

Masi-Mail

A newsletter for our friends

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Did you know this about Ukhanyo Primary School

- It has just over 1300 pupils
- Class sizes are more than 40
- The headmaster, Michael Tyhali leads a team of 34 teachers
- Sometimes 5 pupils must share a text book
- Many or most children arrive at the school each day hungry
- This year we will supply over 90 uniforms to children from the most poor families
- There are no sports facilities other than what we provide through Nceba Jonas, our sports coach



Greetings from Masiphumelele....

With so much happening in all our programmes we have barely found time to sit down and write this newsletter for you; it has been a very exciting few months!

- New programmes are in final planning stage or just begun.
- Established programmes are running well with increased numbers of Masi-phumelele people joining them.
- The student bursary programme has taken a significant step forward.
- The library extension is tantalizingly close to completion.

- A new emphasis is placed on the importance of Ukhanyo Primary School and what MasiCorp can do to support the Head Master and teachers.
- New volunteers are joining our team to help.
- We have launched a drive to put sport on the map in Masi-phumelele by working in partnership with other NGOs.
- This year's project to supply uniforms to the most poor children at Ukhanyo is underway as we write.

Phew! Busy and exciting times.

In America our team have also been very busy—John, Carol and Jane initiated a fund raising drive which has made a huge difference to our work here on the ground: the library extension will have furniture and equipment; new programmes will start; students have gained bursaries; all our successful long established programmes can continue.

So, it has been a busy time for all our donors too! Thank you—your support makes our work possible.

Andrew Smith
President & CEO

Bafana Bafana [Boys Boys]

This is how the South African national football team are known and the whole country is busy polishing up their vuvuzelas ready to urge them to victory in the World Cup in June.

South Africa has gone football crazy and much of the preparation is now complete, including the magnificent new stadium at Green Point in Cape Town. Oh, a vuvuzela? - it's the trumpet the fans blow from start to finish of every match.



www.masicorp.org



Library News....



As we write, the finishing touches are being put to the library extension and in the next week or so the new space will gradually be brought into use.

The official opening is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd March.

Our next newsletter will have a special feature to show you around this fantastic new facility for Masiphumelele.

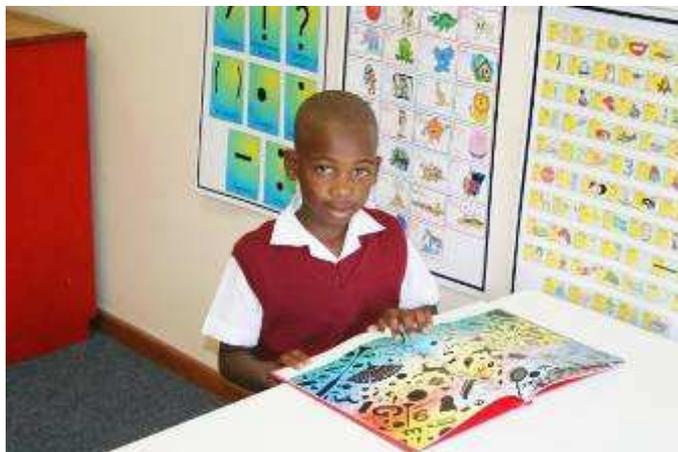
English...please!

Milli Firth has launched her new programme at nearby Fish Hoek Primary School which has 40 pupils from Masiphumelele—they have the prospect of a wonderful start to their education at this school but many of them do not have the English language skills needed to make the most of the opportunity.

Milli, an expert specialist English teacher, will give them the tuition they need.

The school, the children and their parents are very pleased and grateful for this new MasiCorp programme

NEW PROGRAMME LAUNCH



ICDL—get yours here!

And in case it slipped your memory, the acronym is [the] International Computer Driving Licence: a recognised world-wide proficiency qualification in the use of all the principle computer applications—word processing, spreadsheet, data base, presentations etc.

Our tutor, Jean Strydom, has been running her Thursday afternoon class in the library computer room for the past couple of years. She takes small groups and gives them individual attention. Last year she introduced her students to another acronym – CBT or computer-based training. This involves the student in an interactive learning process actually on the computer and in the subject they are studying.

With Jean's help and guidance the results have been encouraging and for the first time we have students who have gained the qualification having sat the examination at outside accredited training centres.

For us this is an important achievement because we can now offer a path for our Masi students to this qualification; from Ray Steel's very successful Computer Literacy Programme to Jean.

Well done Jean and thank you!



Ukhanyo Primary School

We have always worked very closely with the school and supported it in many different ways—sports coach and equipment, teaching assistants, English language programmes, music tuition, uniforms for the most poor children—it has, rightly, been a feature of our work for the people of Masiphumelele. It has always been work aimed directly at the children and it has benefitted very many of them, so not much wrong with all this and we will continue.

But, and you will have sensed the 'but' coming, following a review of what we need to do in the next few years, we will place more emphasis on the school in total and in particular we will add help for the

Headmaster and his teaching team to deliver a better education for all the pupils. We will seek ways to help improve the skills and experience of the teachers; help to access the funds and resources already available to the school that can often be locked up in bureaucracy; help to find new sources of funding; help with school management and governance; help to find other schools who can work in partnership. Our objective is to do whatever we can to assist the Headmaster to achieve his ambition; *to make Ukhanyo the best township primary school in SA.*

It is a big, long-term, task and we will keep you posted!

New Bursary Students...just started at university

Thanks to some very special donors we have awarded **five** new bursaries this year. This is a record for us and we are proud to introduce them to you here.

The work involved to attract, select and assist the new students has been significant—Jill Stirrup our volunteer Bursary Programme Director has given much of her time to this over the past 4 months. Assisted by Elize Taylor, our volunteer Director of Finance, they are both to be thanked for all their efforts.

We try to take great care in the selection of our bursary students and we do all we can to help them through their university course. It demands considerable time and expertise but it is very rewarding for donors, parents, schools, all of us, to see them succeed. And its often fun!

For your information; the University of the Western Cape [UWC] is located on a huge and very impressive campus in the suburbs of Cape Town. CPUT [Cape Peninsular University of Technology] has a number of campuses in and around Cape Town.

Both universities are large—20 to 35 thousand students and competition is always very strong to gain a place.

Some State funding is available in the form of student loans which, obviously, places a significant burden on students from very poor families. It is also possible to obtain a full State bursary for a very limited number of vocationally-based courses.

In both the above, the funding is never easy to come by and can be rather sporadic in its delivery. Financial problems are one of the biggest reasons for the very high drop-out rates.

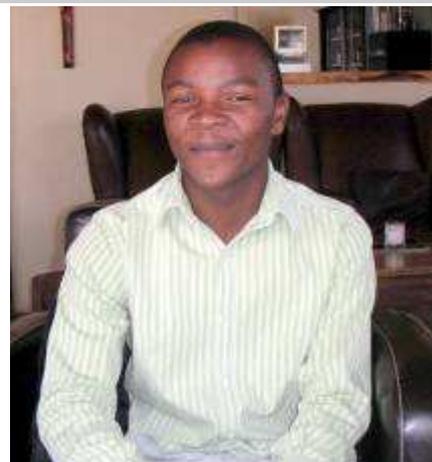


Mhlali received the best matriculation result of any student at Masiphumelele High School in 2009. He gained a place at Cape Town University of Technology [CPUT] to study bio technology. His passion for science is formidable!



Thulisa, studying for a BA in psychology at UWC
Not yet decided on a defined career path and psychology may be just the beginning of professional qualifications for Thulisa.

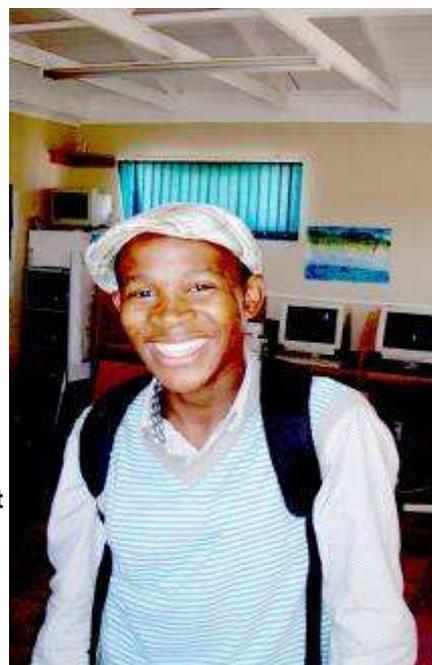
Atti, studying for Bachelor of Commerce at University of the Western Cape [UWC]
A career in business is Atti's ambition and he has the drive and determination to get there. Once he has established his business empire we may all be glad of a job!



Khaya, studying for a Bachelor of Education at CPUT
Khaya wants to teach: the SA education system badly needs bright young people like him to join the profession.



Lungelwa, studying for a B.Com at CPUT
Aiming for a career in business—the SA economy will be in safe hands!



The Bursary programme...fun too!



...the world over—students are always hungry!



We are very keen to expand our bursary programme—do please contact us for further information if you would like to consider sponsoring a student



A letter from America...

from John & Carol Thompson
in America

The style and spelling of the Masí Mail has changed and there are new program(me)s described in here as the organization has grown from being an All-American initiative to a multi-national with money raised in South Africa and the UK as well as the U.S..

This past Fall, we set out to raise \$60,000 and we raised \$66,600 from 110 donors. That does not include the money raised in South Africa for the latest library extension but it does include 31 donors who are customers of Nondyebo who were asked

by Jane Philippi to make a contribution for the library programs. This was the first time they had been asked. Thank you all for your generous response.

It is particularly encouraging in a recession year when everyone is cutting back on their giving and many philanthropies are reporting difficulties in fund-raising .

This appeal was successful because the goals of Masí-Corp are unchanged and the same people who have supported us for years have showed that they still

want to be part of the organization that brings hope and opportunity to young people in the township.

Although we are not there physically this winter (for the first time in ten years), we are very much there in spirit and remain in close contact with the wonderful people who are carrying this work forward with renewed energy and purpose.

John & Carol

Dame Linda Dobbs

Patron to Masiphumelele Corporation and Trust

Linda Dobbs has been a long-time supporter of South Africa in general, and the Masiphumelele Corporation and Trust in particular. We are delighted that she has agreed to be a patron.

Her philanthropic work and interests include being a former trustee of NACRO (and now Vice-President) and the Family Welfare Association; currently a patron of the African Prisons Project, the South African Legal Education Foundation and the Lottie Betts-Priddy Educational Trust. She also carries out pro-bono, training of judges and lawyers in various African and Caribbean countries. She has most recently sponsored one of our students through tertiary education and has just agreed to sponsor another university student from Masiphumelele in our bursary programme.

Linda knows South Africa well – she has a home here and is a regular visitor. She has been a knowledgeable and great friend to us as well as a most generous donor.

We are very proud and pleased to have her patronage.



Linda was the first black High Court Judge to be appointed in the English Court—you can find more information about this and her many other achievements on our web site.

Masiphumelele Corporation and Trust

Registered address:
PostNet Sun Valley 537
Private Bag X4
Sun Valley
Cape Town 7975
South Africa

+27 21 786 2467 & +27 21 786 3149
E-mail: contact@masicorp.org

To contact John and Carol Thompson in the US:

(603) 279-3305 and jmtjabula@aol.com



www.masicorp.org

For donations in South African Rand—write or e-mail us:

You may transfer direct to our account or send a cheque made payable to 'Masiphumelele Fund'

Private donors - Masiphumelele Corporation is a registered NGO in South Africa [PBO: 930015544 NPO: 040994] to which tax-exempt donation may be made.

Corporate donors - to the best of our knowledge, donations will comply with the Corporate Social Investment guidelines for the B-BBEE scorecard.

For donations in US Dollars—send a check made payable to 'Masiphumelele Corporation' to our founder:

John Thompson
PO Box 221, Centre Harbor, NH 03226

Or you may make a secure donation online—www.masicorp.org/MasiDonate.htm

Masiphumelele Corporation is a tax exempt private operating foundation under section 501 © 3 of the Internal Revenue of the U.S. EIN number 02-0511758.

For donations in GB Pound Sterling—send a cheque made payable to 'Masiphumelele Trust' to our UK trustee:

Sandra Dodson
The Wheelhouse
Moor Park
Harrogate HG3 1QN
North Yorkshire

If you are a UK taxpayer, we can reclaim tax on your donations – at least 25p for every £1, at no cost to you. Or, you may elect to reclaim the same amount as a tax deduction. The relevant declaration and details will be sent to you on receipt of your donation.

For donations in other locations – please contact us for further information

Thinking Skills



End of year assembly before the Headmaster and invited guests—this group produced the witches scene from Macbeth. Shakespeare rules –OK! even in

Masiphumelele

Thanks to Polly Saul and her team of tutors, our 2009 programme to teach the 170 pupils in Grade 7 at Ukhanyo Primary School has been a big success.

The feedback from the Headmaster, class teachers and parents has been very positive. The feedback from the pupils has been outstanding.

Thinking skills is a cognitive teaching method married to best practice classroom management.

It is based on Mathew Lipmann's work; 'philosophy for children'. It teaches how to think and express yourself and has benefits in all subjects.

This has been one of the biggest and

most demanding teaching programmes we have ever delivered and we are very pleased to report its success.

The interest it has generated in the Ukhanyo teaching team is significant. It has also caught the attention of the Western Cape Education Department.

As we write, work is underway on a follow-on programme this year. This will be in line with our new Ukhanyo objectives [as described on page 5] in that it will focus on teaching the teachers.

With the support of the Education Department and the Headmaster and his team, we hope Ukhanyo will become, in time, a 'Thinking School' and the best township primary in SA!

Watch this space!

Please contact us if you would like to support this or any of our other programmes and projects