

# MICHAELHOUSE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

QUARTERLY REPORT  
*October – December 2020*

# WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR?



## TRAINING

### Mathematics Training

In the last quarter, Paul de Wet has continued to support the teaching and learning of Core Mathematics in a number of high schools: Jabula Combined (Lidgetton), Shea O'Connor (Nottingham Road), Asithuthuke (Zenzani Village), Eminyezaneni, Doornkloof (Middelrus), Dabulamanzi (Kamberg Valley) and Amahlubi Secondary (Bergville).

Most of these schools received Paul's Daily Maths Challenge questions on WhatsApp. Each day the solution to the previous day's question was provided, along with a new question, alternating between Paper 1 and Paper 2. This project ran every day for over 50 days.

In addition, Paul offered remote support to the Maths teachers of these schools by assisting them with troublesome questions using WhatsApp.

On Saturday 31 October 2020 Paul hosted a Matric Paper 1 revision workshop for learners from all of the above-mentioned schools apart from Eminyezaneni. A total of 50 learners and 8 teachers attended. Paul was supported by the Michaelhouse Mathematics Department staff, namely, Sibonelo Khanyile, Karin Moffat, Jason Blockley and Thabani Hlabisa. The workshop ran from 8a.m. until 3p.m. The learners were transported to and from the workshop by buses laid on by the offices of the Michaelhouse Community Partnerships. They were fed lunch and were also treated to a cool drink, chips and a chocolate. Each pupil was given a revision workbook which included "cheat sheets" and past-paper questions for each topic.

On Saturday 7 November 2020 Paul de Wet hosted a Matric Paper 2 revision workshop for the same pupils with the same arrangements in place. On this occasion Paul was again supported by Jason Blockley. 54 learners and 6 teachers attended.

Both workshops were held at Midlands Community College. We are extremely grateful to them for the free use of their facility. Paul asked teachers and learners to complete a feedback questionnaire. It was gratifying to read the appreciation expressed. Teachers and learners alike appealed for more workshops and earlier in the year. This is certainly something we will do in 2021. The learners indicated that they would have appreciated an even longer day in order that we could go at a slower pace. Paul was extremely impressed with their commitment.

On Friday 13 November 2020 Paul hosted a Paper 2 revision workshop at Eminyezaneni Secondary School in Bruntville for the learners of that school and of Shea O'Connor. This was attended by around 20 learners and the teachers from both schools.

This project recently acquired a data projector and a projection screen. This will be invaluable as we host future workshops.

We are eagerly looking forward to 2021 when we plan to further **increase** the contributions of the Andiswa Maths Academy to the teaching and learning of Mathematics in our communities. Andiswa is the isiZulu word for increase.



## Partners for Possibility (PfP)

PfP is a leadership development programme between private sector and school principals

Community building training was held at Michaelhouse on 13 & 14 October 2020 with Dr Rama Naidu. This was our first “real-life” training for Midlands2, comprising of 8 schools and business (development) partners. Time to Think and Flawless Consulting trainings were facilitated online between June and August 2020. The Michaelhouse campus served as a magnificent backdrop to possibility thinking in our Community Building. What a gift to each other, the senses and the community, our training turned out to be. We had 33 attendees, including 7 educators from the Champagne Valley. 5 of our PfP Midlands2 schools: Amahlubi High and primary schools - Middlefield, Sibonokuhle, Curry’s Post and Corry Lynn had an additional smt (school management team) or sgb (school governing body) member present. Having members of the extended education community present at these trainings enables a principal to drive change and mobilise community at greater pace and with increased buy-in, so it is a most valuable addition to his/her leadership strategy.

PfP offered access to incredible online leadership learnings from global thought leaders at a vastly reduced cost. Quite a few of the Midlands1 and 2 principals and business leaders joined. These leadership sessions included:

**The Structure of Belonging by Peter Block:** show people the power of their freedom AND let them decide whether they care enough...based on these departure points, we can start to build a sustainable community. Just having conversations create energy.

**Our 4th COP (Community of Practise)** held on 24 November 2020 at Corrie Lynn Primary under the leadership of Mrs Thenjiwe Ngcobo. **Reflecting on the leadership lessons of 2020.** In particular, the value of being part of a supportive community that the PfP programme and the MHS Community partnership have been. The value more than ever before to remain connected, learning from each other, being supported on practical matters such as maths (educational gaps due to Covid19 curriculum coverage), in classroom support, such as enabled by YES (Youth at Work) interns and time to think together about leadership challenges as well as possibilities, with a dedicated supportive partner, the basis of all PfP relationships.



## Bank workshop

First National Bank “MEET & ASSIST” hosted 2 FNB departments from Umhlanga and Pietermaritzburg respectively joined to share FNB products available and set up the process for the migration from cheque to online. 12 schools from the Mpofana and Lions River circuits attended, totalling 27

individuals. Schools could hand in their documentation and next step would be for FNB to contact them to set up their E-banking. It was very helpful to have both English and IsiZulu FNB facilitators present and notably far more questions were raised in IsiZulu. This would have been missed if support was only offered in English.

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# EDUCATION

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## Eduhelpers

Nine Eduhelpers continue to work in five schools, demonstrating a growth in our commitment to the improvement of the schools. Mr Sanele Zuma who was teaching maths at Asithuthuke as an Eduhelper was offered a fulltime job and has moved to the South Coast.

This quarter we are going to profile Philile Zuma who works as an Eduhelper at Esiphethwini Sendiza.

### 1. What does being an Eduhelper mean to you?

I am at Hlanganani Primary School. Being an Eduhelper to me means my help should be available at all times when I am school. I chose to be in Grade 3, because I think it is the most challenging grade in Foundation phase. Also because there are 27 learners and I thought why don't I offer to the class teacher? At the moment I am working with her and I have been learning a lot, because most of the theory in my Unisa work is based in grade 3 lessons. I did not know that until I worked with grade 3 practically. The teacher I am with, is so good, she treats me like a professional teacher, she even sometimes asks for my opinions/inputs.

### 2. How has been Eduhelper programme been able to affect change in your school and in children's lives?

I went to Hlanganani as someone who was looking for a school to do my Unisa's practicals. As I was starting my practicals, the Principal approached me and asked if do I have any computer qualification because they in need of a computer teacher. Luckily for me I had the qualifications that the Principal was looking for. I started in July 2018 and I connected well with the staff and the learners. I was told that there is CAMI in all the computers, I knew what CAMI was, I worked with it before. I was also told by the Principal and HoD that they think I should do CAMI from

Grade R-3 and do basic computer skills with the Intermediate phase. That also worked well, children were excited to be in a computer lab. It showed that it's been a long time since they have been there. They also showed good results with their work.

### 3. What have your challenges been?

As I was doing computers with the learners, I became very busy in a Computer lab and there was not much observations and practicals in the Foundation Phase classrooms, as it was stated in my Unisa's criteria. I approached the HoD and I asked her if I could maybe be in the classroom in the morning and be in a computer lab after first break. She passed my message to the Principal and they both said it was fine, I could go to any classroom at any time, even in the immediate phase classrooms. The challenge that I also had was the network at the computer lab. I could not teach the learners how to do research for their subjects and to help them set up their e-mail addresses.

### 4. What would you handle differently and what would you like to change or implement in future in order to be more effective?

As we have been faced by this pandemic, we went to a computer lab for few days and it was announced that we need to use the school hours covering the curriculum that we missed between March and August. Learners are asking everyday why don't we go to the computer lab anymore. Most of them are the little ones, they do not understand what is happening. I feel sorry for them. I wish I could work just like the last time.

I know that one day I will need to leave this school after I finished with my degree and look for greener pasture. I really enjoy to be in this school. They involve me in anything that they do, they treat me as one of them, they help me with whatever I ask them to (academically).



## 5. Discuss your role during lockdown, what did you do to continue supporting the learners.

During lockdown I was approached by the lady that decided to feed the learners while they were at their homes, because of the lockdown. We started by cooking for them every day in the St Raphael's church house. The system worked well until the virus showed no remorse. So we decided to send food parcels only to very needy families. We did just that and it worked well. The project grew and we started spreading our wings. We were sending the food parcels all round Ward 3, on sunny days and on rainy days! I wished I could send meals and some school work, but it did not happen because my school and families did not have the plan and the resources to do so. We were doing all this voluntarily. We are still cooking and feeding the children

every Sunday, together with the team. We also teach them about the Word of God.

The CPT team manage this project which is fully dependent on external funding, mainly through corporate social investment.

### Art and Choir Competition

The annual art competition took place with the theme "my imagination during lockdown." We received creative artwork from our partner schools. Each learner was permitted to submit up to three pieces of art. The art was judged by the Michaelhouse Head of Visual Arts, Mrs Jenni Clinton-Parker. A price giving was held at each school.



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## HEALTH

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### St Raphael's

This quarter started off with a bang for the St Raphael's team. An event scheduled for Heritage day was postponed from September to the 6 October 2020 due to the weather. There were 81 children in attendance. They were treated to a meal and a gift of a puzzle, colouring in sheets and crayons. Gender based violence was addressed and the children were provided with educational material and emergency contact details. As part of the festivities trees were planted at both the St Raphael's building and the local soccer field.

We then settled in to our routine of regular clinics, outreach to farms and businesses in the area, home visits and strengthening our relationship with the Department of Health.

The first Michaelhouse staff clinic since lock down was held in October, 2 farms in the area and a local factory were visited as well as our final pensioner's clinics of the year conducted. From

these clinics a total of 71 clients were screened for Hypertension and Diabetes. Each person was also given a chance to discuss any health problems with a doctor on site. Some clients were provided with medication, others were referred to the local clinic for treatment and others were followed up by the St Raphael's staff.

Crystal Springs crèche was visited and 4 children with health needs were identified and treated by the St Raphael's team. As the term drew to a close the St Raphael's delivered a motivational talk to the learners at Shea O Conner school to aid them in their exam preparation.

In between these scheduled clinics and school visits the care givers also provided transport for 29 patients to Balgowan clinic, collected medication for a further 56 patients and made bookings for the planned patient transport from the clinic to the hospital for 4 patients. Home visits continue to be carried out with 14 clients visited in their homes this quarter.

The year is not yet over for the St Raphael's team who will join the Balgowan clinic staff on 5 December for a Wellness day in Zenzani Village and an HIV awareness campaign at Balgowan clinic later in the month. This has been a challenging year dealing with a global pandemic and adjusting plans to best help

the community while keeping safe ourselves and following the laws of the land. But with the challenges have come new opportunities and new skills and the St Raphael's team has truly risen to the occasion, shown resilience and tenacity!



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## EXTRA ACTIVITIES

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### Asithuthuke Combined School renovations

Before



After



### School books and stationary drive

This year with the support of the housemasters, housemother and tutors we were able to collect our biggest donation yet of books and stationary. The books were then sorted by the CPT team and representatives from our partnership schools were able to collect the resources they required. 16 schools benefited from this drive.

### Soul2Sole

Soul2Sole 2020 brought a smile to the faces of nearly 3 000 children in KwaZulu-Natal, gifting them with school shoes, socks and Lion Quality shoe polish. A total of 3 641 pairs

of new and previously-worn shoes were distributed to little feet in the Transkei, Zululand and Durban areas as part of Soul2Sole2020.

Thank you to the boys who donated their school shoes for Soul2Sole2021, we look forward to distribution in our partnership schools.

### Associations

Community Partnerships is now a member of the Midlands Meander Association and has a profile on Edvision. <https://www.edvision.co.za/organisation>

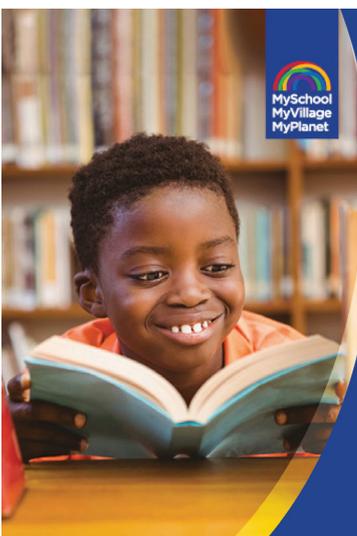
## Manager graduates

Amy Webster, manager of CPT completed a Social Entrepreneurship Programme in November. A special thank you to Rand Merchant Bank for the sponsorship of her tuition and registration fees for The University of Pretoria's Gordon Institute of Business Science Social Entrepreneurship Programme 2020. Topics included Understanding the BBBEE

codes, Stakeholder engagements, operational and project management and measuring impact.

*"I look forward to implementing what I have learnt from the Social Entrepreneurship Programme in the Michaelhouse Community Partnerships projects, and ensure sustainability"*

Amy Webster



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