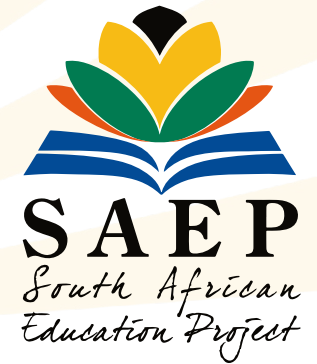


# SAEP Newsletter

January - March 2022



## NEW BEGINNINGS

We are hopeful that as schools operate at full capacity, children will attend regularly. We have exciting plans for our programmes (some of which have already been implemented), SAEP is ready to educate for a brighter future!



Stay engaged with us



Support us



Contribute to our work

# Welcome to the new faces at SAEP



**Thobeka  
Mbokazi:  
SAEP Social  
Worker**

SAEP is thrilled to have Thobeka Mbokazi join the organisation to fulfil the crucial role. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work (2015) and in 2016 earned Postgraduate Diploma in Social Science (Community Development) from the University of KwaZulu Natal-Howard College.

*"As I work directly with the youth of various age categories who are in honest need of social work assistance within their stage of development, SAEP seems to be an excellent fit with my goals and aspirations. As a child, I already knew what I wanted to be when I grew up: It is my life's work to help people and make a difference in people's everyday lives. I believe my career chose me, not the other way around."*

## **Lesley Nchabeleng: HSP's New Coordinator**



Lesley Nchabeleng holds a B-Tech in Nature Conservation and has extensive experience working in our national parks (West Coast, Agulhas, and Tankwa Karoo, as well as Roodeplaat Nature Reserve and Pretoria National Botanical Garden). We are excited to have him onboard to lead the Hope Scholars Programme and the Greening project (indigenous gardens) to positively influence a generation of environmental activists.

## **Thulani Mhambi: Joining our WESSA Groen Sebenza Intern team**



Thulani holds a National Diploma at Public Management N6 at Northlink College and Office Administration certificate level 4 at College of Cape Town. He is 'looking forward to adding value to the Organisation to reach its objectives and fulfil its mission'. Both Zikhona & Thulani are based at our Beautiful Gate office in Philippi.

## **Zikhona Khehlane: ECD Mentor**



ECD is delighted to welcome Zikhona Khehlane who joins the team as an ECD Mentor with a focus on the learning programme. Zikhona brings a wealth of knowledge in the ECD sector. She joins SAEP after having worked with Grown in Philippi Educare. She holds a National Educare Diploma from False Bay College and 6 years' experience under her belt. She will be supporting the practitioners in classroom learning programme implementation.

# Early Childhood Development Programme (ECD)

## Bigger & Better Sivukile ECD

*thanks to Afrisam*

Our children mean a lot to us. We want children in Philippi township to have access to a safe and healthy learning environment. That is why our programme exists!

SAEP, in partnership with AfriSam, began the refurbishment of Sivukile Educare Centre at the end of 2021. The centre had to be completely demolished and rebuilt to meet the Department of Social Development (DSD) standards for conditional registration.

The centre was also given an equipment package containing a stove, fridge, chest freezer, classroom furniture and 60 waterproof baby-sized mattresses.

SAEP is proud of the work that has been done and celebrated an official handover ceremony of the centre on 28 February 2022. The ceremony was attended by officials from our partner AfriSam, City of Cape Town, Community members, Department of Mineral Resources & Energy, Department of Social Development (DSD), Parents and Sivukile Committee & Management.

We offer our gratitude to AfriSam and are happy that the children now have a beautiful ECD centre to attend daily. This is a great success for a tiny township educare that started in 2001 with only 6 children. We are proud of the principal's and teachers' efforts in providing much-needed care and stimulation for the children during their most critical learning phase. Sivukile Educare centre is conditionally registered and qualifies to receive DSD funding.



# Siyakhathala Programme

*is growing!*

We are excited to be working with **Vukani Primary School**, where we have started with our first cohort of 120 learners in grades 3 and 4. At **Siyazakha Primary** we are continuing to work with our 2021 cohort who are now doing grade 5 as they missed out on the learning gym in 2020 due to the lockdown.



## Child Abuse is a Threat to Learning

The Hope Scholars team collaborated with our Social Worker to host a **Child Protection workshop** for beneficiaries.

They worked hard to create a safe and calm environment where learners could (if they wanted to) share their stories and struggles with the social worker. In addition to offering counselling, learners were also given a list of resources should they require additional support.

**Psychosocial support is a crucial element in our work** as trauma caused by child abuse, exposure to violence or neglect is considered to be one of the major barriers to learning. Many Hope Scholars face multiple barriers to learning which impact their ability to learn, stay in school and achieve their goals. In order for us to support our learners, we must address these issues, and give learners skills to overcome adversity in the future.



As part of SAEP's strategy focus on environmental education, SP is implementing the Eco-Schools Project along with an Indigenous Garden that will serve as a space of both learning and relaxation for the learners. Each school will have a Green Team comprised of 10 learners, school teachers and the principal to represent the school. At the end of 2021 our team, along with the Hope Scholars team attended workshops hosted by SANBI where we were being taught about steps and procedures to follow in our journey of greening.

In addition to the Eco-Schools Project, we will continue to read environmentally themed stories, take our learners on excursions and forest walks to introduce them to nature.



# Drug & Substance Abuse Awareness Workshop

HSP's second life skills workshop focused on raising awareness around drug and substance abuse. Our Social Worker, Thobeka Mbokazi, presented the programme in the form of an interactive presentation and handed out flyers with information on drugs and substance abuse. Learners designed and presented posters portraying impacts of substance abuse on well-being. The posters were laminated and displayed around the school to continually raise awareness and positively influence learner attitudes.



# Hope Scholars Programme

## World Wetlands Day 2022

The Hope Scholars from Zisukhanyo Senior Secondary School (Grade 9) participated in the World Wetlands Day which is celebrated annually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. The learners visited Masiphumelele informal settlement which is an area that is adjacent to the boundaries of Table Mountain National Park and several wetlands.



Environmental problems in the area indicate a human-nature conflict. The community living adjacent to the wetlands is building their shacks on the wetlands due to poor spatial planning in the area. This exposed the Hope Scholars to the detrimental impacts of the situation.



The day started with an **environmental awareness lesson** facilitated by Susan Muhanelwa from South African National Parks working as People and Conservation Officer. During the lesson, Hope Scholars participated in an ice breaker activity, an interactive education lesson, and a mini wetland clean-up, thus committing themselves to the wetland theme, "action for people and nature." The lesson continued on Chapman's Peak where the students reflected on what they had seen, the importance of wetlands and deliberated on how they will apply knowledge learned in Philippi.



## Bridging Year Programme Orientation

The Bridging Year programme held its orientation day on 25 February 2022 with the incoming cohort. The event was well attended as over 40 students were present and eager to learn more about the programme's components (academic literacy, critical thinking, digital literacy, career guidance and community service), what to expect and SAEP in general. We wish our students the very best for the year ahead and we are excited to see what they will achieve.



## Staff *team building*

### Hiking it is!

We held our first team building event for the year – a hike at Newlands Forest. It was a great opportunity for old and new staff (including ECD assistants and Groen Sebenza Interns) to mingle, interact and prepare for the year ahead. It was a beautiful day and staff enthusiastically tackled the challenging hike. Staff remain committed to providing children and young people access to educational services and, look forward to many more environmental excursions.



## *Safety* concerns & awareness

We have for the third time (in less than 12 months) experienced another car hijack in Philippi. We were in the process of replacing our remaining Avanzas with other less sought after vehicles when the latest incident took place. Trauma counselling has been made available to assist all affected staff (including those who were victims previously). In addition, we will be hosting a counselor to address all staff on how to support those affected and general coping skills.

## Annual General Meeting

### *Invitation*



You are invited to attend our virtual AGM on the **14<sup>th</sup> of May 2022**

We hope donors, friends and supporters will attend as we reflect on our work in 2021.

# Appeal

## Support the SANDISO MEMORIAL FUND

Sandiso Ndinisa was a young, Tertiary Support Programme alumnus, who graduated in 2016 from CPUT with a National Diploma in Marketing. He was a cheerful person, hard-working, and had a positive attitude towards life. He died under tragic circumstances in 2018. SAEP set up the SANDISO MEMORIAL FUND in his memory to support students in the Tertiary Support Programme to meet their academic needs and achieve their full potential. The Sandiso Memorial Fund is a pool of funding that current SAEP TSP students can apply to for financial support for items that their existing funding may not cover such as textbooks, data, printing, transport and food.

### Your gift of R300 (\$20) would contribute to:

- ✓ Data for online lessons
- ✓ Food parcels
- ✓ Recommended reading books
- ✓ Stationery
- ✓ Student transport allowance
- ✓ Tertiary application fees
- ✓ Toiletries
- ✓ Laptops/chargers
- ✓ Uniforms for courses with practicals
- ✓ Application fees

*Thank you for making a difference.*



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Many thanks to our dedicated individual donors 'Angels' who sustain our work. Angels contribute significantly to our work through donations in cash and in kind and through using their networks to expand our donor base.

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The South African Education Project (SAEP) is a non-profit organisation (NPO 028 310), based in Cape Town, South Africa.

Since 1994, we have provided education, life skills, and psycho-social support programmes for children youth and education providers.

### DONATE NOW

send us notice of the payment and use your name and SUSTAIN as the reference.



*Thank You!*