

Masi-Mail

A newsletter for our friends...



Our 2010 Bursary Students

Greetings from Masiphumelele...

The football world cup was a great success for South Africa—more than half a million visitors enjoyed our traditional welcome and hospitality, travelled smoothly from new airport terminals to the magnificent new stadiums and all safely and without incident.

The visitors enjoyed themselves, the initially very skeptical international press were full of compliments.

Our team, Bafana Bafana, did not get past the first round but the atmosphere, the sense of shared endeavor between all our ethnic groups was very special throughout the event.

Our press was full of articles describing magic moments when people, who

normally huddle together in their own groups, found a common cause, shared values and friendship with others from different ethnic backgrounds.

Emotional and rather sentimental reporting? - not so; the event brought people together, physically and spiritually, in a way not seen since the days of Nelson Mandela and his release from prison. It felt good. It has left a sense of pride and achievement.

In Masiphumelele, and elsewhere, it has also left a sense of expectation—if we can achieve all that, can we not create more jobs, better schools and hospitals and why are we still living in a shack?

We take inspiration from the world cup achievements to do more in our mission which is to give people who want it education and a route out of poverty—more university bursary students, more places on all the programmes run at the Library, more help for Ukhanyo school, more of what we do best.

The moment is ripe to push on, work together and do more.

Please keep supporting us. In this Masi Mail we highlight several of our programmes where your donations will make a difference to the lives of many in our township.

Andrew Smith
President & CEO

English...please!

“Our first term is done and I am delighted to tell you we have made a flying start!”

A report from Milli Firth

We started the year by selecting, with help from the school, Fish Hoek Primary, 18 pupils who live in Masiphumelele from Grade 3 to 6; most are from Grade 4. Each was given their own stationery and books—such excitement was created you would think that I was handing out sweets!

I assessed them all to determine their reading levels; most are 2-3 years behind. I then concentrated on reading with understanding and they were given work to complete at home. This soon enabled me to determine which of them receive parental support—those who don't receive much help are encouraged to join the free Homework Club we run at Masi Library. All parents are encouraged to attend my free adult literacy group at Masi Library.



The year began with a typical comment from a class teacher; “I am not sure how you will be able to help her—she is so far behind the others.” to comments at the end of the first term; “I can't believe the difference— she read beautifully to me today!” (Grade 5 Teacher) and; “What you guys do for these kids is amazing!” (Grade 3 Teacher).

Too soon to tell you this new programme has been a complete success but it has made a good start and I am so very grateful to you for helping us to make it possible.

With my thanks,

Milli

PS: A last word from one pupil; “Please, can I come again after lunch?” “WHY?”, “because I want to learn more”

English...please! was started at Fish Hoek Primary School for Masiphumelele kids who are attending school outside the township and are hampered by their late start in English.

We plan to extend the programme to another school outside the township where Masiphumelele children need this help—it will cost R65,000 [\$8,500/£5,500] for each school annually . A small R3600/\$500/£300 per student changes a child's life.

Uniforms for Ukhanyo

**More pupils from very poor families are assisted with a school uniform
A report from the 'Uniforms Team'**

Everyone at Ukhanyo must wear a uniform. But what if you cannot afford one? Then you are ridiculed for being the "poorest of the poor". For many years past we have been asked by Head Master, Michael Tyhali, of Ukhanyo Primary School in the township, to help his pupils from the poorest families and, thanks to one generous family in America who provided the funds, we have made it happen, again—this year we supplied over 70 uniforms to some very happy and appreciative children.



Measuring-up day...

This project is highly valued by all and especially by Michael Tyhali who sends our American donors his personal thanks for making sure these children can attend school, dressed in their uniform, just like all their friends.

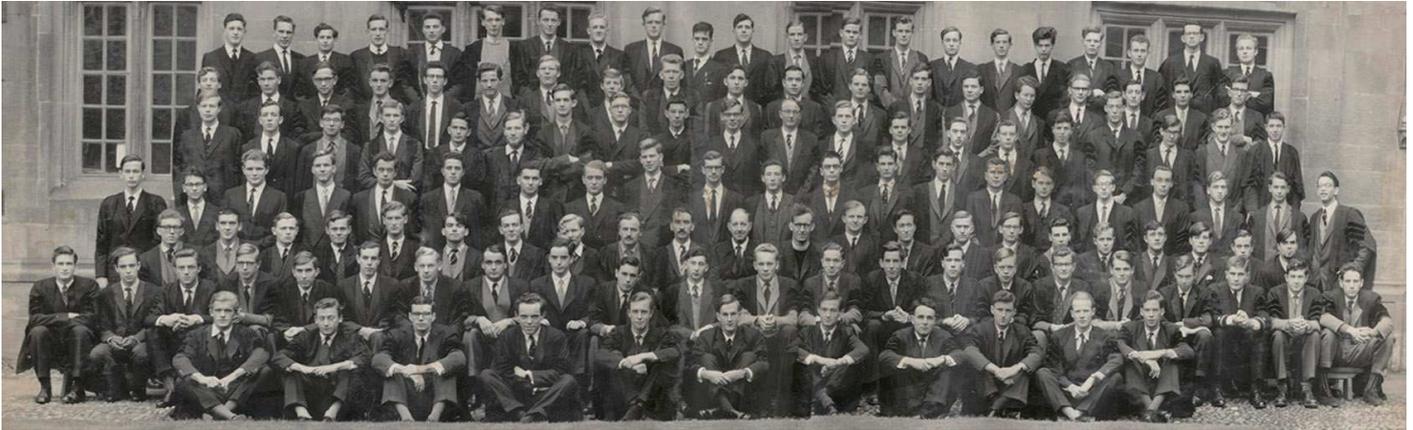
We need more help for the school and in many different ways; Michael has over 1450 pupils to teach and his resources are very limited.

Please get in touch if you wish to support Ukhanyo school.



...and just a few of the smiles to say thank you from us all.

John Thompson, co-founder of MasiCorp,



Enter our competition—find John in the photo and win a prize—see last page for details

An only slightly younger-looking John attended Clare College, Cambridge where he studied for an MA, as you may see from this photo taken in his first term, 1959.

This year, for his work in Masiphumelele, John was elected ‘**Alumnus of the Year**’ and spoke to members of the college about the work of MasiCorp.

Congratulations John! This honour for your work, which in your speech at the college you shared with Carol, is much deserved.

Andrew and all the team



John speaking at the award ceremony.

Bursary News!

Our bursary students continue to do well—Seni and Loyiso, who are now in their second year and Lungelwa, Khaya, Mhlali, Athi and Thulisa in their first year have all done well in their mid-year exams. Adjusting to life at university is daunting if you come from a township and your parents have no experience themselves. We are very proud of what they have achieved and how they have applied themselves.

Due to graduate this year with a B.Com in engineering, Olwethu has just landed a super new job in a specialist engineering company. Just graduated with a diploma in marketing, Zizi completed an internship with Distell and has now obtained a permanent job with Peninsula Beverages. They have both worked very hard for their achievements and deserve their success.

A bursary runs for 4 years and costs, per year:

R16,500/\$2,000/£1,500

Please contact us if you would like more information

We have a plan for another five bursaries this coming year—two sponsors have already offered to help, so we have three sponsorship opportunities to fill!

No ordinary library...

Our extraordinary library and centre for education in Masiphumelele

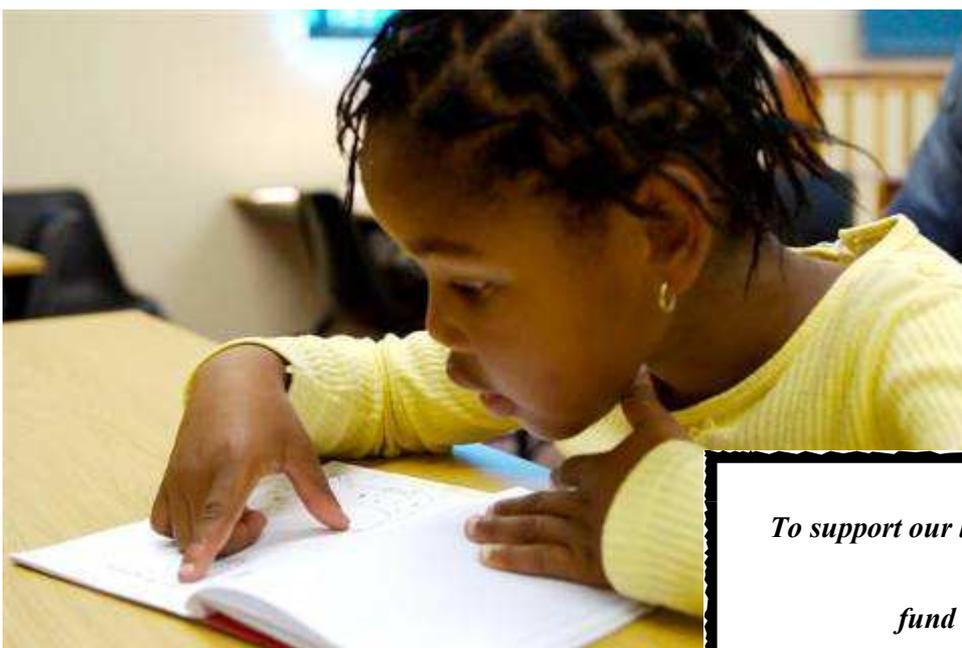
Award-winning, the library and centre for education has gained world-wide recognition for the service we provide the township of Masiphumelele.

We loan out books. We teach English to pre-school and school age children, teenagers and adults. We teach computer skills. We teach chess and have a prize-winning team. We teach mothers how to help school their children. We teach maths. We help students to choose and find a place in tertiary education. We teach art. We teach teachers. We provide support groups for teenagers and young adults. We have school homework clubs and a quiet place in which to work. We teach thinking skills to school children and teachers. We help people to find jobs.

Under the inspirational leadership of Librarian, Sue Alexander, last year, the library loaned-out **12,500 adult and 28,000 children's books**, and recorded more than **40,000 visits by participants in the various education programs and activities.**



We built the library and extended it with funds from America and we have just opened a further extension funded in South Africa. Running costs are shared with the City of Cape Town who pay to operate and maintain the building and for some staff—our contribution provides for most of the rest and we pay R200,000/\$27,000/£17,000 every year to continue and to grow and develop the programmes—there is such demand!



Any donation will pay local people we have trained as tutors, it will pay for training materials, it will pay to buy more computers, it will pay for someone to catch a bus or train for a job or university interview, it will pay...well, it will pay for everything that has made this library such a success.

To support our library programs and all who use them:

fund a day—R550/\$75/£50

fund a week—R3,800/\$500/£350

fund a month—R17,000/\$2,000/£1,500

New programme based on the success of last year's 'Thinking Skills' programme for Ukhanyo primary school...

p4c—Philosophy for Children

A Resource Centre in Masiphumelele Library

Very briefly, **p4c** is a cognitive teaching method and classroom management technique.



It is based on the work of Matthew Lipman, an American philosopher, who believed that the educational system did not provide for the development of pupils' conceptual or logical thinking. He devised this new teaching method which he called 'Philosophy for Children' [p4c], now implemented world-wide.

p4c teaches children **how** to think, not **what** to think. It aims to connect with pupils' natural curiosity and sense of wonder about the world. It does this by developing skills which enable them to become more critical, flexible, creative and effective thinkers.

As we know, children love to talk and **p4c** helps them to harness and improve that talk. In the process, it improves their vocabulary, their language development, their listening, reasoning, social skills and importantly, their reading skills.

Also, in studying how to use the technique, teachers learn new, highly effective class room management skills—the net result is dramatic; children flourish in their learning, in all subjects, and teaching for the teacher is a pleasure.

p4c is new but it is not unproven—already it is used in Chicago, Boston, London, Mumbai to name just a few.

Designed and directed by our own volunteer expert, Polly Saul, this new programme has the support and co-operation of Ukhanyo School, Professor Lena Green, University of the Western Cape and Professor Karin Murris, University of Wales and University of the Witwatersrand.



We pay for class room materials, tutor training and support for teachers at Ukhanyo Primary School in the township.

Much is achieved for very little:

- **One class of 20 children for a term costs R300/\$40/£25**
- **A year of weekly classes costs R1,200/\$150/£100**
- **Professional training for a teacher at Ukhanyo costs R3000/\$400/£250**

Masiphumelele Corporation and Trust

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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'

Masiphumelele Corporation is a registered NGO in South Africa

[PBO: 930015544 NPO: 040994] to which a tax-exempt donation may be made.

Corporate donors - donations will comply with the Corporate Social Investment guidelines for the B-BBEE scorecard. Over 90% of our beneficiaries are black South African.

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

John Thompson

PO Box 221, Center Harbor, NH 03226

Or you may make a secure donation online—[www.masicorp.org/](http://www.masicorp.org/MasiDonate.htm)

[MasiDonate.htm](http://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

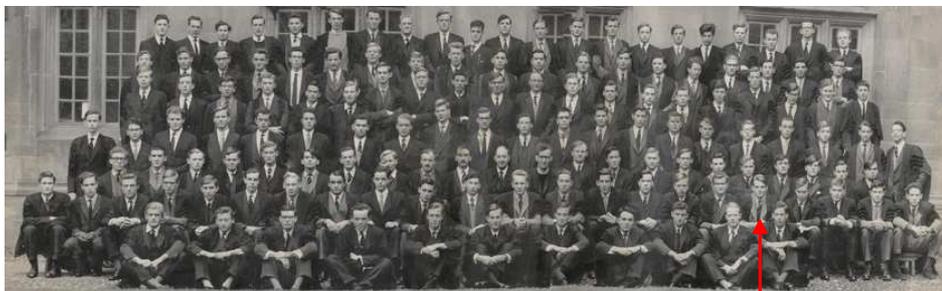
Harrogate HG3 1QN

North Yorkshire

Please indicate if you are a UK taxpayer; we can reclaim tax on your donations – at least 25p for every £1, at no cost to you. Charity Commissioners registration No. 1137358

"Find John" Photo Competition

Thank you for entering our competition and well done if you found him.



John—second row from the front, fifth from right and below, on his punt

Your prize?

Simply send us your contact details on the back of a cheque for \$10,000 and John will arrange to take you on a punt and picnic up the river Cam that runs past the college—a great Cambridge University tradition.



..a last few words...

This Masi Mail highlights just some of our projects and programmes. It is not by any means all we are doing - more about that in following newsletters.

Your generosity has made it possible for us to get this far and, with your continued help, we have the drive and ambition to do even more.

Our mission is to help people, largely through education, to get out of poverty. We do this with a hand up, not a hand out. It is working!

Thanks and best wishes from us all in Masi Corp.

Andrew