

# The UBAMBISWANO BULLETIN

July 2016

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## A GLIMPSE INTO THE PROGRAMME

- uBambiswano is a **Saturday School programme** run by St Andrew's School for Girls in Gauteng
- The Programme is attended by learners from schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa
- We have a **27-year track record** of contributing to the lives of over 700 learners
- On average, **100 learners** from **grades 6 to 9** attend the Saturday School for a four-year period
- While **literacy, numeracy, educational and life skills** are our priority, additional **enrichment activities** such as music, swimming and cooking are also included in the programme
- Our learners call uBambiswano **a place of 'hope'** as they believe the programme is providing them with the hope of a better future.



## THE ECOTRAIL HIKE AND BIKE - FEEDBACK AND THANK YOU



Besides the glorious weather that aided the **EcoTrail Hike and Bike's** success, many elements contributed in creating a memorable family fun day in aid of uBambiswano's fundraising, which included: 2174 participants, 205 dogs, 108 staff members, 100 uBambiswano children, 26 Andrean community service girls, 15 security guards, 12 generous sponsors, 8 First Aiders, 7 exhibitors, 6 car guards, 6 face-painting artists, 2 paramedics, 2 traffic controllers, and 1 announcer. Thrown into the mix, there were 4000 water sachets, 2200 sport-magazine giveaways, 800 peak-cap giveaways, 600 foam-peak giveaways, 550 parked cars, 500 yoyo giveaways, 250 breakfast buns, 120kg of donated dog food, 100 Frisbee giveaways, 96 rolls of toilet paper, 32 recycling bins, 8 portaloos, 6 fire extinguishers, 4 generators, 4 hiking and biking trails, 2 coffee trailers, 1 jumping castle, and 1 ambulance.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and supported the EcoTrail Hike and Bike – hiking the trails, riding the tracks or walking your dogs - making it such a huge success this year. The event once again raised funds for the St Andrew's social development programme, **uBambiswano**, which means "Holding Hands" - a Saturday School programme held at St Andrew's for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and underperforming schools. The programme, headed by Annette dos Santos, provides a safe environment where the students can realise their potential and benefit from excellent teaching and valuable resources to supplement their education in Daveyton and Etwatwa. Without your help, this programme could not provide these skills and opportunities which make such a significant difference in their lives; and we value your involvement in this event which aids in the funding of uBambiswano's important role in our community.

A sincere thank you to the event manager, Caterina Cannone, and the sub-committee, for their incredible support and their hard work in ensuring that the event ran smoothly and efficiently: Chris Boshoff, JD Mostert, Helenor Whitecross, Annette dos Santos, Daniella Rossouw, Allan Groenewald, Tanya Gregory, Jessica Braund, Tara Nooy, Jonas Pilusa of *24/7 Security*, Richard Laskey of *Modern Athlete* and David Bagg of *Huddle Park Golf and Recreation Centre*.

Thank you, too, to all St Andrew's staff who assisted on the day at the roll-call, registration, finance and race-number tables; at the marshalling points, water tables, start line, finish line, face-painting stall, jumping castle and parking area; and those who volunteered to do the Sweep walk, boarding girls' supervision, First Aid station, JOC station and uBambiswano supervision. The St Andrew's kitchen, housekeeping and driving staff assisted greatly with catering, cleaning and transport on the day. A special thank you to all the Andrean and uBambiswano children who volunteered for various duties; and to those Andrean families who offered to "foster" uBambiswano children at the event, creating a memorable experience for those involved.







The ticket sales, parking fees, exhibitors' fees and face-painting stall, as well as generous monetary donations from **McCains**, **Chip 'n Dip**, **Beswick Machinery** and **St Andrew's School for Girls' Old Girls' Association** raised an astounding **R256 000** in revenue before expenses.

The event also benefitted from various sponsorships of items and services, totalling **R72 000**. We are sincerely grateful for uBambiswano's food donation from the **St Andrew's School for Girls' Parents' Association**; uBambiswano's beverage donation from the **St Andrew's School for Girls' Rowing Club**; uBambiswano's goodie bags and foam-peaks sponsored by **Dis-Chem**; peak-caps sponsored by **Imperial Select**; printed marketing material sponsored by **Inkspot Printing**; face-painting supplies sponsored by **Kryolan Professional Make-up**; uBambiswano's peak-caps and drawstring bags, yoyos, Frisbees and water sachets sponsored by **One Time Printing and Stationery Supplies**; sports' magazines sponsored by **Modern Athlete**; and the security services sponsored by **24/7 Security**.

In keeping with the school's commitment to promoting healthy living, the day was complemented by various health and wellness exhibitors. **Dis-Chem Wellness Clinic** provided a wellness assessment and early risk-detection

service; **SunQ** offered complimentary UV-protective sunscreen; **Inov-8** exhibited specialist trail and sport shoes; **Bennett's** distributed complimentary anti-chafe cream for sportsmen and women; **Curves** Ladies-Only gym offered giveaways and complimentary training sessions; **JointEze** sports massage therapists offered complimentary massages using a range of products for alleviating and preventing pain and inflammation of joints and muscles; and **Herbalife** offered nutrition supplement, weight management, sports nutrition and personal-care products.

In addition to benefitting uBambiswano, this event helped highlight the importance of preserving our neighbouring wetland within **Huddle Park Golf and Recreation Centre**. As an EcoSchool, it showed our support of the largest "green lung" in Johannesburg, and hopefully inspired our participants to continue visiting the area and keeping it protected. Our Eco Task Team did an incredible job of cleaning up the refuse after the event; and they provided recycling bin stations around the venue and supplied water bowls for the dogs. The event also assisted the **Germiston/Bedfordview SPCA** in their efforts to collect food and blankets for their shelter animals, whereby participants donated generously for the privilege and joy of having their fur-babies join them on the day.



## THE CHAELI CAMPAIGN

The **Chaeli Campaign**, an organisation that advocates for the rights and inclusion of children with disabilities, has been successfully running its exciting leadership and social entrepreneurship programme at St Andrew's in collaboration with uBambiswano on a Saturday for three years now.

As the founding committee members started getting older the campaign realised how important it is to have the voice of children be heard in our organisation and how crucial it is to continue to grow young social change-makers. The gist of this extra mural programme has always been 3-fold:

1. Ambassadors have to sign up for one year and commit to attending a 2-hour workshop once a month where they will learn about leadership, entrepreneurship, networking, various skills in order to create social change within their communities
2. They are expected to promote certain **Chaeli Campaign** projects in their schools
3. Before they graduate at the end of their year each ambassador is expected to drive his/her own project to benefit a recipient of his/her choice. This can be a fundraiser (for a wheelchair, guide dog, school wishlists etc.) or an awareness campaign. Ambassador meetings are rather exciting environments that teach social consciousness and critical thinking skills to enable young people, in a fun inclusive and diverse atmosphere, to engage with tough social issues and social causes with empathy, compassion and respect. They are encouraged to find and recognise the value in their voices and own, unique talents. This has a ripple effect both in their personal growth and development in school.

Our most recent graduation has shown how young people are not only insightful, but necessary voices in the efforts to create sustainable social change in South Africa. The majority of projects presented this year were long term workshop and support group initiatives that dealt with many tough issues including after-school educational support, teen pregnancy support and education, disability rights empowerment and awareness, mentorship programmes and mobilising support against racism in classrooms. When such young people are able to analyse and identify opportunities to not only show leadership, but inspire it in others, it truly shows how important early leadership development and confidence building is outside of traditional school settings.



Gaby Sanchez - Facilitator of the Johannesburg Chapter of the Chaeli Campaign's Pay-It-Forward Ambassador Programme



## UBAMBISWANO AND EKUFUNDZENI – PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

The partnership between uBambiswano and Ekufundzeni began in 1997 at the start-up of the Ekufundzeni mobile library, through the direct involvement of Meg Grayer in the mobile library operations. The teacher enrichment activities of uBambiswano had been curtailed by new Department of Education instructions and Ekufundzeni was looking for a librarian. Meg ran the mobile library for the first few years until her untimely passing away due to cancer. But this was the foundation of a now 19-year partnership.

The mobile library continues to offer the only library service to 31 junior and senior primary schools in Daveyton and Etwatwa (part of greater Benoni). The library has a stock of over 19 000 books and visits each school twice a term for teachers and pupils to exchange books. There are usually between 4 500 and 5 000 books out on loan at any particular time. The access to reading and teacher support books, in many of the official languages, adds to the education experience and potential for around 30 000 pupils and 2 940 teachers.

Ekufundzeni started the concept of importing second-hand mobile libraries from Japan for use amongst the poorer schools and this concept has been embraced by an organization called Sapesi which has now imported over 50 similar vehicles for use around the country. The operating costs of Ekufundzeni are less than the cost of a single librarian and so offers an economic way of providing libraries in historically disadvantaged areas where no school libraries exist.

### Reading Gogos

In 2009 a member of Ekufundzeni started the concept of the Reading Gogos. The initial idea was to spend time reading to foundation phase pupils at one of the schools visited by the library so that they could hear English spoken by a mother-tongue English speaker.

The concept was warmly received by the school and soon a number of 'Gogos' volunteered to participate. There are now 40 Gogos (of all ages – 30s to 80s) who visit one of 5 different schools for one hour a week to engage with the children. This may involve reading, crafts, singing, drama and even an annual 'sports' day (egg-and-spoon races etc) – whatever the Gogos feel up to doing.



The children love the Gogo visits (principals say absenteeism is lowest on those days), the Gogos love the interaction with the children (some have no grandchildren in the country anymore) and the teachers have an opportunity to spend time with needy pupils while the Gogos work with the rest of the class – so everybody wins!

A secondary benefit of the Gogos programme is breaking down of historic racial barriers on both sides – the Gogos travel to the township schools and the pupils get to engage with loving caring folk from a different racial group.

Additional schools have requested Gogos as the parents want their children to have the same input, but the programme is limited only by the number of available volunteers. At one stage, one Gogo group consisted of St Andrew's moms.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TERM



Chaeli Campaign Graduation — 4 children graduated as Pay-It-Forward ambassadors and 5 children as mentors



Drama workshop with St Andrew's girls from the Junior School



Sci-Bono, BODY WORLDS Vital Exhibition attended by the Grade 8s and 9s



Cooking class



Music — Grade 6s and 7s participated in an individual and group recorder competition



Hillbrow Theatre Project performed a play for the uBambiswano group



## THE COMMITMENT OF ST ANDREW'S

This initiative is a key component of the school's engagement with civil society, the changing social landscape and its commitment to making a meaningful social contribution and to building a better future for our country. 27 years of success, impact on over 800 learners, their families, schools and community represent a substantial value proposition for St Andrew's as a top school.

uBambiswano's vision and mission aim to address the education crisis in our country while speaking to the wider values held by the school. We are committed to providing quality educational opportunities, making a sustainable difference in people's lives, making them 'Skilled for Life'. Our efforts are hugely enhanced by the following:

- Access to quality resources, facilities and transport
- Advice in respect of programmatic content
- Marketing, visibility and opportunities for awareness creation
- Participation of staff, girls and parents in some aspects of the programme
- Contributions and donations from within the community eg Confident Kids, The Chaeli Campaign and the provision of swimming coaches
- Governance structures

Our Committee is accountable to Executive Management. It meets twice a term and is represented at Board level. The Finance Department is responsible for internal audits, financial controls and budgets. KPMG is responsible for the external audit. The Coordinator has regular meetings with management for general feedback and progress reports.

uBambiswano is almost completely dependent on external funding from corporate and individual donors. This funding covers salaries, teaching and learning materials for academic and enrichment activities, catering, transport, uniforms, camps and outings. Contributions through dedicated fundraising events such as Eco Trail Hike and Bike, Tekkie Tax day and MySchool card supplement our income.



## #Giveback: WAYS OF GIVING

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

The programme relies on external funding, mainly in the form of fundraising by St Andrew's School for Girls and external donations. The funds are used to pay for the 'teaching' of the learners, rather than the running of the environment, and includes learning and teaching resources, teachers' salaries and stipends for volunteers, outings and camps, transport, catering and learner uniforms. Opportunities to donate funds can be in the following form:

- A lump sum to support the overall programme
- Sponsorship of a child to attend the Saturday School
- Sponsorship of an Ubambiswano fundraising event
- Contribution of in-kind products, services and networking opportunities
- Opportunities for post matric skills training and internships.

Funding is also required in the form of bursaries and scholarships, for our learners to obtain a better high school education.

### UBAMBISWANO CONTACT DETAILS

**We would love to introduce you to this worthy programme.**

**Our contact details are as follows:**

Tel: 011 453 9408

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