



PRINCESS PARK BI-ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2023



30 YEARS OF QUALITY PRIVATE EDUCATION

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COLLEGE REFLECTIONS

The year 2023 is almost over. At Princess Park College, it is a year that we will always cherish and celebrate. I would like to express my gratitude to all the parents for their unwavering support, the educators, administrators and ancillary staff for their commitment to the success of the school.

Throughout the year, our learners worked relentlessly in both academics and extra-mural activities. Our accomplishments include second position at the national round for public speaking and second position for chess and robotics. A special thanks to the learners who participated and the educators who groomed the learners.

On the management side, there have been changes in the management team. Mrs Walker has been promoted to be the Executive Principal at Royal Schools Queens Private School, which is our sister school. We wish her success in her new position. Mr Jason Muganhu has been promoted to take over Mrs Walker's position, he is the new High School Principal. We would also like to welcome Mr Johan Smit, the Executive Discipline Manager of Royal Schools, who will be assisting with the discipline is at Princess Park. Mr Elton Ncube is now the Discipline Coordinator for High School and Mrs B van Dyk is the new Discipline Coordinator for Primary School. Mrs J de Klerk will deal with examinations and housekeeping issues.

On a sad note, we will be bidding farewell to an icon and a great asset of the school, Mrs Elize Hattingh, will be retiring at the end of the year. She has served Princess Park for nineteen years. She has led by example throughout her tenure. Her legacy of hard work, positivity, enthusiasm and diligence will live on. We wish her joy, peace and a well-deserved rest. Mrs Genevieve Porter has taken over as Principal of the Primary School, and we would like to congratulate her on her new appointment.





COLLEGE FUTURE

Education today is transforming and moving ahead and the challenges also increase. Schools also need to adapt to the changes. Some professions will become obsolete with time and that is why we need to adapt to changes in technology. We are glad to inform you that our robotics team is slowly progressing and in the near future, we are looking forward to introducing robotics as a subject. Currently, selected educators are going through training in various disciplines of robotics. The training is in line with our future plans of having robotics as a subject at our school.

Google Classroom is fully functional. At the beginning of each year the IT team allocates each learner an email address to use to join Google Classrooms. We are looking forward to this exercise early in 2024. Parents are encouraged to have electronic devices in place so that learners can have access to extra learning material at home, and also be able to do homework.

It is the culture of the school that during examination time, learners have a study session before they write an examination. The study session is supervised by invigilators, and exam as well as library rules, apply. However, we have noticed that most of our learners' concentration span is poor. This is a worrying trend especially among high school learners. Plans are at an advanced stage to have reading as a compulsory lesson in all the classes at least once a week for all the learners in the school, except for grade twelve learners. The matriculants have two hours study sessions for all subjects already.

"If you want to be happy, set a goal that commands your thoughts, liberates your energy and inspires your hopes." –Andrew Carnegie

We are looking forward to a successful 2024. Just like the quote above, we want to celebrate next year, we want to be successful and we want to be happy. Measures have been put in place for the class of 2024. The grade eleven learners are started with the preparation classes for grade 12 on 27 November. A timetable was prepared already, exercise books were purchased and textbooks were ready. Their classes will end on 6 December 2023.

With thoughts of success, happiness and exciting futures ahead, I wish to extend my gratitude to all the stakeholders who played a key role in what has been a great year. I wish you all a wonderful festive season, and we look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Mr M Dutuma (Executive Principal)



ACADEMICS & CO-CURRICULA ACTIVITIES

As we approach the close of another extraordinary academic year, it brings us immense joy to reflect on the remarkable journey we've had at PPC in 2023. Our school remains a beacon of excellence that is deeply rooted in the community we serve.

Public speaking

For the first time in the history of our school, our students competed in public speaking and two of our grade 12 learners, qualified to compete at national level. I am proud to announce that Anna Beatrice Chivorovoro got 2nd place and Lithitha Mduba was in fifth position.

Robotics and Chess

Our school competed in robotics against 20 schools and team Royal Schools Princess park College came out number 2 out of 16 competitors. We also took part in a Chess competition and our team was number 2 out of 6.

Boot camps

Special thanks to all grade 12 learners and parents for the support and good attendance in all the scheduled Boot Camps for the year 2023. The school managed to provide food to both students and teachers. Throughout 2023, learner attendance at Boot Camps was good and parents are commended for supporting this innovation. We are looking forward to good results for the class of 2023.

Concert and Awards

The year was marked by a spectacular concert that showcased the immense talents of our students. It was not merely a celebration of their creativity, but also an opportunity for parents to see how their children have grown and interact socially. We had a Merit Awards' Tea, to acknowledge and honour those who consistently demonstrated exceptional behavior throughout the year. The Merit Awards for good behaviour served as a testament to the outstanding character of our students, who are contributing to a positive and supportive school environment. The Academic Achievers tea was a moment of recognition for hard work and diligence, which was further celebrated at our prestigious prize-giving ceremonies. External Conquest a Exams and various subject Olympiad successes: We were delighted to receive impressive results from the External Conquests and Olympiad exams, affirming that our students excel academically on a broader scale.

Advancements in Robotics

In a world where technology is ever-advancing, PPC proudly embraces progress in the field of robotics. Robotics ensure that our students stay ahead and are well-prepared for the future.

Educational Excursions

We firmly believe that the world outside our classrooms offers vast educational opportunities. One such enriching experience was our trip to the Crocodile Farm and Lion and Rhino Park. This fun-filled outing provided our students with an adventure and a chance to witness the wild life at a close range. Such experiences broaden their understanding of the natural world.

Gratitude to Parents

As we pen the final newsletter of the year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our parents, for entrusting us with your children's educational journey. In this school, we are a family, and the wonder and awe in our children's eyes inspire us to do more. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.

Values that Define Us

We operate in the heart of the city where life moves very fast. Both good and bad influences emanate from our environment. However, we thrive in such an environment and we are grateful that we still continue to instil the love for education. With passion, we lead by example, upholding our core values of perseverance, integrity, people and excellence. As we approach 2024, our commitment to these values remains unwavering.

Festive Wishes

As the year draws to a close, we wish you a safe and joyous festive season. May this time be filled with love, laughter and cherished moments with your loved ones. God bless you all.

High School Principal Mr. J. Muganhu
Foundation Phase Principal Ms. G. Porter
Intermediate Phase Principal Ms. E. Hattingh



FOUNDATION PHASE

Foundation Phase Fun days!

Teaching and school is not just about academics; it is also about having some fun. Life is short and here in Foundation Phase we make the most of every moment. We know how important it is for the learners to express themselves and let their imagination run wild. One of the best ways is to have fun!

These are just a few of the many fun days we had- Pyjama Day, Princes and Princesses, Heritage Day, Farmer's Day, Spring Day Bash and Classroom theme dress up. The most exciting day we had was our outing to Croc City. The learners absolutely enjoyed their time at Croc City. They learned about reptiles, touched the snakes and enjoyed running around freely on the vast playgrounds.

What amazing fun days we had!!!

Foundation Phase Concert 2023

On 21 September 2023, the Foundation Phase learners took part in the annual concert. This was an extremely exciting, but stressful day for the learners and educators, as many hours were spent practising and perfecting each and every dance move. On the big day, the learners got to show off their funky moves and got to dance their hearts out for family and friends. Ma'am Porter hand-picked each class's theme and song.

RA – Health and Fitness

RB – Barbie

1A – Save the Ocean Creatures Fundraiser

1B – Weather: Sunny

1C – Weather: Rainy

2A – Zoo Escape

2B – PPC Drama Club

2C – Cowboys and Cowgirls

3A – Disney Medley

3B – Protest

3C – Sports

You dance love, and you dance joy, and you dance dreams.

Foundation Phase Robotics

Why is Robotics important for the Foundation Phase learners and the future?

Robotics is important for little minds because of its potential to provide numerous educational and developmental benefits. Here are several reasons why Robotics is considered valuable for children:



1. **Hands-On Learning:** Robotics involves hands-on activities that allow children to physically engage with and manipulate objects. This hands-on approach enhances their understanding of abstract concepts and promotes a deeper level of learning.
2. **STEM Education:** Robotics is an effective way to introduce children to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) concepts. These fields are increasingly important in today's technology-driven world, and early exposure can cultivate interest and aptitude in these areas.
3. **Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** Building and programming robots requires logical thinking and problem-solving skills. Children learn to analyse situations, break down problems into smaller component, and develop step-by-step solutions, fostering critical thinking skills.
4. **Creativity and Innovation:** Designing and building robots often involve creative thinking. Children can brainstorm ideas, experiment with different solutions and innovate in the process. This nurtures creativity and encourages out-of-the-box thinking.
5. **Programming Skills:** Learning to programme robots introduces children to the basics of coding. Understanding how to give instructions to a robot through coding not only teaches programming skills, but also enhances computational thinking.
6. **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Many Robotics activities involve teamwork. Working in a group helps children develop interpersonal skills, learn effective communication and understand the importance of collaboration, which are essential life skills.
7. **Introduction to Engineering Concepts:** Robotics provides a practical introduction to engineering concepts such as mechanics, electronics and sensors. Children gain a basic understanding of how machines work and how different components interact.
8. **Real-World Application:** Robotics allows children to see the real-world applications of the theoretical knowledge they acquire in school. It bridges the gap between abstract concepts and their practical implementation, making education more meaningful.
9. **Boosts Confidence:** Successfully building and programming a robot can be a confidence booster for children. It gives them a sense of achievement, encourages a positive attitude towards learning and instils a belief in their problem-solving abilities.
10. **Preparation for Future Careers:** Exposure to robotics at an early age can pique children's interest in technology and engineering. This early interest may lead to a greater likelihood of pursuing STEM-related careers in the future.
11. **Fun and Engagement:** Robotic activities are often designed to be enjoyable and engaging. This makes learning a fun experience, capturing children's interest and motivating them to explore and discover.

In summary, Robotics is important for little minds as it provides a holistic learning experience that combines STEM education, critical thinking, creativity and practical skills. It not only prepares children for future academic and professional challenges, but also fosters a love for learning and exploration.



TEA FUNCTIONS

Merit Tea

We always look forward to celebrating our learners that behave well and show them that we appreciate them, and this time was no different. One learner from each grade, who had the most merits, was invited to our glamorous Merit Tea. The following learners had the most merits in their grade:

Grade R- Tlotlego Ditshego with 695 merits.
Grade 1- Beza Ermolo with 300 merits.
Grade 2- Solakha Ngalonkulu with 595 merits.
Grade 3- Siboniso Makalima with 945 merits.
Grade 4- Zareen Boadu with 775 merits.
Grade 5- Realeboha Hlahane with 685 merits.
Grade 6- Lesedi Mashigo with 665 merits.
Grade 7- Rendani Mudau with 420 merits.
Grade 8- Abigiya Yibetal with 245 merits.
Grade 9- Elizabeth Atanda with 275 merits.
Grade 10- Onkabetse Shogole with 210 merits.
Grade 11- Litha Mama with 235 merits.
Grade 12- Nokutenda Makotamo with 525 merits.

We are extremely proud of you!

Achievers Tea

Our top performing learners from each grade were spoiled rotten to show how proud we are of them! This just shows that hard work truly pays off. The top two learners for each grade are the following:

Grade R: Asabea Agyei and Bonolo Motloutsi
Grade 1: Eliana Arifecho and Ebeneza Balacho
Grade 2: Shalom Kumssa and Inessa Iyevuku
Grade 3: Siboniso Makalima and Charinet Hemecha
Grade 4: Zareen Boadu and Christian Maboane
Grade 5: Alina Ogunnaike and Grace Agondjot
Grade 6: Amhasellassie Yibetal and Murendeni Nndwambi
Grade 7: Rendani Modau and Somila Cobokana
Grade 8: Abigiya Yibetal and Lethabo Gololo
Grade 9: Elizabeth Atanda and Asher Aishida
Grade 10- Keabetse Mogane and Chanique Farmer
Grade 11- Emmanuella Onyeajam and Karimat Ojeleye
Grade 12- Nokutenda Makotamo and Lithitha Mduba

Congratulations! We look forward to seeing what the future holds for you! Be great!



INTERMEDIATE PHASE

ROBOTICS

Over the past six months, students in Grades 5, 6 and 7 engaged in a comprehensive curriculum, focussed on the fundamentals of programming and hands-on experience with microbits and novice bots.

Programming Foundations:

Our robotics curriculum began with a strong emphasis on understanding the basics of programming. Students were introduced to the principles of coding, logical thinking and problem-solving. Through a series of interactive lessons and practical exercises, they gained proficiency in writing and interpreting code, setting a solid foundation for more advanced concepts.

Microbit Mastery:

As part of the programme, students delved into the world of microbits. These versatile, pocket-sized computers provided an excellent platform for learning coding concepts in a tangible and engaging manner. From creating simple games to designing interactive projects, students honed their programming skills while working with microbits, fostering creativity and innovation.

Novice Bot Exploration:

The introduction of novice bots marked a pivotal point in the robotics journey for our students. These entry-level robots allowed students to apply their programming knowledge to the physical realm. As they programmed the novice bots to perform various tasks and navigate challenges, students developed a deeper understanding of robotics principles and gained practical experience in translating code into real-world actions.

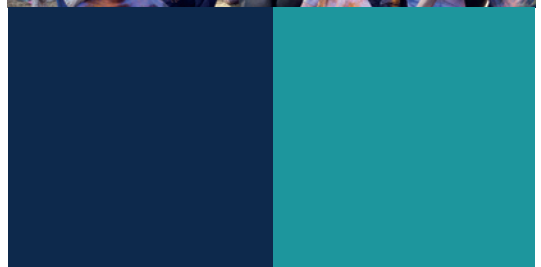
Roboticon 2023:

The pinnacle of our robotics programme was undoubtedly the 2nd annual Roboticon, held on the 21st of October. Our students enthusiastically participated in this prestigious event, showcasing their skills and innovations. I am thrilled to announce that Royal Schools Princess Park secured an impressive 2nd place out of 20 esteemed schools. This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication, hard work and collaborative spirit of our students.

Future Endeavors:

Looking ahead, we plan to build upon this success by expanding the robotics programme to include more advanced concepts and challenges. We aim to foster a culture of continuous learning and exploration, encouraging students to push the boundaries of their creativity and problem-solving abilities.

In conclusion, the robotics programme at Royal Schools Princess Park has not only equipped students with valuable technical skills, but has also instilled a passion for innovation and teamwork. I would like to express my gratitude to the dedicated educators, supportive parents and enthusiastic students who have contributed to the success of our robotics programme.



CHESS

I am delighted to share with you the notable achievements and progress of the Chess Club at Royal Schools Princess Park over the past six months. The dedicated chess enthusiasts from Grades 4 to 7 have demonstrated remarkable growth, both in numbers and skill levels, making the Chess Club a dynamic and engaging community.

We are thrilled to report a substantial increase in the membership of our Chess Club. The passion for the game has spread, creating a vibrant atmosphere where students from Grades 4 to 7 actively participate in chess-related activities. This growth is testament to the inclusive and welcoming nature of our chess club.

Our committed chess instructor, Mr. Ishmael, has been instrumental in guiding students through lessons, practice matches and tournaments. As a result, we have witnessed significant progress in the individual and collective skill levels of our club members. The dedication to strategic thinking and critical decision-making is evident in their games and interactions.

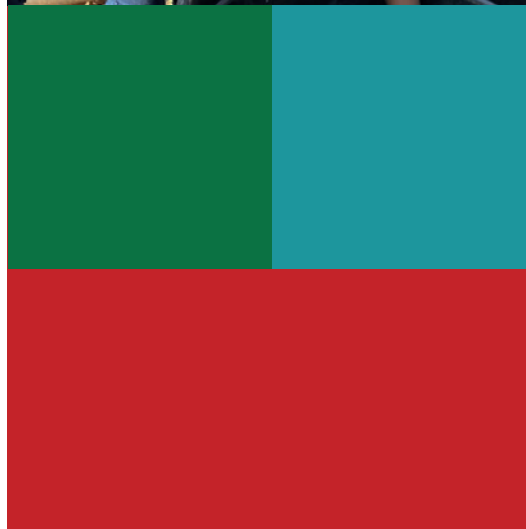
A crowning achievement for the Chess Club this semester was our participation in the interscholastic academic challenge. I am thrilled to announce that our team secured an impressive 2nd place, surpassing numerous schools in the competition. This accomplishment reflects the sportsmanship, strategic prowess and dedication of our students both on and off the chess-board.

EXCURSION: Rhino and Lion Park

The learners and educators alike revelled in the joy of their trip to the Rhino and Lion Park. The day was filled with excitement as they encountered a diverse array of animals, including majestic lions, elusive jaguars and the mighty hippos. The thrill of observing these creatures up close was complemented by an educational component, as they gleaned fascinating insights into the world of snakes and other wildlife. The trip was not only a feast for the eyes, but also a rich learning experience. A delightful lunch added to the overall enjoyment, providing sustenance for the subsequent adventures in the park's engaging play area. Laughter echoed through the air as both young and old embraced the day's activities, creating lasting memories of a truly wonderful and enriching excursion.

FUNDRAISING: Spring Bash

The learners immersed themselves in pure delight during the Spring Bash, where vibrant hues marked the exhilarating Colour Run Festival. Laughter echoed through the air as they gleefully participated in a lively water balloon war, creating a refreshing symphony of joy. The artistic spirit flourished during the memory handprint painting session, allowing each learner to leave a colorful imprint of their unique experiences. The day reached its pinnacle with a delightful picnic at the iconic Union Building grounds, where students and teachers alike bonded over shared laughter and camaraderie. The Spring Bash became a kaleidoscope of memories; blending fun, creativity, and togetherness into an unforgettable experience for all involved.





HIGH SCHOOL

Prefects

We would like to extend our gratitude to the outgoing prefects, the prefects of 2023. The prefects' body was dissolved in October so as to release the matriculating prefects, allowing them to devote themselves to their final examinations. Special mention goes out to the head boy and head girl, Lithitha Mduba and Beula Mbele, who led by example. In every event that took place at our school, the prefect heads were visible and actively involved. We wish them success as they advance to greater heights. On 26 October 2023, trial prefects were announced at the prize giving ceremony. Being a leader is a calling that comes with responsibility, and other students witnessed the grand occasion. We are confident that the prefects will fulfil their role as leaders of our school. We are very privileged to have such passionate young girls and boys who will lead by example in 2024. The nominated prefects are as follows:

- Adore Chauke**
- Madimetja Ledwaba**
- Masola Keitumetse**
- Litha Mama**
- Emmanuella Onyeajam**
- Bongani Nukeri**
- Mthombeni Thando**
- Bukhobakhe Geca**
- Selomo Lerato**
- Karimat Ojeleye**
- Lethabo Mahlase**
- Mmapaseka Ncube**
- Ndodzo Madzivhandila**
- Bridgette Hongwane**
- Obiang Keren**
- Matala Onkarabile**
- Lengwathi Gomolemo**
- Moabelo Sesebi Lazarus**
- Cele Thabiso**
- Siphe Mndebele**
- Bokang Mashiapata**
- Rutendo Katena**
- Mahlatsi Maako**
- Velaphi Ayafika**
- Mandina Jalvane**
- Marumo Keamohetswe**
- Maloma Reloketswe**
- Thando Madalane**
- Hlambelo Tinashe**
- Bizana Usiphile**

Public Speaking Competition

Interskole Redenaarsliga and Public Speaking League is an annual event that is hosted by the University of Witwatersrand School of Law. Our learners participated in the provincial round which took place at Laerskool Concordia in Boksburg on 22 July 2023. Five learners participated at the provincial round. Two learners qualified for the national round.

The national round was held on 16 September at WITS School of Law. Our learners were competing with learners from schools around the country. We are proud to share with you the good news. Our two learners made it into the top 5.

Beatrice Chivorovoro came second and Lithitha Mduba attained fifth position. We are ecstatic with this ground-breaking success.

Clash of Cultures

On 24 September 2023, Princess Park College was a hive of activity. Learners were wearing vibrant and colorful traditional attires. The whole school was engulfed in a joyous and celebratory mood. The learners celebrated in a unique manner. They formed groups to showcase and brag about their cultures through song, dance and drama. In order to show the spirit of Ubuntu, learners integrated and accommodated each other through inter-tribe dramatisation of marriage negotiations. It was amazing to watch a marriage negotiation between BaPedi and Tshivhenda people. We really enjoyed our heritage celebrations and this is something we are going to do every year.

The Royal Schools Princess Park College Choir

About the choir:

The school choir is about embracing all the different talents that the learners and the choir masters have. We currently have over 30 dedicated choir members and 2 choir masters. We are all about entertainment and praising God through music and dance. We pride ourselves on our ability to think out of the box when it comes to choreography that involves diverse cultures.

Our Success:

The Royal Schools Princess Park Choir mission is to always deliver the best performance as possible to our audience and we believe that this can only happen through continuous practice.

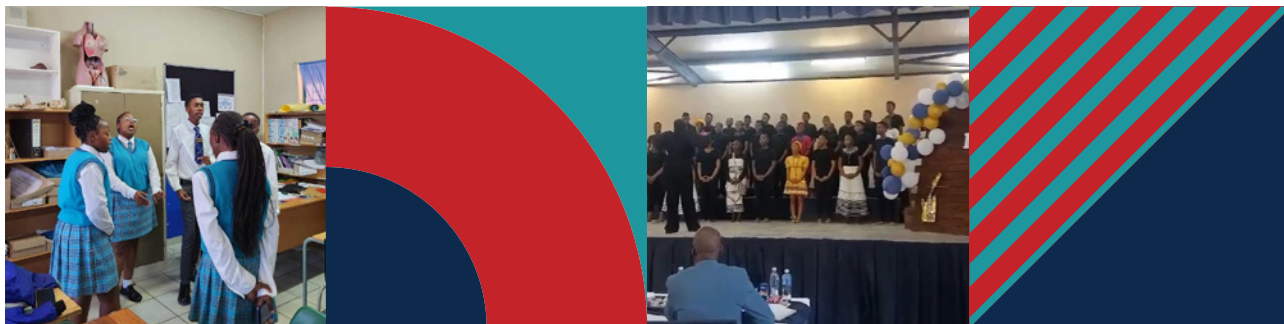
Princess Park is proud of its many accomplishments over the past school terms as we participated in a choir competition called "CLASH OF THE CHOIRS" with other Royal Schools. We performed 3 songs in different categories and the results were as follows:

TikTok rendition (Position 2)

Set Piece (Position 3)

Choir Master's choice (Position 2)

Overall (Position 2)



About the competition:

The “Clash of the Choirs” was the very first annual Royal Schools choir competition. The aim of the competition was to promote high school music engagement in South Africa while creating a meaningful platform for learners to be cultivated and mentored by music professionals. Moreover, this competition aimed to address social injustices which are faced by high school learners around South Africa through music.

Gratitude:

Firstly, we would love to thank the parents who allowed the children to be part of the choir. We really appreciate them so much. We would also like to thank the school management team for making sure that we can successfully participate in competitions by organising food, transport and badges for all the choir members. We cannot wait to see what the year 2024 has in store for us.

THANK YOU.

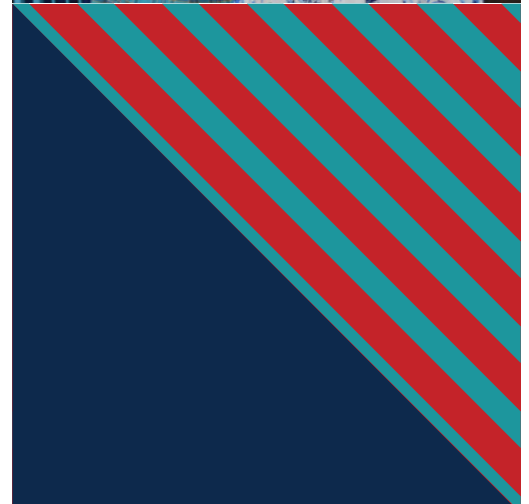
Prize Giving Ceremony

Royal Schools Princess Park held the annual Grade 12 Academic Awards Ceremony on the 26th of October. Academic categories included:

- 70% and above in languages average with 11 learners receiving this award
- 75% and above in other subjects average with 30 learners receiving the awards
- Nokutenda Makotamo received 7 awards for being the best learner in her chosen school subjects.
- Lithitha Mduba received 3 awards for being the best learner in his chosen school subjects.
- Overall, 8 matric learners received awards for being the best learners in their chosen school subjects.
- For departmental awards 4 matric learners- Nokutenda Makotamo, Lithitha Mduba, Treasure Onabolujo and Lebogang Ramanaledi achieved well.
- The top learners had averages ranging from 75% to 80% and above.

The Dux Scholar, Nokutenda Makotamo, received awards for above 80% averages for 7 subjects; all distinctions. She is a learner who has been at Princess Park since grade one, and has been Dux Scholar in every grade. Her work ethics and respect for academics, staff and peers has been exemplary

We also honoured our head boy- Lithitha Mduba, our head girl- Beulah Mbele, our deputy head boy- Sean Usufu, our deputy head girl- Zenande Bizana and the grade 12 prefects of 2023 for exceptional leadership.



Matric learners who had been learning at our school for more than five years were recognised and awarded for loyalty. Special mention goes to Lerato Lekganyane. She started school in grade R at Princess Park College. She received an award for an astounding thirteen years at Princess Park College.

Lebogang Ramanaledi and Treasure Onabolujo were awarded for upholding the school's PIPE values.

Aaron Masakona and Mphoentle Lekaba were awarded for being the most improved learners in grade twelve.

Tinotenda Chivaku, Reabetswe Dire, Asanda Hlatswayo, Dimpho Motaung, Dakalo Ndou, Ropafadzo Pakachena and Bianca Rivombo were awarded for being the most hardworking learners.

The matriculants celebrated the ending of their school years with great joy and enthusiasm which were displayed in dance and music.

The celebration ended with the head boy- Lithitha Mduba and head girl- Beulah Mbele delivering their votes of thanks.

Grade 8 – 11 Awards Ceremony

The Grade 8 to 11 annual Academic Awards Ceremony was held on the 27th of October 2023 with many ... learners receiving academic awards for their perseverance and excellence.

Academic categories included: 70% and above in Languages, 75% and above in other subjects, 80% and above in Life Orientation and Creative arts, best in subject, best in department and position 10 to Dux learner in each grade 8-11.

Non-academic awards included PIPE values, neatness, most improved learners, most hardworking learners, academic challenge, Olympiads, Eisteddfod, public speaking.

Grade 11 and 10 prefects were awarded for exceptional leadership. Adore Chauke was awarded the Principal's Award by the school's management team.

Gold Reef City

This world class theme park is located on the outskirts of Johannesburg, and it has many attractions. Our learners and educators took some time off to go and enjoy themselves. The theme park offers wholesome entertainment. Learners could not resist the adventure as some dived straight into the thrill rides which include the Anaconda, The High Flying Maverick and the Tower of Terror. Some of the learners opted to go for the water rides. The learners' faces lit up with glee and squeals of delight as they experienced a rush of adrenalin. It was a day well spent. Moments like these break barriers between learners and educators. We took this excursion as a bonding session between educators and learners. I believe they can all relate when they screamed together on the Tower of Terror. We are looking forward to our next excursions in 2024.



AFTERCARE

A Word of Appreciation

As another school year comes to an end, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and learners for an amazing year. The success of The Aftercare Centre is based on the relationship we have built throughout the year. We are grateful for the opportunity you have given us to assist and take care of your children. Every year is different and this year had its successes and challenges. We are glad that all our children at the Centre have risen to meet every obstacle along the way. The young boys and girls have worked tirelessly to achieve better results. I am so thankful for their hard work, resilience and determination.

At one point or the other, throughout the year, we all needed to compromise here and there. At the Aftercare Centre we are enormously grateful for your understanding and positivity. We would like to congratulate all our learners for the work well done. A whopping 62 learners attending aftercare received awards on Prize Giving day in Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase. The learners range from grade 1 – 7. We are extremely proud of our dear children.