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Welcome to this, the second Mamelodi Trust Newsletter! We hope that you find this update interesting. Contact details for the Trust can be found at the end of the Newsletter if you would like to contact us for more information.

The Trust makes grants to Mamelodi schools

At the end of 2005, the Trust made grants totalling over £21,000 to schools in Mamelodi. A grant to Zakhele School funded the purchase of a new photocopier to replace the one that had ceased to work some months ago, new books for the school library and a range of other teaching resources for classrooms.

Meetse A Bophelo School received their first grant from the Trust and will be spending their money on emergency supplies of gas to ensure that all the 2,500 children receive a hot meal every day, increased security to ensure that the resources in the school are kept safe, learning resources for children including dictionaries and story books, and support for school administration including access to the Internet.



Two other schools received their first grants from the Trust. Sikhanyisele School, which was the school where Patrick Sikhumbana was head teacher before he moved to Meetse A Bophelo School, are using their money to provide much needed additional learning resources while the grant made to Tshogofatsong Special School is being used to replace worn out playground equipment. The Trust is in close touch with these schools and we will report from them on the impact of the funding in due course.

Christmas donations instead of Christmas cards

As in the past six years, Derbyshire County Council education advisers made a donation to the Mamelodi Trust instead of sending Christmas cards to each other. This is a great way of sharing Christmas greetings and we thank them for their donation again this year. Similarly, education advisers in Windsor and Maidenhead, and the staff of Crick Software, also adopted this method of supporting the Trust and we thank them too for their thoughtfulness at Christmas.

Good wishes from Mamelodi

We received good wishes from all our friends in Mamelodi at Christmas. They wished to be remembered to everyone who is supporting them and wanted us all to know that we were in their thoughts over the festive season.

Patrick Sikhumbana has emailed this week:

“I hereby bring warm greetings from all the educators, learners, and parents of Meetse A Bophelo Primary School. We wish you all the best for the year 2006 and are hoping that you will be able to reach all your goals and dreams.

We also send our special greetings to the members of the Hazelwood Church, the Trustees and supporters of the Mamelodi Trust, learners and staff of Turnditch Primary School, members of the Derbyshire Council, staff and members of Naace and all our friends over there.

Please pardon me for taking so long to write to you, I think the school interviews (for the appointment of extra four educators during December) and the fumigation of fleas has taken a toll on me. I have fully recovered now and ready for action.

We started the year on high note and all the learners, staff are ready to learn and teach respectively as expected. We hope and trust that the year 2006 will be a good year for all of us.

We have set up few priorities for us this year including the following:

- Ensuring that our learners are able to read many books as much as possible and express themselves adequately.
- That our learners are able to count and solve all the mathematical challenges.
- That our learners are able to participate in the world of science and self discovery.
- That our learners are able to survive in their challenging environment and are able to make sound decisions.
- To create more awareness around HIV/AIDS, care and support.

We are all eager to work hand in hand with all our partners including you of course to ensure that we provide quality public education and achieve all our goals. We are aware that this is a mammoth task but we are sure that we will succeed with you at our side.”

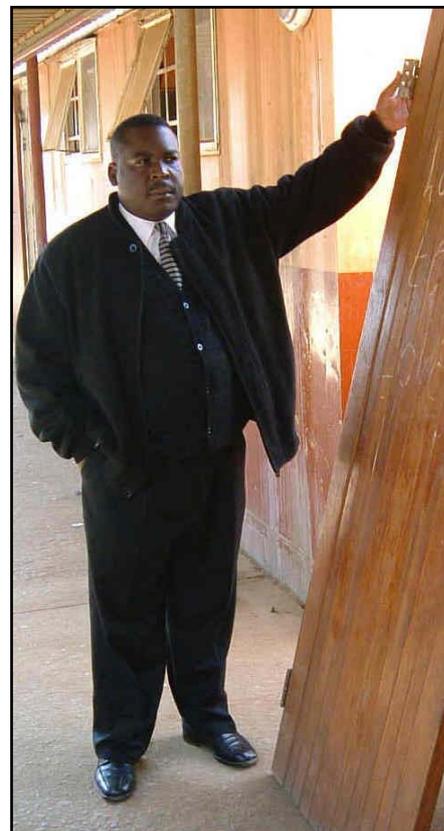
Jonathan Wells runs for Mamelodi



The Sales and Marketing Director of Sam Learning Ltd, Jonathan Wells, ran in two half marathons in the summer to raise money for two charities, The Mamelodi Trust and Running with Rovers. He trained hard and was very successful in both runs, achieving his personal target of losing 5kg in the process.

In both the Great North Run and the Bristol Half Marathon Jonathan finished in the top third of the field and gained a personal best time of 1 hour 55 minutes in Bristol.

So not only do we thank Jonathan for the large contribution to the Trust, but we also congratulate him on a splendid achievement!



Derbyshire County Council links with Mamelodi

As reported last time, Derbyshire County Council is developing links with Mamelodi including an educational arts link which will bring South Africans to the UK to work in Derbyshire schools. The planning for this project has now come to fruition, and this month two artists have arrived in Derbyshire to start their work with young people. Paepae MMekwa, a musician and drummer from Mamelodi, and Tshego Masoga, a student from Pretoria, will be visiting schools throughout the county to present different artistic activities and encourage the pupils to participate in African art, dance, music and drama activities. It is hoped that a reciprocal visit will be made to Mamelodi in the future to share European (and Derbyshire!) culture.



Hampshire teachers to return to Mamelodi



Laura Beverley from Ringwood Primary School in Hampshire (see the last Newsletter) plans to return to Mamelodi this summer to continue the support for teaching and learning that she and colleagues started last year. We expect that Laura will be joined by two other teachers this time, all three raising money themselves to fund the visit.

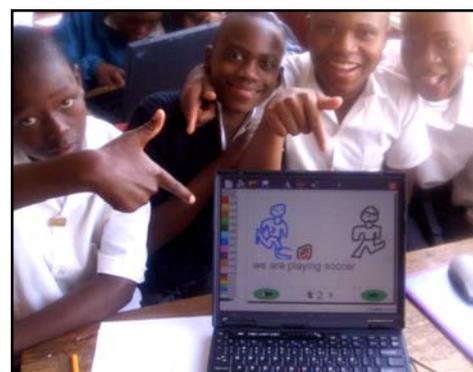
The Trust will be supporting this visit financially since a key issue for school improvement in Mamelodi is developing the professional skills of the teachers. We will report on what they were able to achieve after their visit.

Derbyshire educationalists visit Mamelodi

Later this month, Gill Taylor and her partner Reg Mann, will visit Zakhele School and Meetse A Bophelo School during their visit to South Africa. Reg is seeking to develop links between Manchester University and Pretoria University, particularly in Mamelodi where the University has a campus. Such visits from education specialists in the UK are really important for schools in Mamelodi who are always eager to learn about educational developments and keen to share their own experiences. For the visitors, a visit to Mamelodi is almost invariably a life changing experience since there is nothing to compare with it in the UK.

2Simple Software support Mamelodi

Staff from 2Simple Software worked in Zakhele School and Meetse A Bophelo school during a visit to South Africa in the summer. Led by their Managing Director Nigel Canin, the team demonstrated some of their excellent software and left behind software and a laptop computer so that the schools could follow up their stimulating sessions. Since then, a set of software has been sent to a further school for them to evaluate. This was Nigel's second visit to Mamelodi and he and the team are committed to supporting the work of the Trust. We are very grateful for their continued interest and for their help in the production of this Newsletter.



Challenging HIV/Aids



HIV/Aids continues to be a major issue for schools. An increasing number of children are infected and all children need to be aware of the issues and how to deal with them.

Patrick Sikhumbana, the head teacher of Meetse A Bophelo School is hoping to develop their existing HIV/Aids awareness programme in the school by linking with specialists in Pretoria University and running in depth training courses for the teaching staff. The Trust will be seeking ways to support this vital work.

The Trust meets with Tim Makofane

Tim Makofane is the senior education manager in Tshwane South District, the local authority which covers about half of the metropolitan area of Pretoria and which is responsible for all schools in Mamelodi. He was in London in January attending an IT Conference and visiting the BETT Exhibition at Olympia, the world's largest exhibition for ICT in education. Steve Bacon, Chair of the Trustees, met with Tim before he returned to South Africa to discuss education in Mamelodi and to receive an update on developments there.

Tim is hugely supportive of the work of the Trust and is anxious to help identify ways in which the impact of the Trust's involvement in Mamelodi can be maximised. Interestingly, he is keen to develop further the work of the Mamelodi Teachers' Centre to raise the quality of professional development for teachers and was fascinated to learn that one of the earliest grants made by the Trust was indeed to that Centre. It is also hoped to develop the impact of the Centre for the whole community, raising standards of literacy and numeracy in the whole community. The Trustees will look forward to discussing these aspirations with Tim in the future.

Further information

Please visit the Mamelodi Trust website:

www.mameloditrust.org.uk or phone: **01773 829849**

If you wish to make a regular donation, or to donate via Gift Aid, please request the appropriate forms from Steve Bacon.

email: steve@farnahgreen.com
or use the above phone number.

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