



SKY CITY BI-ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2023



30 YEARS OF QUALITY PRIVATE EDUCATION

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

As we approach the end of another academic year, I find myself reflecting on the journey we have undertaken together. It has been a year filled with growth, challenges and achievements for our school. First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated and passionate educators. Your unwavering commitment to providing quality education has been the cornerstone of our success. Despite the challenges presented by various circumstances, you have continued to inspire and nurture our learners, fostering love for learning that extends beyond the classroom.

Our learners have also demonstrated resilience and determination in the face of adversity. Their eagerness to learn, adapt and collaborate, has been truly commendable. I am proud to witness the intellectual and personal growth that has taken place throughout the year.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of our parents and guardians. Your partnership in the education of our children is invaluable. Your involvement in school activities, parent meetings and support for our children at home, has strengthened the bond between home and school, creating a conducive environment for the holistic development of our learners.

As a school community, we have faced challenges head-on, learning and growing together. The collaborative spirit that defines our school has been instrumental in overcoming obstacles and finding innovative solutions. It is through these shared efforts that we have been able to maintain a positive and supportive learning environment for everyone.

I extend a heartfelt thanks to the entire Royal Schools Sky City family for your dedication, hard work and passion. The unwavering support from parents, educators and stakeholders has assisted in the transition of a new Executive Principal. I am looking forward to creating new relationships whilst nurturing current relationships in the new year.

Ms. S. Grieb
Executive Principal

REFLECTIONS

It is with great pleasure that we extend a welcome to Ms P. Mabena as the newly appointed Intersen Phase Principal. Ms. Mabena has been with Royal Schools since 2019 and has played an important role in the continuous development of academics to ensure that we uphold our quality education. We are thrilled to have Ms. Mabena lead the Intersen Phase into the next chapter of educational excellence.

We are pleased to report on the continuous development of educators throughout the academic year. Educators are constantly upgrading their skills with short courses, which are readily available for them to complete at their own pace. The purpose of these courses is to enhance the professional growth and effectiveness of our educators, ultimately benefiting the quality of education provided to our learners.

As we continue to navigate the evolving landscape of education, it is essential for us to leverage technology to enhance the learning experience of our learners. Google classroom has proven to be a powerful tool for collaboration, communication and support for our learners. To ensure its effective integration into our teaching practices, we would like to encourage parents and learners to make use of this extraordinary resource as often as possible.

We are delighted to share news of the successful implementation of Reflective Learning with our Grade 8 learners. We have seen the positive outcomes and significant outcomes this programme has had on our learners. The Grade 8 learners will continue with Reflective Learning next year in Grade 9 and we will welcome the 2024 Grade 8 learners to the programme.

Grade 1-9 learners wrote systemic tests in English HL, Mathematics and Sciences to ensure that Royal Schools continuously strives for excellence in the quality of education. The results of these tests are crucially analysed to evaluate the cognitive processing capabilities of our learners so that we can effectively equip them with the necessary skills to be successful students.

Lastly, we would like to thank our parents who attended the Phase Transition meetings that were held for Grade R, Grade 3 and Grade 7 learners. These meetings play a vital role in the transition of our learners into different academic phases in their schooling journey. Important matters were discussed at these meetings so that parents and educators can work hand in hand in the holistic development of the child.



PRESCHOOL ACADEMICS

We have had busy, yet fun filled terms. We celebrated Heritage Day where we proudly displayed our various cultures in our rainbow nation. We enjoyed scrumptious dishes which represented our different cultures.

Learners came to school dressed in their favourite LetterLand character showing that learning can be fun.

A new dollhouse was definitely a highlight this year. Fantasy play was taken to a whole new level.

We celebrated our beloved Springboks and cheered them along the way to victory. We know our children played an important role in inspiring their win!

Royalty day was made for our little ones. Our little royals showed us exactly the king and queens that they are. Our preschoolers became scientists for the day. We had lots of fun making volcanoes, and eagerly gazing on as they erupted.

We ended off our busy term in style with a well-deserved pool day. Costumes, sun block, glasses, towels and sun were all part of our vocabulary. Soaking up in the sun until next year!



LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, I am excited about the possibilities that the future holds for our school. We will continue to build on our successes, learn from our experiences and strive for excellence in all aspects of education. Together, we will create an environment that fosters curiosity, creativity and critical thinking, preparing our learners for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We are looking forward to the following developments in 2024:

- The additional Computer Lab in the Primary School will be fully functional.
- Additional periods have been assigned to the Primary School timetable to accommodate computer lessons where learners will be taught numerous aspects of computer technology to enhance their skills.
- The High School Computer Lab will be upgraded with new computers with the latest software to ensure that our children are exposed to the ever-changing world of technology.
- Reflective Learning will be offered to the Grade 9 learners in the afternoons on a rotational basis focusing on English and Mathematics.
- The Primary School playground will be revamped.

We are excited to implement all our new developments and will constantly looking at areas for improvement.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ACADEMICS

The third and last quarter of the academic year has been defined by research projects, fun and exam readiness for the Royal Schools Sky City Primary School learners.

Our staff had successful quality assurance visits from GDE facilitators. The Languages HOD was appreciated by the IsiZulu GDE facilitator for a reading poster that was used in one of the presentations in a workshop.

To cultivate a reading culture among our learners, they had to research about their favourite book and the author. Their findings were presented in a fun and creative manner where they dressed up and had relevant displays.

Two of our learners participated and excelled in separate Social Sciences Olympiads. Rethabile Maqungu took first place in Gauteng in the South African National Geography Olympiad. Sibusiso Zwane obtained first place in the District Social Sciences Olympiad, progressing through to Provincial level. We are proud of our learners for representing the school well.

RSSC asserts that reward programmes recognise hard work and scholastic achievements and that they motivate learners to achieve. Our learners were rewarded for being top achievers per grade in term 3.



The Primary school curriculum was successfully completed prior to the commencement of the final examinations. Learners were encouraged to attend afternoon intervention classes for additional support and enrichment. Extra classes were also held during break times for learners who were unable to attend afternoon classes.

As we round the academic year off, our learners have sat their final exams hoping for a positive result to mark the end of their 2023 chapter.

ENTREPRENEUR'S DAY

As part of the grade 7 Economic and Management Sciences curriculum, learners are required to complete a project involving entrepreneurship. Learners work in groups and create their own small business. Learners need to submit a business plan which includes establishing needs, SWOT analysis, making a product, advertising and budgets to ensure profits. Learners are then given an opportunity to turn their business plans into reality by participating in an Entrepreneurs Day. Our grade 7 learners had a lot of fun 'making money' while navigating the challenges of expenses and profits.



HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMICS

The second half of the year has been an active one as far as Academics is concerned. Our learners have shown resilience, creativity and dedication in their academic progress thus far.

Our decision to become an eight subject school for the National Senior Certificate is bearing fruit as indicated by the higher number of Bachelor's Passes that have been achieved in grades 10 and 11.

Our learners participated in the Accounting, Business Studies, Economics, English, Geography and History Olympiads, with many going through to the second round.

Our grade 8 and 9 Creative Arts' learners were well represented in the local Eisteddfod.

We are particularly proud of the following achievements by our grade 11 learners:

Khotso Ndhlovu who achieved first place in the first round of the Varsity College Quiz.

Nombuso Ncube who was awarded a silver medal at the Eskom International Science Expo.

Our educators continue to provide an environment that nurtures curiosity, critical thinking and a passion for knowledge. We encourage each learner to embrace their educational journey and take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead.

ANNUAL ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Royal Schools Sky City had the privilege of hosting our second annual Royal Schools Academic Challenge in Term 3. Grade 1-12 learners from all Royal Schools competed in the following academic disciplines:

- Poetry (Grade 1-3)
- Mental Maths (Grade 1-12)
- Spelling Bee (Grade 1-12)
- Chess (Grade 4-12)
- General Knowledge (Grade 4-12)

Although the Academic Challenge is highly competitive, it also gives our learners an opportunity to forge friendships with learners within the Royal Schools community. At the end of the day, each school was given an opportunity to present a war cry representing their school.

Royal Schools Sky City managed to sweep up trophies in the following categories:

- Poetry Foundation Phase
- General Knowledge Intermediate Phase
- Chess Senior Phase
- General Knowledge FET

We are looking forward to next year's Academic Challenge.



ESKOM SCIENCE EXPO AND THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

The Eskom expo is a practical “grassroots” and higher-level enterprise that engages young people in project work in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovations (STEMI). It is sponsored by Eskom, the University of Witwatersrand, the University of Pretoria and the Department of Science and Innovation. They seek to develop young scientists that will be able to identify a problem, analyse information and find solutions. When learners do well, they are invited further on to participate in the International Science Fair where young scientists from around the country, and around the world, compete against each other. At this stage learners stand a chance to obtain bursaries to study locally or internationally and get other exciting prizes.

The following workshops and competitions were held:

1. Educator training:

- First training – 11th of February 2023 held at Sci-Bono and the following teachers attended: A. Ndaza, T. Makhetha, A. Fellots and N. Ndlovu.
- Second training (how to be a science expo judge) – 3 May 2023 and 4 May 2023 held online.

2. Learner workshops:

- First workshop – 24th of February 2023 held at St Dominics School in Boksburg. Learners were asked to develop 3 possible research ideas and start to find solutions towards the problems. 20 learners from our school attended the workshop.
- Second workshop – the Primary School and the High School had separate workshops. The High School workshop was held on the 15th of March 2023 at Royal Schools Alberton. Learners received help on how they could start researching and working on their projects. Learners were encouraged to be innovative, come up with new ideas, design and make prototypes under different categories such as Engineering, Mathematics, Biochemistry and IT.

3. District competitions

- District level – 3rd of June 2023 held at Royal Schools Sky City. Learners brought in their projects, journals, research report, abstract and some readily made prototypes. Learners were individually assessed by trained judges. Each learner received feedback to help them prepare for the first elimination round. At this stage we had six learners from High School and eight learners from Primary School participating. All our learners who participated received certificates for participation.

4. Regional competitions

- Regional level – 12th of August 2023 held at Alberton Civic Centre. Seven learners from Primary School and four learners from High School participated. Three of our High School learners did exceptionally well.
- Thamsanqa Ndhlovu – Engineering (making a better irrigation system) achieved a Bronze medal under this category.
- Nomaqhawe Ncube – Organic Chemistry and Engineering (homemade shoe polish) achieved a bronze medal for this category and an award from Tswane University of Technology.
- Nombuso Ncube – Biochemistry and Engineering (compostable diaper) achieved a silver medal for this category, an award from Tswane University of Technology, an award for being the most innovative learner and a book voucher of R250 from WITS (Edinburgh Sustainable African Futures Doctoral Programme).

5. International Science Fair

- Nombuso Ncube was shortlisted for the International Science Fair. She was required to submit all her documents for preliminary judgement. She then qualified to compete in this fair. The fair was held at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre from 3 October to 6 October 2023. Nombuso was working on perfecting her compostable diaper and received a silver award.
- Nombuso will be taking part in the final part of the International Science Fair on 9th December 2023.

6. Teacher Involvement

- Teachers were actively involved in helping the learners to find the best topic research, mentoring and giving guidance to the learners.

In conclusion, we are grateful that our learners are receiving such experience and knowledge.



MY FAVOURITE AUTHOR

The “My favourite author” competition is an annual event that took place this year on the 14th of September 2023. The participants were all the learners from Grade 4 to Grade 7. It’s a competition that was aimed at resuscitating the children’s love for reading and to encourage those that do not enjoy reading to get into the spirit as well, as it allowed learners to get creative where they could do anything they liked to showcase their favourite author.

The competition was divided into two phases. Phase one was the research phase, where the learners had to gather information on their favourite author and the books written by him/her. Then phase two was the presentation of their findings phase and the creation stage. The learners could dress-up, build out a set from a scene, act out a certain part from the book they read or even write a piece inspired by their favourite author when they were presenting.

The English teachers were the judges of this competition and the winners from each grade were given hampers that varied based on whether the learner received 3rd, 2nd or 1st position.



PRIMARY SCHOOL EXCURSIONS

The month of August kicked off with Educational excursions in the Preschool and Primary School. Learners were taken to varied places away from their usual routine environment according to their educational needs. Under the supervision of the educators, learners had an opportunity to explore and expand their knowledge in a more relaxed, fun filled and informal manner. The excursions deemed true that, "practical knowledge is better than bookish knowledge."

Preschool learners enjoyed the interactive sessions at the Midvaal Lion Park. The excitement started with them being on a bus, which was a first time experience for most of our little ones. The circus presentations were the highlight of the day as they clapped and cheered the amazing stunts from the acrobats and clowns.

It was interesting to watch our Grade 1 learners explore the SAA Museum. They went through the collection of static display aircraft including two Boeing 747s. They were amazed by the number of buttons used to operate a plane in the cockpit. Their highlight was the opportunity to a tour inside the mighty Lebombos which once did SAA proud by winning the award for best transport aircraft.

Grade 2 learners had a stress buster and problem solving experience as they manoeuvred the Amazing Mazes in Honey Dew. They went through the maze where they had to find five secret gardens. This helped our boys and girls sharpen their problem solving skills away from the four walls of the classroom, where they are confined to on a daily basis.

It is always wise to strike the iron while it's still hot. We introduced our Grade 3 learners to the Tourism industry by taking them to an informative tour at OR Tambo Airport. Learners were educated on live flight information, flight routes and schedules. They were taken through the check in/out process. They had fun watching aeroplanes take off. A few learners thought being a pilot was their first option because they will become globe trotters.

Transport history dates back to more than a century. The Grade 4 learners had an opportunity to visit the Transport Museum. They learnt about carriages, steam driven vehicles, bicycles, motorbikes, buses and coaches that were used in early years. Learning about a historical monument, by actually visiting the site, gave a better insight to our transport industry to our learners.

Grade 5 learners had a day filled with awe and wonder at Croc City crocodile farm. They had a unique opportunity to get up close to a diverse range of reptiles. Some learners were bold enough to have the cold blooded snakes around their necks. Grade 6 learners had a memorable outing as they wandered along enchanted garden walkways and marvelled at the variety of colourful birds, mammals, reptiles and unusual animals from around the world. They learnt about a number of species of birds.

Within the walls of the Hartebeespoort Dam (snake and animal park) the Grade 7 learners experienced the essence of what makes the place unique, the presence of animals, water lapping at stonewalls, giant trees, exotic foliage and towering cliffs. They saw a great variety of species including lions, tigers and other big cats among other types of animals. Their adventure was topped up with watching the most interesting snake and seal show.

Overall, our learners had experiences that open up windows of opportunity when it comes to careers and choices.



HIGH SCHOOL EXCURSIONS

This term our High School learners had the opportunity of going on excursions to various venues per grade.

The Grade 8 and 9 learners went to the Hartbeespoort Dam Snake and Animal Park where they had the opportunity to interact with some of the small animals and non-venomous snakes and learn more about them. They also went on a boat ride where they were taught about water pollution.

The Grade 10's and 11's had the opportunity to choose their destination based on the subjects they are doing.

The Life Sciences and Geography learners visited Maropeng Cradle of Humankind to learn more about human evolution and fossils.

The Commerce and Physics learners visited the Cullinan Mine where they learned about the different diamonds, how they are mined and chemicals used to shape and polish them. They also had the opportunity to learn about how the stock exchange rates are affected by our natural minerals.

The Tourism and Maths learners visited the OR Tambo Airport and SAA Museum and they had the pleasures of learning about the tourism industry such as Visa documentation, boarding of planes and the whole flight booking system as well as the currency exchange rates. They were then taken to SAA Museum and were able to go on the planes where they got the understanding behind flying a plane and the different sizes of planes and what one needs to get into this industry.

These excursions were eye openers to our learners as they saw the opportunities they have and the skills they will need in the future.



ACHIEVERS TEA AND MERIT WARRIORS TEA

Recognition and rewards for good behaviour and good work and improvement, contribute to the development of self-esteem and confidence in our learners. We continuously strive to provide motivation and a sense of self-development as part of our whole child approach at Royal Schools.

Rewarding hard work and improvement is a powerful way to encourage and reinforce positive behaviours in learners.

Selected learners were invited to attend our annual Achievers Tea in Term 3. Learners were selected based on academic improvement, perseverance and dedication. Our achievers were treated to a sit down cake and tea with educators and principals and received a small token of our appreciation to congratulate them on their hard work.

Rewarding good behaviour can have a positive impact on our children and the overall schooling environment.

In Term 4, we celebrated the good behaviour and exemplary showcasing of our PIPE values by learners who had achieved excellent scores in the accumulation of merits. Qualifying learners were invited to the Merit Warrior Tea with the Discipline Coordinators and principals to reward their exceptional dedication to good behaviour and living out our PIPE values.



LETTER FROM OUR 2024 HEAD BOY

Nakula Sibali

I am Nakula Sibali, a proud learner of Royal Schools Sky City since 2020 and newly appointed High School Head boy for 2024. I am currently in Grade 11 and it has been a wonderful 4 years since I started Grade 8 at Royal Schools Sky City.

During the course of my school career at Royal Schools Sky City, I have experienced education of the highest quality. My school has become a second home to many, not just a building filled with classrooms, but a hub of dreams, aspirations and friendships.

Looking back at when I started my journey with Royal Schools Sky City where Covid-19 Lockdown prevented us from going to school, Royal Schools implemented the use of Google Classroom and WhatsApp to continue with teaching and interactions between the educators and learners. Despite the challenges the pandemic created, I was able to pass Grade 8 and 9 with good results. I am glad that the blended learning that was introduced in 2020 has continued as it gives us learners that extra support that we may need when we are away from school.

I am confident that my school will once again assist me to achieve spectacular Grade 12 results. Imagining the upcoming journey in 2024, I am aware that it will be a challenging year, but with the supportive educators and management of Royal Schools Sky City, I trust that my journey will be filled with great opportunities, excitement and growth.

The social environment of Royal School Sky City provides a safe and friendly environment for learners to flourish. I also enjoy the sports and extra-curricular activities which the school has introduced and I am looking forward to my last year in my schooling career in Royal Schools Sky City.

So, here is to the end of 2023 and to the upcoming Grade 12 journey – journey filled with learning, growth and unforgettable moments. Together as leaders with my fellow office bearers, let us make 2024 an unforgettable year.

HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS

Our Grade 8 and 9 learners have shown great interest and enthusiasm in learning about robotics and programming.

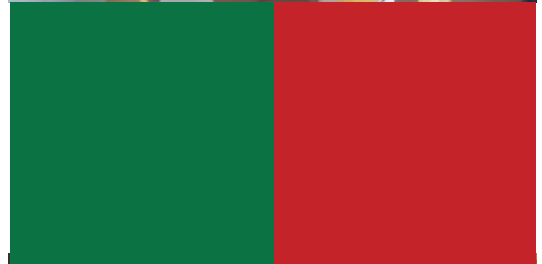
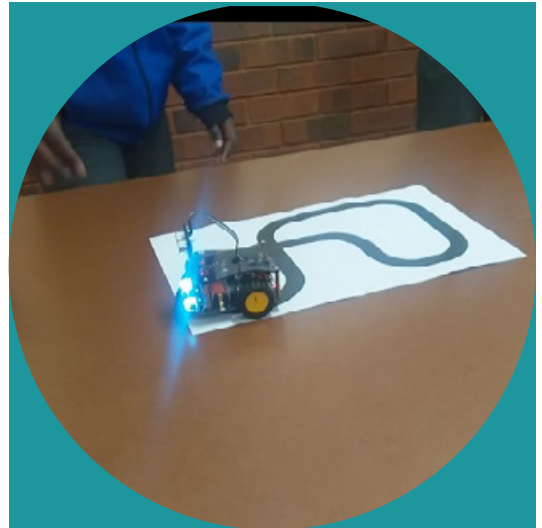
The main objectives of the robotics class was to introduce the learners to the basic concepts and skills of robotics such as sensors, motors, logic and algorithms, and to provide them with hands-on experience in designing, building and programming robots using various tools and platforms. The new robotics kits and laptops helped us to achieve these objectives.

The class followed a project-based learning approach, where the learners worked in groups of four or five to complete four different projects throughout the year. The projects were:

- Scratch: The learners used Scratch, a visual programming language, to create interactive animations and games that involved robots and characters. They were able to create their own stories and able to choose the different backgrounds and sprites.

- **Lego Mindstorms:** The learners used Lego Mindstorms, a robotics kit that consists of Lego bricks, sensors, motors and a programmable brick, to build and programme more advanced robots that could perform various tasks and challenges. They learned how to use the Lego Mindstorms software, which is based on a graphical programming language, to create and download programmes to the brick. This was part of their Term 3 project and these marks became part of their Term 3 report mark.
- **Micro:bit:** The learners used Micro:bit, a small programmable device that has an LED matrix, buttons, accelerometer, compass and bluetooth, to create and programme various gadgets and applications that involved robotics and electronics. They learned the different parts of the micro:bit car and their functions. Learners managed to use the small different parts from their new robotics kits to build a micro:bit car in groups of fives. This above activity helped them to develop their creativity skills and their engineering skills.
- **Resolute:** Our teachers were able to use a cloud based platform to work out how the micro:bit car can be programmed. The workshops and the on-line webinars were also of great help. A few selected learners used Resolute online to programme some built micro:bit car. They managed to use a block based platform (Resley) to programme a line following car and dancing robots. These were used in our display for our open days. During these open days, the selected learners were able to present their work with so much enthusiasm and confidence.

Our learners have shown remarkable progress and achievement in the robotics class. They have demonstrated their creativity, problem-solving, collaboration and communication skills in completing the projects. They have also developed their computational thinking, coding and engineering skills in using the various tools and platforms. They have expressed their enjoyment and satisfaction in learning about robotics and programming and have expressed their interest and curiosity in pursuing further studies and careers in this field.



CLASH OF CHOIRS

"Music gives wings to the heart and takes it to the world of joy"

J Cole

Royal Schools has given students the foundation of music, giving the learners a chance to unveil and display their cultivated talents and communal spirits through music.

It all started with Ms Nyathi, Mr Simelani, Ms H Ndlovu and Ms M Macu all being the compelling reason for the devotedness within the choir. We would normally sing for the school on special occasions up until the second week of term 2, when we were given two opportunities to go into competition and that was when practice started. The first competition was on the 27th of September. Unfortunately we were unable to go, as we were approaching the holidays and participation went to the minimum.

A lot could be said about the preparations of the second competition. As schools opened for term 3, heavy and intense practice started as we only had 3 weeks to prepare. We were given three genres to do: It is well with my soul (compulsory for all schools), Tik Tok challenge and own choice.

It all went well as there was full participation during practice even though a lot of learners could say that as days went by the pressure went above everyone's head. We endured constructive criticism from Ms Moyo as she would come almost every day and check on our progress and be of assistance to us, not only from her, but from the whole school staff. The support that we got was what kept us going, through hoarse burnt voices, constant repetition of being asked to sing the same song, because we lost our tunes, and the long hours we put.

The 21st of October was the final competition which was held at Royal Schools Alberton. We had the chance to perform and sing all our given genres (It is well with my soul, Izintuthwane, uSipho and Phambili Nge War). As much as we did not get the desired results, we got recognition from the judges and crowd. Two certificates for participation and second place for the third genre. We were proud of ourselves for the hard work that we had put in, and persisting through it all, but that was an immense prize that we achieved. The whole experience created unity within the choir, perseverance and mostly enjoyment.

As Rob Sheffield once said: "Bringing people together is what music has always done best"

PRIMARY SCHOOL HERITAGE DAY PAGEANT

The Heritage Day pageant is an annual event that the school started hosting last year. It is a day of celebration and festivities, where learners get to showcase the rich culture and diversity of our country in a two-part celebration.

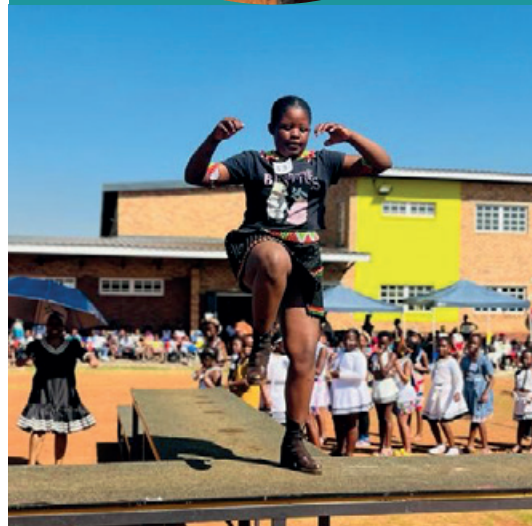
The initial part of the day focusses on modeling. The learners take to the runway in their different cultural garments /attires modeling to cultural music as well. The latter part of the day is the talent show. Learners in groups and individually either perform a cultural dance or opt to sing.

We have teachers as judges who get to crown the 1st and 2nd princess, 1st and 2nd prince and then Mr and Miss Heritage Day. For the latter part of the day's festivities, one winner is chosen, the individual or group each received a prize. Each of the participants received a certificate and the winners received hampers and tuck-shop vouchers.

This initiative is to inspire learners to celebrate their different cultures with pride and also to educate learners on the different cultural groups found in South Africa.

HIGH SCHOOL CULTURE

We are very proud of our Grade 8 and 9 learners who have committed themselves in starting an Arts and Culture Club where they perform different dance genres. Directed by our passionate Creative Arts educator Ms Mabuza, who has given our learners an opportunity to showcase their hidden talents at our open days and many other events that we have held during the year. They surprised us with the old time Mango Groove dance followed by the Gum Boot dance. This shows that as young as they are, they are passionate about our country's roots and culture.





HIGH SCHOOL CLASH OF THE CULTURES

On the 22nd of September 2023 Royal Schools Sky City held our very first clash of the cultures. It was steered by the much capable hands of the awesome Miss P. Madikwa. This event entailed showcasing the beautiful diversity of the cultures South Africa brags of. The judges had a tough job to do. They had to pick winners from 7 groups namely: the IsiSwati, Xitsonga/TshiVenda, IsiZulu, SeSotho/SeTswana, Coloured/ Afrikaaner, Indian and IsiXhosa groups. These groups showcased different themes that hold the fabric of their cultures.

It is impossible to generalise all the activities that were showcased by the different groups. Each group tapped into the uniqueness of the cultures they represented and gave us a spectacular show.

The mood was instantly electrified by the Coloured/Afrikaaner group. They gave us witty statements that debunked the myth of how their culture is regarded as non-existent. It showed us how truly rich and engraved their culture is in South Africa. They proceeded to bust down to groovy music that simply kept us unashamedly swaying in our seats.

The Indian group then followed. To think that we have our own Bollywood dancers at our school! They showed us that Indians truly know how to party. It was a full on level 8 party with nothing but synchronisation, joy and colour in the air. Their beautiful attire, with intricate adornments, left us in awe.

The Basotho/ BaTswana /BaPedi were no doubt the most enthusiastic ensemble. Their energy and positivity was infectious. They showcased a Pedi man marrying a Sotho woman. The audience was kept in stitches of laughter as the very dramatic, feisty, troublesome aunt took the marriage matters into her hands and bullied all the men in both families as well as the new bride in the process. They also went on to showcase the ritual of asking for rain. They put the icing on the cake with their awesome dancing, ululating and singing. A wedding was underway in the Zulu group. They showed us the festivities of a typical Zulu wedding with much dance, song and fanfare. Two families were united during the ceremony. After the wedding they showed us how "amatshitshi" dance.

Our hearts were then filled with sorrow as the Xhosas enacted a funeral. Additionally, they proudly recited their beloved clan names that left them beaming and bursting with pride. After the ceremonies and the hymns of the funeral, they showed us the all so crucial festivities that occur when initiates come back from the mountains.

The kingdom of amaSwati then shared with us theme and norm that they treasure as the cornerstone of their culture, which is, respect. They did a play about a girl who lost respect and consequently encountered problems in her life. Most people will never forget this girl's feisty, talkative mother and her high pitched scream, "Jerevah!" Let's put jokes aside; the Swatis proceeded to dance and sing. They radiated and exuded the warmth, humility and pride of their culture.

Last but not least, the Tsonga/ Venda group ended the performances on a high and energetic note. They showcased the lobola negotiations between a Tsonga groom's family and a Venda bride's family. It was followed by vibrant music and dancing that got us dancing until our untrained waists and feet hurt. After the performances, the judges went to each group to inspect the décor and taste some of the cuisines the cultures had to offer. It was a feast for a king. Boy did we envy them as they went from stall to stall and sampled the "to-die-for" tasty meals!



THE VICTORS OF THE DAY

We all know that not everyone can come up victorious. As much as every cultural group put their best foot forward, there could only be 4 winners.

Best overall award: IsiZulu group

This group stood out as they were original and truly showcased their culture with pride. They sang beautifully and without any musical aid. They clearly demonstrated their authenticity and versatility.

Best performance: Indian group

It is clear that the individuals in this group had great communication and choreography as they were dancing. They even simply had fun and just went with the flow. May we come for dance lessons guys?

Best food and décor: Tsonga/Venda group

They had unique, tasty, well-presented food that no other culture had on the table. It was all well prepared and truly portrayed the versatility of their culture. Their décor was creative and truly inspired by nature. We are definitely coming for cooking lessons!

Best attire: Swati group

When we saw this group, we all knew what culture they represented. They did not deviate in any way from the true dress code of the culture they represented. Was this a fashion show or what guys?

We congratulate the winners for the day as they truly did extremely well and deserved their trophies!!! That day was testimony to all of us that it is vital to celebrate our roots. This left us with the question: why don't we do these kinds of events more often? Why don't we celebrate who we are more often, learn and embrace each other's diversity? This day was the perfect break from our academics, to be free and to be perfectly ourselves. We cannot wait for the next celebration next year!

SOCIAL PROJECTS

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver". – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Thank you to all the learners and parents who have committed themselves into supporting our projects and charity drives. Non-perishable food items were collected and distributed to families in need at Ezibeleni School for Special Needs. High School learners assisted with the distribution and were overwhelmed by the welcome that they received from the children at Ezibeleni. Stories of life experiences were exchanged and before long, everyone was enjoying a friendly game of soccer. The second part of our social project was the collection of Baby Wipes and Vaseline for Door of Hope Children's Mission. May the spirit of Ubuntu continue to warm our hearts towards those who are less fortunate.



SPORTS

ATHLETICS

This year was a very busy year as far as sport was concerned. We held our Inter-House Athletics competitions early in January and after that we proceeded to participate in Inter-Schools competitions at the start of February under GASA. Our learners were very excited to find themselves running in a turf as professionally competitive as Germiston Stadium. Quite a number of our competitors received accolades ranging from bronze to gold. We were unfortunate not to send our learners, who had qualified, to compete at Provincial level because the conveners informed us on the very day that we were supposed to be taking our learners to those competitions. I hope lessons were learnt and such an unfortunate situation will never repeat itself. We hope to send our learners for Cross Country Marathons next year.

SOCCKER

Royal Schools Sky City participated in a League that was convened by an association of Ekurhuleni South Schools called E.I.L. We were not perturbed by the fact that we had only one playing field yet the association required all member schools to have at least two fields. Our under 15 boys, under 17 boys and girls open soccer teams found themselves competing against public schools like Dinwiddie and Dawnview, as well as private schools like Mel International College. The challenges that we faced were the lack of kits and transport. We had to borrow a kit from Royal Schools Princess Park. We hope to register our teams in this league again next year.

RUGBY

Our rugby teams were in a similar predicament as the netball team. They managed to play exciting friendly matches with schools that have players who compete in some of the best rugby teams in the country. We hope to register in a competitive rugby league next year.

We would like to congratulate Lindokuhle Mngemane who was selected to represent the Golden Lions U/18 Girls Provincial Rugby Team. We are so proud of you!

CHESS

Our chess teams have been working extremely hard during the year in preparation for our league competitions. The U/11 and U/13 boys and girls teams participated in the Ekurhuleni School District Teams Championships on the 12th of August



girls' team received first prize in this tournament.

This team went on to represent Ekurhuleni South at Provincial level in Randburg at the Gauteng Top Schools Teams Chess Championship on the 18th of August. From this tournament, 6 of our U/13 girls were selected to represent Ekurhuleni at the inter-regional competition in January.

We are so proud of our teams.

U/13 Girls Chess learners selected to represent Ekurhuleni in January 2024 are:

- Owethu Buthelezi
- Rethabile Khutsoane
- Ntokozo Nxumalo
- Unathi Gwaza
- Tayana Maponga
- Njabulo Mthunzi

A special congratulations goes to Mrs P. Kuwane who was appointed as the Ekurhuleni Regional Municipality Chess Manager for the U/15 team.

SOCIAL/FUN DAYS

COLOUR RUN

Our learners and educators welcomed Spring with our Annual Colour Run which was held on the 1st of September. The Colour Run was an engaging, exciting event that offered a celebratory atmosphere. Learners were given a 'free for all' opportunity to colour any member of staff and did they take this opportunity. Educators, admin, support staff AND principals were covered from head to toe in vibrant colours. Learners had fun throwing powder paint at each other, chasing each other around the fields, jumping on jumping castles, cooling down on jumbo water slides and braving the mechanical bull.

This event reminded all of us, young and old, that there is an inner child in all of us.

40 DAY CELEBRATION BEFORE MATRICS FINAL EXAMS

This is one of the events that has become a tradition in our school where we have our Grade 12 fun day after their prelim exams. The Grade 12 learners celebrated their end of prelims and started the countdown to the final exams by playing fun games. This included tug of war, water balloon fights, playing in the sprinklers and much more. A beautiful way for them to de-stress and be reminded that they might be leaving school soon, but the child in them should never die.



PROM PROPOSALS

Our matriculants “wowed” us with their Matric Farewell proposals. These proposals were not only done by Royal Schools Sky City matriculants, but we had our sister school matriculants coming to propose at Sky City. This was a beautiful event as it brought our two schools together and the most exciting part was that our parents were involved in supporting their children in preparing for their last event of the year.

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY...

At Royal Schools Sky City, we believe in the phrase ‘work hard play hard’. As we give our children opportunities to let their hair down and have some fun with fun days, so we do the same for our staff. We have incorporated an end of term tradition where our staff are given an end of term challenge which includes dressing up in your Sunday best, fancy hat day, deja vu day, cross dress day and floral day. Staff take part in end of term celebrations which includes some fun teambuilding activities.

Staff are also given an opportunity to choose a buddy to treat and look after. This helps build good relationships, increased understanding and someone to lean on.

AFTERCARE

Our Aftercare programme offers supervised activities and support for learners after the regular school day. This is beneficial to both our learners and their families.

Our Aftercare offers a safe and supervised environment providing peace of mind for parents who may be working or are unable to be at home immediately after school. We offer a dedicated time for supervised homework completion and additional support for learners who are struggling to grasp concepts. Examination preparation for our senior learners is given by qualified educators. It also provides a variety of structured activities and fun games. This gives our children an opportunity for creative expression, physical exercise and social interaction.

We revamped our menu to ensure that our children enjoy their healthy well-balanced meals. Aftercare rocks!

