got the shock of my life when I received over 200 e-mails that I had to carefully read and respond to on my first day on duty! My diary was packed with meeting after meeting, inside and outside of the College and I literally had to run in order to keep up. It didn't take long to realise that the stakeholder base of Thandulwazi is huge. Somehow it seemed everyone knew this would be the case and everywhere I would go, people would meet me with friendly smiles and ask "how are you keeping?" Frankly, I do not know how I made it through that first week and month, but there is one thing I can say today everywhere you go on this campus, there is a friendly Saints smile willing to help.

It is for this reason that I do not want to write about the Thandulwazi programmes in this publication, but rather to acknowledge and thank the people who "drive" Thandulwazi. The employees of the Academy and College who respond when you call, the volunteers who selflessly give of their time, the men and women who have clearly demonstrated to me that South Africa, despite the many challenges, has an optimistic future. I have met people here who are not afraid to take a solid stand, even on difficult issues that other people wouldn't dare speak of, such as diversity and inclusion, without any fear of possible criticism and repercussions. This says to me that *'I am at the right place'*.

The Thandulwazi Academy impacted directly on the education of 3000 learners and teachers in Gauteng and Limpopo in 2018. I find it amazing that all four of our programmes are made possible through the hard work of fundraising. Really and truly, I will never have befitting words for Bev Johnson, except to say thank you Bev. It is such an honour and privilege to be part of Thandulwazi, such a great St Stithians Initiative. The Academy is truly "Inspiring Excellence. Making a World of Difference."

From *Team Thandulwazi*, pictured below, we thank our many partners in education for their benevolence and incredible support again this year. We wish you a blessed year-end and look forward to partnering with you again in 2019 at Thandulwazi.



## THANDULWAZI *making a world of difference* in teacher education

### A Thandulwazi graduate reflects on her experience

Thandulwazi subscribes to the findings of the 2007 McKinsey Report, “the quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers”. Hence, a key focus of the Thandulwazi Maths and Science Academy is to equip both current and new teachers with better subject understanding, pedagogical content knowledge, and classroom management skills.

Thandulwazi’s vision is a South Africa, where all our young people receive quality basic education, delivered by teachers who are professional, competent and confident in their subject knowledge, with practical and sound pedagogical skills that will ensure the effective delivery of the curriculum to their learners. Hence, the academy offers two programmes focussed on teachers to achieve this goal.

One of these is the Thandulwazi Intern-Teacher Training Programme, a pre-service, full-time teacher training programme offered over a maximum of 5 years, aimed at growing capacity in the South African teaching corps. In 2018, 43 Interns have trained on this programme; and we hope to grow the programme organically to 50 Interns by 2020.

One of the beneficiaries of the Thandulwazi Intern-Teacher Training Programme is Miss Lucia Mangolo, who graduated from the programme in December 2017 and was awarded her Bachelor of Education from UNISA this year. Lucia is now a full time teacher at St Stithians Girls’ Prep and is living on campus in the Akhani building.

The amazing part of Lucia’s story is that her first interaction with Thandulwazi was at the Thandulwazi Saturday School, which she attended in 2010 as a school girl. She was part of the bursary scheme at Waverley Girls’ High and came to St Stithians to seek assistance with her Maths and Science studies. At the time, she found St Stithians to be quite an intimidating space, but now calls it home – in more ways than one! Lucia’s Intern-Teacher journey began in 2013 when an intern position became available on the Thandulwazi programme. Lucia started her journey in the Junior Prep – the Gateway to St Stithians College – and spent her first three years in this school (2014, 2015 and 2016), she then moved to the Boys’ Prep and Girls’ Prep in 2017, where she completed the final 5 modules of her degree. Lucia was invaluable in this space and as a result, was offered a permanent post at the St Stithians Girl’s Prep from 2018.

She wrote the following to Mesdames Bev Johnson and Thobeka Mngambi in August of this year:



*“There’s a saying that goes: It takes a village to raise a child! I was only 21 when I came for an interview that was about to change my life. The journey that was about to unravel in front of me was not one I was ready for. It was not always easy but with the great support of fellow interns (who have now become friends), staff, mentors and the entire Thandulwazi family I have made it this far. I have accomplished more than I could ever imagine. From living in a tiny shack in Soweto, never did I imagine that all those sleepless nights and constant fear of failure would lead to me sitting in a Saints classroom as an independent young teacher and moulding young minds. I did not always have the zest in me during class observations and I made tons of mistakes, but all those obstacles have helped me develop my confidence both personally and professionally. Thank you for taking a chance with me and giving me the amazing opportunity of learning from some of the best teachers and schools in South Africa. Most importantly thank you for helping me obtain my qualification, providing me with a meal a day and depositing money (stipend) into my account so that I could also look presentable and be able to arrive at work each day. I would have not been able to reach this milestone by myself. For that I thank you so much and may you both be continuously blessed.”*

We are incredibly proud of Lucia and her achievements thus far. She is a much-valued and loved member of the St Stithians family. Not one to rest on her laurels, Lucia has applied to do her Honours in Early Childhood Development in 2020 and we wish her well on this next part of her journey.

*Article: Annie Fyfe-Hitchings*



## THANDULWAZI INTERN-TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

### *17 new teachers to graduate from the 2018 Programme*

**The Thandulwazi Intern-Teacher Training Programme**, a mentored pre-service training programme for aspiring teachers, aims at growing the number of new teachers in South Africa, with special focus on subjects or phases facing critical shortages, viz. Maths, the Sciences, English and African Languages, and Early Childhood Development (ECD)/ Foundation Phase.

Established in 2005, this programme has grown organically over the years, training in total 146 young intern teachers. Included in this number are the 43 interns undertaking teacher training this year in the five St Stithians schools (which cover all the educational phases), while at the same time studying part-time towards a PGCE or BED degree through UNISA. Eight new teachers graduated from the programme in 2017; and 17 are due to graduate in 2018. The 2018 graduates are pictured below at their recent farewell lunch.

Of the 82 Thandulwazi graduates, 70 (85%) are currently teaching in a range of schools/ institutions, in either a full-time or part-time capacity, across the country. Now that is making a *world of difference!*



*Thandulwazi wishes the graduating class of Intern-teachers every success in the year ahead as they take charge of their own classrooms, in schools across the country. Make a difference in education, the lives of your students and future prospects of our youth. Hamba kahle!*



### **Thandulwazi Intern selected for GTI Student-Teacher Exchange In the USA in 2019**

Congratulations to Lesego Kgosi, who will be completing her BEd Degree in 2019, on her selection for a student-teacher exchange to San Francisco in March/ April 2019. The exchange is funded by Teach With Africa and the Global Teachers Institute (USA) and offers interns the opportunity to observe educators in the USA, visit schools and undertake research. Lesego has opted to focus on "Inclusivity in the school environment". Well done, Lesego, we are so proud of you!



## THANDULWAZI TEACHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

In 2018, the Thandulwazi Teacher Development Programme offered upskilling and professional development workshops for educators at three sites in Gauteng and Limpopo (Sekhukhune and Modimolle). Over 1600 teachers and school leaders, working across the ECD-Inter/Sen phases, registered for the programmes.

84% of the Thandulwazi beneficiaries, in all three locations, are teaching in the ECD/ Foundation Phase. By providing ECD focussed, accredited programmes, Thandulwazi hopes to empower teachers with the “foundations” and skills needed to impact on teaching and learning in this critical phase of education.

Thanks to generous funding provided by **Growthpoint Properties**, Thandulwazi offered a UNISA-accredited year-long course for 57 selected pre-Grade R and Grade R educators in Gauteng.



Over 200 ECD practitioners registered for a SETA accredited programme in Modimolle (Limpopo). This programme is funded by **PEP** and will be run over 3 years (2018-2020) in partnership with Dagbreek Primary School and Ukhanyiso Ebantwini (Pty) Ltd.



### PARTNERING WITH CELL4CHANGE



Cell4Change (C4C), a new NPO established by Carol Dlamini, was offered the opportunity to partner with the Thandulwazi Teacher Development Programme in Gauteng and pilot their programme, aimed at using cellphone technology to upskill and empower ECD practitioners. C4C provide donated mobile devices uploaded with the mobile application, *Wordworks*, for ECD practitioners. *Wordworks* is designed by The Reach Trust and is an interactive early learning application with activities to make it easy for the ECD practitioners to stimulate curiosity and excitement for learning in class. Every practitioner's journey is tailor-made through messaging and push notifications that prompt effective ongoing early learning development by providing them with daily lessons and tips to improve their teaching and engagement with the children in their care, via a cellphone application to develop the skills of numeracy, literacy and logical thinking.

Thandulwazi selected one of the 12 classes of ECD practitioners, to participate in the Cell4Change pilot. These teachers are working in 24 ECD Centres around Gauteng impacting 1 400 children. Carol Dlamini recently visited the Grace Little Angels in Forest Hill and Good News Community Centre in Troyeville and found that the devices were a welcomed intervention and the teachers were excited to be part of this pilot. Other teachers at their centres are keen to also benefit from this pilot.

*“Since using the device in the centre we have enrolled 4 new children. Our children went back home telling their parents that we have devices that “tells” stories and the parents came to enquire and we told them about Cell4Change and the news is spreading fast in the community”,* said Teacher Tshepo from Good News Community Centre. The principal has also allocated half an hour daily to be used for all the classes for the daily actives and story telling.

*“I have been working in the ECD Centres for the past 11 years and this is my first year to receive any form of training thanks to Thandulwazi - this has really changed my life. When I came back with the devices to the centers I told the other teachers how to use it and we now take turn to use for all our classes and the children gets so excited - they love to sing the rhymes and learning new words”* said Teacher Grace from Grace Little Angels.

## THANDULWAZI LEARNER SCHOLARSHIPS



### Thandulwazi Academic Scholarships for 2019 awarded

Thanks to multi-year funding granted by FEM in 2018 and funds raised by *Team Thandulwazi* in the 947 Cycle Challenge, two Thandulwazi learner scholarships have been awarded for 2019-2021 to Cassidy Arendse and Lethabo Aphane, who will join St Stithians Girls' College in Grade 10.

The scholarship was widely advertised in July 2018; students from 11 schools were invited to write the assessment on 28 July; and the top three candidates (all of whom were female) were interviewed on 01 September.

This is a three year academic scholarship, awarded to high potential Grade 9 students, and covers the student's tuition fees at St Stithians.

We wish Cassidy and Lethabo every success in the year ahead.

THANDULWAZI SCHOLARSHIPS, 2018

## News from a THANDULWAZI Scholar—Rofhiwa Mukhondo, Matric 2016

We are so proud of Rofhiwa, who was the first recipient of the Thandulwazi Galactic Unite Nash academic scholarship (2014-2016). Rofhi completed her Matric in 2016 at St Stithians Girls' College. She was awarded an Allan Gray tertiary bursary to study at UCT in 2017; and this year, she has successfully completed her second year of BBusSci (passing five of her eight subjects with distinction and two with Upper Seconds). Not only has Rofhi maintained an excellent average this year; but she also made the Dean's Merit List and has been recognised with a UCT Bronze Certificate for 35 hours of active learning leadership. Rofhiwa writes:

"Hi Bev,

*Oh my goodness-what a year this has been. The week you emailed me was arguably one of the messiest weeks of my life. So the year started on a very high note with me taking on both Accounting and Economics (which resulted in me having 6 courses this semester) in hopes of really finding out where I wanted to go with this degree. It's actually quite scary how many decisions we make from when we're about to leave matric to when we're in first year that impact the rest of our lives and we make these decisions with very little information or knowledge of what they imply.*

*So during the semester- I had some highs and lows, as expected with universities, but to my delight-I am still standing and doing well in every aspect. In the same week I found out that I had gotten through to the 1st round of interviews for the "Grow@BCG" programme with the Boston Consulting Group as well as the shortlist for becoming an economics tutor.*

*In between all this I was struggling with deciding on what I actually wanted to study and where I want to go in my life - I have realised that I have a great passion for people: empowering and nurturing other people's growth. I see this especially because in all the highs and lows I have remained consistent with my volunteering and it's in that work that I find my sanity. But also, I really developed a love for Economics last year and I really want to see myself involved in social entrepreneurship and development projects when I am older. So Accounting was so far off to what I wanted to do. So today, I finally changed majors and I am registered for Bachelor in Business Science specialising in Economics but I'm also going to do a lot of Statistics and Finance within the course as well as some basic Accounting. So I am actually quite pleased with the result of all my decisions from first year because I realised that I'm going to be quite well-rounded in my knowledge when I'm done.*

*I appreciate your prayers, your emails and every moment where you check up on me. It feels good to know that I have your support.*

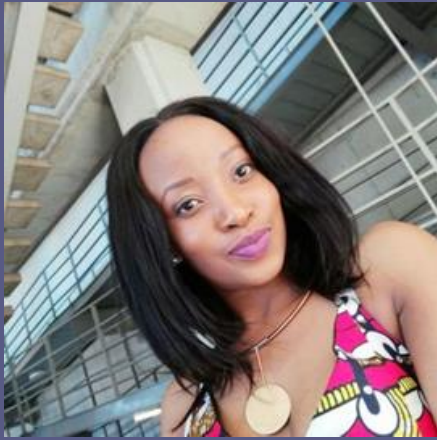
*With thanks and warmest regards,*

*Rofhiwa"*





## Thandulwazi Saturday School Graduates



**Boitumelo Matlala** (23) was raised by strict parents. Growing up in Ferndale, Randburg, her family had high hopes for her to do well in matric. In 2013, in her matric year, her mother, Seipati found out about the Thandulwazi Saturday School Programme. She recalls that year as being a difficult time for her family due to personal circumstances. The family decided to enrol her into the programme as she was struggling with Mathematics. Boitumelo herself took up the opportunity with both hands and started attending the Saturday classes regularly.

Her mom would drop Boitumelo off at St Stithians College on her way to work at the Pick n Pay Coachman's Crossing where she worked as a cashier. Boitumelo went to high school at Northview High in Balfour. Due to her diligence, Boitumelo matriculated with a B symbol in Mathematics and a B symbol in English.

In 2014, Boitumelo had to take a gap year and joined the workforce working in retail and at a call centre. In 2015 she was able to further her education through South West Gauteng College in Randburg where she obtained a Diploma in Management. Her majors were Entrepreneurship, Operations and Finance.

Boitumelo completed her qualification and was fortunate enough to secure a learnership with FNB in 2018. She is currently working in the Internal Communications Department and is thriving in her role.

She hopes to secure full-time employment for 2019 as she has really enjoyed her time at FNB. Boitumelo credits her success to hard work and the opportunity she was afforded by attending the Thandulwazi Saturday School Programme.

Boitumelo's story is testament to the impact of the Thandulwazi Saturday School Programme years after our students have matriculated. Her mother came to enquire about the registration of her younger brother for the Saturday classes. In her words *"Boitumelo did so well because of the classes she attended that I want my son to start early with Thandulwazi"*. Unfortunately, Boitumelo's brother is only in grade 8 next year and therefore does not qualify for 2019. Seipati Matlala promised to return at the end of 2019 for the 2020 registration process.

Article by: TC Nkosi

## Congratulations Tumelo

Tumelo Gift Lebea (Thandulwazi Matric Class of 2014) is congratulated on passing his National Diploma in Operations Management with Distinction.

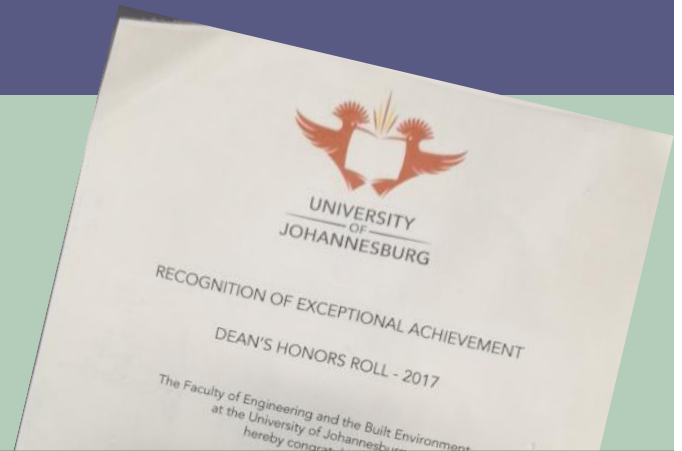
For a second year in a row, Tumelo made it onto the Dean's Honours Roll and was recognised for Exceptional Achievement. He completed three months of work experience in the Saints Ops Department in 2018.

Tumelo wrote on 06 December 2018 to the Deputy Head of Advancement:

*"Good Afternoon  
I thought I should update you, I just received my examination results this morning. Things went better than I ever anticipated.*

*I'd like to thank you for all the help and motivation received throughout the year, it was a driving factor and motivated me to do well.*

*Kind Regards  
Tumelo"*



## THANDULWAZI *highlights of the term*



### Thandulwazi Saturday school prize giving

Sincere thanks to Mathletics for sponsoring the prizes for the Top Achievers at the annual prize giving held on 22 September 2018. The event coincided with the Heritage Day Celebrations and the induction of Mr Velaphi Gumbi as Head of Thandulwazi



THANDULWAZI HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

### THANDULWAZI CLOSING CEREMONIES FOR THE TEACHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, 2018

The Head of Thandulwazi was the guest speaker at the Closing Ceremonies held this year. Velaphi urged the teachers to make a difference in the education of their students:

*"We humbly request all of you, the beneficiaries of this programme to go back to your communities and change the way you approach the development of our children. As you implement what you learned in the programme over the past two years, do it with all your strength, your heart, your mind and your soul. Remember that you are not doing it for yourself, you are doing it for God and He is watching!"*

Velaphi thanked the major funder of the Limpopo Programmes, PEP: *"We want to say thank you to PEP for always putting people's dignity first in your business. In the same manner we expect the presenters at the Modimolle programme to treat practitioners who are students here with the greatest of respect."*

### Sourcing Higher Education Bursaries for Thandulwazi students

8 Thandulwazi Grade 12s were invited to the second round of the recruitment process for the 2019 Moshal Scholarship Programme in September. We are holding thumbs for them!





## THANDULWAZI FUNDRAISERS IN 2018



Sincere thanks to *Vintage with Love*, for the generous grant made to the Thandulwazi Saturday School this year. The funds will be used to purchase *Maths Buddies* and geometry sets for the Grade 9 Thandulwazi students in 2019.



### TEAM THANDULWAZI

*Riding for a purpose*



We are in awe of the 52 cyclists who donned their *Team Thandulwazi* cycling shirts on November 18th, took on the flipped route in this year's 94.7 Cycle Challenge, braved scorching heat - all for a good cause. The Team raised R144k in support of a Thandulwazi academic scholarship in 2019. Thank you One & All.



### DONATION OF FURNITURE TO IVORY PARK PRE-SCHOOLS

Thandulwazi partner, UK-based *Waste to Wonder*, shipped a container of ethically recycled, high quality desks, chairs, lockers, canteen tables, PCs and a fridge from the UK to the Nehemiah pre-schools in Ivory Park. Many of the teachers from these schools attend the Thandulwazi Teacher Development Programme on Saturdays.

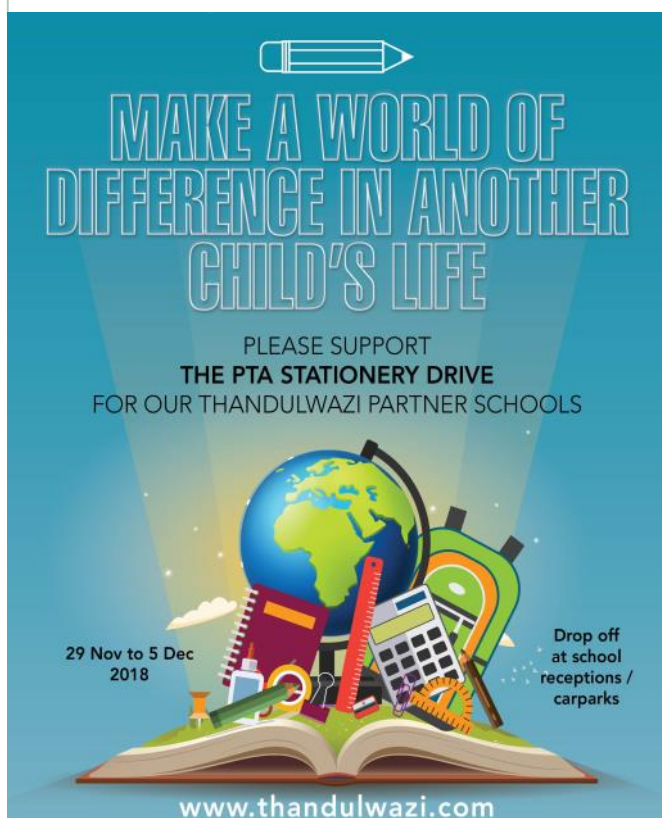


## Thank you to our generous partners & funders, 2018

*"If you consciously choose to be a positive influence in the world,  
you will always find opportunities to make a difference ..."*

(Adv Thuli Madonsela, September 2016)

The growth, impact and successes achieved by Thandulwazi and its beneficiaries, over the past 13 years, reflect the efficacy of the partnerships in education that have been forged since 2005, when the Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy was first established. Thandulwazi is blessed to have partners that share our vision and commitment to education. We thank you for the generous support provided, on many levels, to the Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy in 2018. A full list of partners is available on the following link: [http://www.stithian.com/uploads/files/1\\_website\\_-\\_thandulwazi\\_donors\\_November\\_20181.pdf](http://www.stithian.com/uploads/files/1_website_-_thandulwazi_donors_November_20181.pdf)



## Thanks to the St Stithians Community

Thandulwazi thanks the Saints Family for the generous support provided this year to the Academy. We are grateful to:

- The many parents and staff members who support the "Each One, Sponsor One" fundraising initiative.
- The St Stithians Girls' Prep Melting Pot Fundraiser for the generous donation of R3056 in support of the Thandulwazi Saturday School.
- The "Thandulwazi Angels", Saints mums and PTA members, who generously provide refreshments to the FET-phase students attending the Saturday School Programme once a month.
- The St Stithians Boys' Prep fundraising committees, Marimba Tour and Cricket Tour, who allocated free advertising space to Thandulwazi in their tour magazines.
- The Saints Prayer Group for the beautiful book marks printed for each Thandulwazi student prior to the final exams.
- The St Stithians Girls' Prep Grade 7s, who raised R9840 in support of Thandulwazi students attending the Saturday School.
- The Boys' Prep parents who sponsored the School Executive, Messrs Jakes Fredericks, Lester Lalla and Gavin Olivier, who rode the gruelling 947 Cycle Challenge for Team Thandulwazi.

***Thank you, One & All, for making a world of difference in education.***

## Thandulwazi dates to diarise - 2019

### Thandulwazi Saturday School

- 26 January 2019 Registration Day
- 02 February 2019 Matric Class of 2018 Prize Giving
- 19 October 2019 Closing Ceremony

### Thandulwazi Teacher Development Programme (Gauteng)

- 16 February 2019 Registration Day
- 28 September 2019 Closing Ceremony

### Thandulwazi-PEP Teacher Development Programme (Limpopo)

- 02 February 2019 Registration Day (Sekhukhune)

Website: [www.thandulwazi.com /Programmes](http://www.thandulwazi.com/Programmes)

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