

SKY CITY NEWS

AUGUST 2023

30 YEARS OF QUALITY PRIVATE EDUCATION



College Reflection

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Royal Schools Sky City is pleased to present the bi-annual report for the academic term January- June 2023. This year has been marked with remarkable achievements and significant progress in various aspects of our school community. We are extremely grateful for the talent and gifts that our school has.

Academic Excellence:

Our students have excelled in academics throughout the year. We are proud to announce that our school has maintained a high pass percentage in all our grades for both terms 1 and 2. The students have consistently performed well in both internal and external examinations. We would like to remind our class of 2023 that their journey will soon come to an end. We would like to remind our learners and parents that perseverance and hard work will get us where we are destined to be. Our teachers have put a lot of effort into providing comprehensive lessons and individual attention to each learner. The intervention classes have been running smoothly but, the attendance can improve.

Co-Curricular Activities:

Apart from academics, our school lays emphasis on co-curricular activities that help in the overall development of the learners. We would like to thank the sport coaches for all their support and dedication in terms of getting the sport disciplines at Royal Schools Sky City to another level. Various competitions such as soccer, poetry recital, athletics, chess, olympiads, essay writing, and other competitions were conducted in the first half of the year. The learners participated enthusiastically and showcased their talents.

Infrastructure:

We are constantly striving to provide the best facilities to our learners. Our school has made significant progress in improving the infrastructure. We have upgraded some of our classrooms with new projectors, and other modern teaching aids. Our library period or DAAR (Drop All And Read) and new books have been added to class collections. The primary school has a new computer laboratory, and the science labs have been replenished with resources.

Community Service:

Our school believes in giving back to the community. We have initiated various community service programmes, and our learners have actively participated in them. We have organised blood donation drives, cleanliness drives etc. Our very first blood drive was successful and we would like to commend our grade 11 and 12 learners for taking a brave stand during this campaign. We have also realised that the school hall has become a sanctuary for a very precious bird- the Owl. As part of our environmental sustainability programme, the school has partnered with The Owl Rescue Organisation in Hartbeespoort. We believe that these activities not only benefit the community but also help in the overall development of the learners.

Conclusion:

We are proud of the achievements of our learners and the progress made by our school during this period. We would like to thank our dedicated teachers, supportive parents, and hardworking learners for making this year a success. We look forward to continuing our efforts towards providing the best education and facilities to our learners and community.

*Sincerely, Ms L Moyo
Acting executive Principal*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

At Royal Schools Sky City, we strive to reach out to our community as best as possible. The principle of outreach actually comes from the Bible. Outreach is also part of our PIPE values: PEOPLE, INTEGRITY, PERSEVERANCE, and EXCELLENCE. At Royal Schools Sky City we always put people first, therefore we reach out to people and try to make contact with them face-to-face to give them something that we have so graciously given ourselves.

There are so many people in our community, right in our backyards, that we can give back to, and we are so proud to share some of these outreach projects with you.

Blood drive

On 18 May we had our first ever Blood Drive in the Community. We were able to drain 50 pints of blood, thus enabling 150 lives to be saved.

We endeavour to make this an annual event on our Calendar.

Nelson Mandela day is taking place next term

We are fixing up our old textbooks and donating them to an underprivileged school for Mandela ay.



COLLEGE FUTURE

We are thrilled to announce what the rest of 2023 has in store for us.

Mandela Day

True patriotism begins with sharing the values of ubuntu with the younger generation. At Sky City we made a difference through our contributions on Mandela Day.

Clash of the Cultures

Our learners will be celebrating Heritage month in a different way. Sky City will be hosting its first ever 'Clash of the Cultures' event. We will be celebrating our diversity through dance and other festivities on this day. Let's gear up and travel across all nine provinces through the lenses of each learner.

Colour run

We will be having our colour run as we celebrate the beginning of spring. What a great way to be ushered into a new season with fun slides, music and colour. We look forward to hosting this awesome family day with you all.

Preschool graduation

Our preschool learners will be hosting their annual graduation day and carols. We are excited to see the grade R learners being recognised for all the hard work they have put in. We are also excited to see them showcase their talent on this day through drama, poetry and dance. There is no better way to spend your Saturday morning other than being with the preschoolers to cheer you up as you unwind the tiresome week.

Academic Challenge

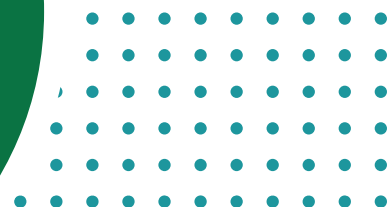
Sky City will be hosting the annual academic challenge for the Royal Schools. Learners will be competing in the following categories: mental math, poetry, spelling BEE and general knowledge. Our learners and teachers are looking forward to this challenge so that we can collect as many trophies as possible on this day. Good luck to team Sky City!!

Matric class of 2023

Our class of 2023 is gearing up for the last lap of their high school career. Preliminary exams will be starting in September and the final examinations at the end of September. We wish all our matriculants the best of luck and we urge them to use every opportunity they have to study and improve their results. The annual matric dance will be held on the 7th of December 2023.



Join the
COLOR RUN
FUN!



Reflective learning

Our school has partnered with Reflective learning, an online platform that focusses on Mathematics and Literacy. The PIRLS study showed that 83% of our grade 4 learners cannot read and comprehend. There is no doubt that COVID has had an effect on the academic progress of our children. In order to break the monotony of reading and writing, our learners will be engaging on this interactive platform. Reflective learning will be offered to the grade 8 learners in 2023 as a pilot project. In 2024, grades 4-10 will be making use of this resource. The resource comes at no extra cost to parents.

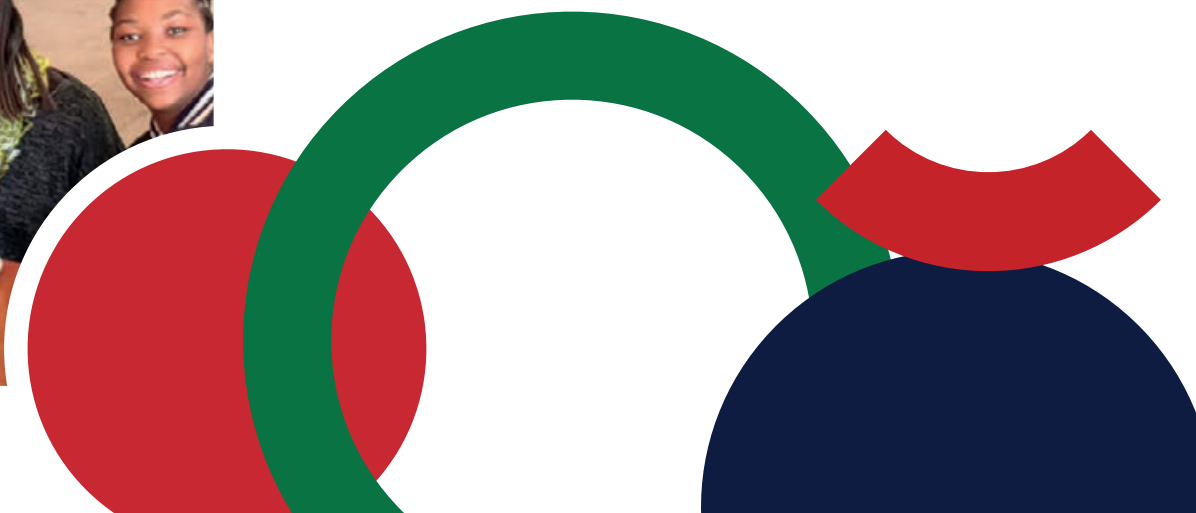
Robotics and coding

Our robotics classes are going on well. Learners are thrilled to learn through play. Robotics enables students to learn in different ways. Robotics strengthens and supports learners' knowledge through the creation, design, assembly and operation of robots. Robotics awakens the inquisitive mind and steers the learners into problem solving mindsets.

Infrastructure development

We pride ourselves on the work that we do and we will continue to do so. The look and feel of our school remains a focal point of our administration and management of the school. We have embarked on the following projects:

- Paving: we are currently paving the waiting area for our children.
- Preschool: We have also added a traffic circle for our preschool learners.
- Computer lab: Primary School learners now have their own computer laboratory.
- Play area: Our play area is under continuous maintenance to ensure that our learners are safe at all times



PRESCHOOL





Show and Tell



PRIMARY SCHOOL ACADEMICS

We started off our academic year with baseline assessments to establish the level that our learners are at for core subjects. Intervention classes were conducted on a weekly basis in Term 1 and Term 2. Our academic programme has been running well, and we have had successful quality assurance visits from GDE facilitators as well as the school's IDSO.

In Term 1, our learners took part in a number of projects and experiments, to mention a few: Establishing the boiling point of liquids and establishing the rates that materials dissolve.

Our Grade 4-6 learners participated in the GDE Life Skills Roadshow where they were given an opportunity to use the skills learned in Life Skills to create their own routine.

Learners participated in an Anti-Cyber bullying campaign where they learnt about types of cyber-bullying and how to handle it. They created posters on chalkboards to show their understanding.

Grade 4-6 learners are currently participating in a GDE Anti-bullying initiative where they will be demonstrating their understanding of the types of bullying as well as what to do when they come across bullying in the form of posters and displays.

Term 2 was ended all with Mid-Year formal assessments.

Weekly Math and English awards

In order to stimulate learning, grades 1-3 are awarded certificates of achievement on a weekly basis at assembly. Every Friday, learners do a mental math challenge and spelling test. The activities are timed and the best learner in each class receives a "marvellous mathematician" and "spelling star" certificate.

This initiative has helped in the following ways;

- Learners are showing interest in practising their weekly spelling words which has improved the results in spelling.
- Learners are motivated to be more productive because the awards create a feeling of pride and achievement. Being successful makes them happy. Hence we have joyful learners.

Ms S Grieb (Primary School Principal)



Paramedics demo

It is important to strike the iron while it is still hot. We give our learners guidance on what happens in different careers at an early age. Our Grade 1 group had a lovely and educational experience with paramedics from Netcare. Learners learnt the ambulance toll free number in case of emergency. They had a practical experience where they had to explore inside the ambulance which led to their discovery that an ambulance is a moving hospital. They enjoyed manipulating some of the tools that the paramedics use. Some learners were bold enough to ask to have a feel of the ambulance bed.

The fun they had in learning about paramedics led to every one of them opting for being a paramedic when they grow up.



Reading fair

The ability to read is a foundation that paves the way for further learning. As Foundation Phase we are geared towards promoting reading. To drive this initiative Grade 1 parents were invited to be on board. An interactive workshop was conducted where facilitators from Maskew and Miller were invited to train parents on how to help learners to improve on their reading skills. There was a session where each parent had to sit and read with their children. After the session, parents were at liberty to purchase at least one story book from any of the suppliers who had stations set up. It was heart-warming to see parents on the mat and chairs reading with their little ones.

"Reading is to the mind, as exercise is to the body." (Joseph Addison)



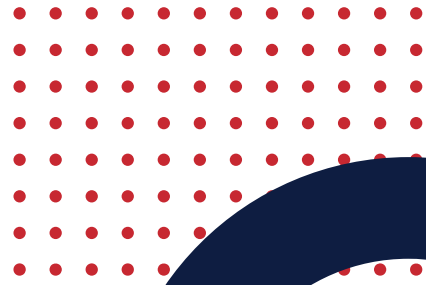
PRIMARY SCHOOL CULTURE

The ability to read is a foundation that paves the way for further learning. As Royal Schools Sky City Primary School Culture our Primary School learners participated in the Ekurhuleni South District Chess league. Our learners progressed through each round with excellent results. Our Grade 6 learner, Tayana Maponga, received a trophy for placing second in the league. All our chess participants received a medal for participation.

Grade 4-7 learners participated in NST, Technology and Mathematics Olympiads in Term 2. Our learners were delighted to participate in the challenging, yet knowledge rich, Olympiads. Social Science Geography Olympiads will take place next term.

Poetry evening

We had a well-attended poetry evening. Grade 1-3 learners made the educators and parents proud as they stood in front of a big crowd and recited their poems. One of our Grade 3 learners blew the audience off their feet as she welcomed them and gave a brief explanation of the purpose of the event.



PRIMARY SCHOOL ROBOTICS PROGRAMME

The Foundation and Intermediate Phase use CAPS combined with the Resolute facilitator resources. These are our learning and teaching tools and resources.

1. ATP from the GDE
Grade 1-7
2. Novice ground level 2
Grade 1-3
3. Novice level 1
Grade 4-5
4. Level 2
Grade 6-7

These resources come with a novice bot, where the teachers facilitate how to code and interact with the bot. We use Resly as our block based Arduino coding software. This programme is suitable for children. It helps develop the skills and confidence children need to succeed in this digital age. Our programme is designed to make this complex subject fun, exciting and interactive for learners. Our goal is to equip learners with skills and the know how they need to succeed in the future job market. This subject helps foster critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving, perseverance and integration of other subjects such as Mathematics, Science and Technology in the intermediate phase. These are the key reasons why we have added this subject in our school.



PRIMARY SCHOOL FUN DAYS

Our Primary School Prefects went on a **weekend prefect camp** where they participated in numerous teambuilding events as well as fun activities. They also did a special hike up the mountain where they were given some time to meditate and think about all the skills they had learned over the weekend.

This year our learners have participated in a number of fun days. Our Primary School learners took part in a **Valentine's Day pageant** where they were given an opportunity to show off their special talents. Learners were able to purchase items for their loved ones and friends.

Primary School learners have participated in **Carnival Fridays** where they can purchase something sweet to eat or a fun game.

Our **Winter social project** for term 2/3 is underway. Learners will be collecting tinned food and blankets for Ezibeleni LSEN School for physically disabled children. Ezibeleni LSEN school is a school within our community that caters for learners with physical disabilities. Many of the families cannot run their households due to lack of funds. Our Primary School learners are collecting for the community and their families.

Royal Schools Sky City Grade 7 & 8 'boys to men' hike

This was a male-orientated bonding event where we took the grade 7 and 8 boys on a morning hike at the Kliprivier National Park. The boys had time to bond with each other and encourage each other as they went on their morning walk. It was a tough hike but our boys came out as men at the end.

We then moved on to Jackson Dam where we had a motivational speaker by the name of Neo Motsoenyane (a well-known actor and director in South Africa) talk to the boys about overcoming hardships, taking responsibility and having family values.

Thereafter we had a braai where the boys braaied their own meet, had fun and participated in a few teambuilding activities.



Pamper party Grade 7 & 8 girls

This was a female-orientated sleepover event aimed at educating young girls on what it is to be a girl, how to carry and groom themselves. A night for our girls to relax while bonding with other females.

The guests that were present to speak to, and encourage the girls, were:

1. MRS South Africa: Zanele "Zenn" Sibiya
2. Miss South Africa fanalist: Lesego Nyathela
3. Former Banyana Banyana player: Pinky Matjekane

The guest speakers also spoke about how sport and good morals helped them explore the world and different life opportunities.

The girls also had a 'Netflix and chill' session where they were relaxing and watching a movie that encouraged them to embrace their differences. Lunch and snacks were served to the girls and they also had dance competitions where they were all dancing and interacting with each other and the guests.



PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORT

In term 1, we had to hit the ground running. As schools opened we hosted inter-house athletics which was a great success as we managed to form a team of approximately 30 learners ranging from U7 to U13. The team represented the school during the Alberton Private Schools Athletics Competition which took place at St. Declans. We competed against 4 other private schools. Approximately 15 of our learners made it through to Alberton Champs where they competed for the Nationals. One learner made it through the Alberton Champs competition.

In term 2 the winter sports commenced. Although we practised every week, we did not have as many fixtures as we would have liked to.

We will be ending off the term with friendly fixtures in the last week.



HIGH SCHOOL RCL REPORT

As we approach the half way mark of the year, I would genuinely love to give my perspective on how the last two terms have gone. Firstly, these two terms were filled with the most cultural and sporting activities I have ever experienced at the school. Events such as the Valentine's Day disco in Term 1, the frequent sporting matches across both terms, opportunities for learners to participate in various competitions such as the Science Expo and so much more. These activities have truly had a positive impact on the environment of the school as learners such as myself get to explore and find new interests.

I would like to say thank you to the teachers and staff for doing an amazing job at supporting their learners. I know this from personal experience because last year when I went on my trip to Durban for the National High Schools Quiz, the school supported me throughout that journey and Mr. Ndlovu helped me every step of the way. Even now with my upcoming trip to Germany the school's team is still supporting and guiding me through it all. The teachers are truly the unsung heroes of these support systems as they have gone above and beyond for every learner, trying to ensure that we are able to pass and are able to reach our goals. It's through their help, and the use of Google Classroom, that I will be able to keep up with the ongoing syllabus whilst I am away. They will be able to send me the material that they will be teaching in class through Google Classroom and keep me up to date with everything that is going on so that when I come back, I will not be behind with work.

Royal Schools Sky City isn't perfect, because no school is really perfect, but the school is on a promising path and I have no doubt that through co-operation between the school and its learners, we all can contribute to make it something truly great.



HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMICS

We have concluded two Terms of our 2023 Academic Programme.

Our Grade 12's attained a 100% pass rate at the end of Term One whilst Grades 8 to 11 maintained between 80 and 85%. Emphasis has been on providing intervention and support for learners experiencing learning barriers and some have been recommended for Exam Accommodations. Timetabled interventions were conducted in the core subjects during both terms.

Cycle tests were conducted during Term 1 with a full exam schedule being conducted at the end of Term 2. Grade 12's have attended classes up until 15:00 on Mondays to Thursdays as well as Saturday classes from 08:00 to 12:30.

An intense Exam-Specific study programme was conducted during the writing of Grade 12 June Examinations. A Holiday camp was conducted from 26 to 30 June.

HIGH SCHOOL CULTURE

On June 14th, Shakespeare came to town. Grade 10's were treated to a rendition of their Romeo and Juliet whilst the Grade 11's were given a Presentation on Hamlet in preparation for their Grade 12 setwork.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORT REPORT

Our Annual Inter-House Athletics competition took place very early in Term 1. We then took our best performers along to the District Athletics Competition held at Germiston Stadium, where we secured a total of 18 medals. For Term 2 we have focussed on Soccer and Netball and have played against various local schools with a mixed bag of results. To date we have played one inter-school Rugby match with this programme and look forward to more games to come.

We have also started Tennis as an extramural activity which is gaining great support.

Mr D Rossouw (High School Principal)



HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTERS/ROBOTICS

Robotics was instituted as a subject for Grade 8 and 9 at the start of Term 1. A Robotics laboratory has been set up and the learners are assembling and programming robots to perform various functions. The theoretical aspects of Robotics have been covered and we look forward to the practical application sessions during the remainder of the year.

All Grade 8 and 9 learners are currently taking Computer classes and are being exposed to Basic Word and Excel. Robotics and Computers are assessed and marks are reflected on termly reports.



HIGH SCHOOL CULTURE/FUN DAYS

Fun days are an essential part of our school's social and academic environment. They provide a break from the academic routine and offer opportunities for socialisation and creative expression. Our school's fun days are enjoyable and essential for building school spirit and promoting student creativity and interaction.

Valentine's Day in February:

On February 14th, our school celebrated Valentine's Day. On this day, students and staff expressed their affection towards one another by exchanging flowers, chocolates, and personalised cards. This fun day was an excellent opportunity for our learners to display kindness, compassion and care towards their peers.

Swop Day in June:

In June, our school hosted a Swop Day. On this fun day, learners were given a chance to dress like their teachers, and teachers to dress like learners. It was an entertaining way to break from the monotony of the regular uniform and allowed for a lot of laughter and fun!

At school we are not just all about WORK. During the first half of the year we have hosted many Fun/Cultural days and activities.

1. Grade 12 Motivation Night
2. Grade 12 Hike
3. Valentines Day
4. Grade 8 Boys to Men Hike
5. Grade 8 Girls Pamper Party
6. Kathadra Foundation Racial Diversity Talk
7. Mother's Day Celebration
8. Anti-Drug talk
9. Cyberbullying Presentation
10. June 16 Youth Day Celebration
11. Afro day



AFTERCARE

RSSC Aftercare creates a sense of belonging in children and helps them to learn healthy social skills, which play a pivotal part in building their self-esteem. All this happens while in a safe and nurturing environment.

Sports activities are offered which is great for both the physical and social development of our learners. Art and cultural activities are also done to foster creativity and self-expression.

Primary School children have a limited energy level, and are often too tired to do homework in the evenings. RSSC aftercare offers homework support and enables parents to just play the role of the parent in the evenings and not have to be tutoring and supervising school work.

