

November 2020

ST MATTHEWS HIGH SCHOOL



Special points of interest:

> Mr Summers visit

Our New lab

Visit our schools
website:

www.stmatthews-highschool.com



Presented by:

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Saint Matthews

Newspaper club 2020

Edited by: Jolande Swartz

Due to COVID 19 the school has focused on academics and not extra mural activities, this is also in line with lockdown regulations for our country. We have done a combined newsletter for the entire year.



Our New Lab

On the 20th October 2020, an exciting new project initiated and spearheaded by Miss Damoyi with the backing of our Principal Mrs Mancoko and our SGB has finally come to fruition at St Matthew's High school. It is with great pride to announce that our school now has got 3 computer labs with 96 fully operating computers.

The construction of this new lab was not an easy task to take up as money for such a big project was not easy to come by but seeing the need for a back-up lab for when we experience unforeseen technical faults with the 2 existing SI-FUNDA Labs during exams, Ms Damoyi made it clear building the lab would not be wasteful venture but rather a smart move. With CAT students being above 50 and the numbers looking to rise next year, the extra lab would be needed during exams as the Department requests a backup plan during national exams. Also with the pandemic forcing social distancing a third lab was a must for the school.

The construction of the new lab start on the 14th October with Ms Damoyi and Miss Booi working closely with the guys constructing everything, the main objective was to have the computers up and running before the Final exam for Grade 12 and they succeeded in that goal as the 3rd lab was also used yesterday by the grade 12 CAT students for exams

By Ziyanda Thompson—Lab facilitator



Grade 12 motivation

8 September 2020

The grade 12 pupils had a motivational session in the school hall. They were motivated by ms Monki Gabshane. In her motivational word she said : many challenges faces the class of 2020, but this is the time to focus and put aside all that worries us and work hard as success is knocking on the door. We leave no one behind as the class of 2020 and work towards a 100 % pass rate.

Keep going !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Drama

The body as an instrument of dance

Due to the world facing COVID19 and learners focusing on academics we as Sifunda Kunye continued to benefit our learners through drama, we did not do any shows that were planned but we continued working. This is what we worked on.

Drama and dance

The focus are placed during the year on using our individual skills to speak to our audience.

- Exploring the dance elements of space
- Warm up ritual, spinal a rolls, side bends, swinging arms and circling
- Floor work position and sequences
- Transfer of weight combinations with rhythmic variations
- Cooling down, stretching and relaxation exercises with soft gentle music
- Relationships within and between bodies : active and passive

At the end of this year Sanga gave all learners a assessment task.

Learners were asked ingroups of 5 or 6 together on the dance. Learners focus on tempo and beat. They develop counter 8 phases and the learners made a unique connection through team work and communication.

We would like to thank Sanga our facilitator from Sifunda Kunye for believing in us....



Sifunda Kunye Reading club



Sifunda Kunye Educational project continued their reading clubs in September 2020 with strict safety protocols due to Covid19. The community learners were so excited and ready to return to our Saturday clubs it is sometimes nearly impossible to get them to go home. With the amazing help our 2020 facilitators we were able to continue sharing stories, activities through level 4 until level 1 with our little readers.

2020 has proven challenging but this year the reading club facilitators was so dedicated and determined. We as Sifunda Kunye was honored to work with these facilitators.

We completed our facilitators program for 2020 with well deserved braai and certification was given to all our well deserving facilitators. Although Santa Clause could not visit this year all our little readers enjoyed cake and lots of treats.

Wishing all the best for the examinations, and we look forward for our facilitators of 2020 to share their unique talents with our new group of facilitators for 2021.



Sifunda Kunye Funder Mr Summers visit

On the 17th of February 2020 Mr Andrew Summers and quest Doctor Keiko visit our school. Mr Andrew Summers is the funder of both our computer labs, our literacy center and many special projects at our school.

Our school choir and our drama learners prepared a special item for Mr Summers visit. The main reason for preparing special items was to remember a very special pet "Snuffels" that Mr Summers lost late in 2019.

We would like to thank Mr Andrew Summers for his continuous support in changing the lives of so many young people in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.



Sifunda Kunye sports tournament



29 February 2020

Sifunda Kunye education project hosted their annual sports tournament at Toise SSS on the 29th of February 2020.

Learners had a lot of fun and all schools played their best!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The results of this tournament was:

SOCCER:

- 1st Place Toise SSS
- 2 nd Plae Hendrik Kanise
- 3 de place Richard Varha
- 4th place Xolani SS
- 5th place St Matthews High School

NETBALL:

- 1st Place St Matthews High School
- 2nd place Hendrik Kanise
- 3de place Richard Varha
- 4th place Toise SSS
- 5th place Xolani SSS

All Sifunda Kunye partners school are looking forward to the next tournament that will be hosted in May.



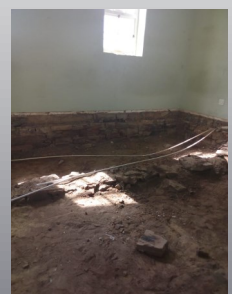
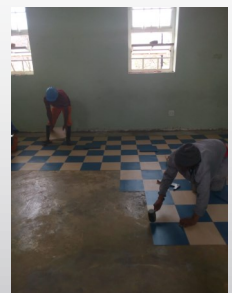
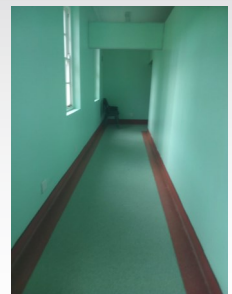
HOSTEL RENOVATIONS

During the December holidays of 2019 the school took on the big project of redoing the flooring at the Cullen Hostel, as well as painting the inside of both Hostels, demolishing dangerous sites in both Hostel grounds.

The floors were previously hardwood but the issue was that the wood was crooked and old, so it was decided to replace the hardwood with tiles. During the process of removing the wood flooring it was discovered that there were electricity wires running underneath the floors. This new found issue posed a huge challenge for the team of community members tasked with doing this job. The SGB was now faced with the crisis of the possibility of schools opening in January with the flooring not finished. In light of this our quick thinking SGB members decided to appoint a contractor to handle the difficult task of the wiring issue so that it could be done by qualified professionals. This unforeseen expenditure put more strain than anticipated on the schools finances, as well as leading to extending the time line of finishing.

We are thankful to the parents and community members of St Matthews because they showed true dedications and selflessness during a time busy family functions, even on the 24th of December they were busy fixing and cleaning the school as to make certain that when schools reopened everything would be spotless for our learners.

Written by Z. Thompson



Term 1 News



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

When schools opened we as the staff we pleasantly surprised to walk into the front of the Administrative offices and see that the front entrance had been freshly painted and the tiles were spotless, we were later informed that the SGB over the December holidays had been busy not only with hostel renovations but they had also done some work at the school as well.

Aside from painting the administration office and thoroughly cleaning the offices and scraping the black marks from the tiles, they also attended to the classrooms by fixing the fallen and broken doors and cleaning the classes as well as the school yard.

Written by Z. Thompson

SOCIAL CLUBS

It is all about uplifting social clubs at our school. When we say we're uplifting it's basically about grooming. It started with the DEBATING CLUB that is headed by the English Department teachers Miss Nangu and Miss Nzwathi. The debating club hosted an event at the St Matthew's Tebra Hall, it was an intra-school tournament, meaning St Matthews pupils were debating against each other. This was a first-hand learning opportunity for the learners who were new in the Debating club.

We got debate and discuss things that are happening around the world and also local issues as well. Our debating motions gave the audience interest to listen and the way we were doing this was very professional. The audience gave us the discipline and respect we needed. Fellow learners in attendance got to take away from the experience interesting information from us. That a tremendously exciting and productive day. Those who cannot put their thoughts on ice should not enter into the heat of debating.

As Mr Albert Einstein said "the only source of knowledge is the experience." So in order for us to gain knowledge we have to experience many things, so that our sense of thinking develops too.

Written by Natasha Mpondo

CUTTING DOWN AND REMOVAL OF TREES

In February the SGB began another big project of cutting trees which was sparked by the outcry from the parents of learners who said the many trees surrounding the school premises was not only dirtying the school but also posed a possible danger to learner safety as it provided cover for the learners to be ambushed by robbers or whoever wanted to cause them harm.

This led the SGB to hastily acquire a contractor to cut down some of the crowded areas, and remove the cut down trees as well clean up the area.

Written by Z. Thompson

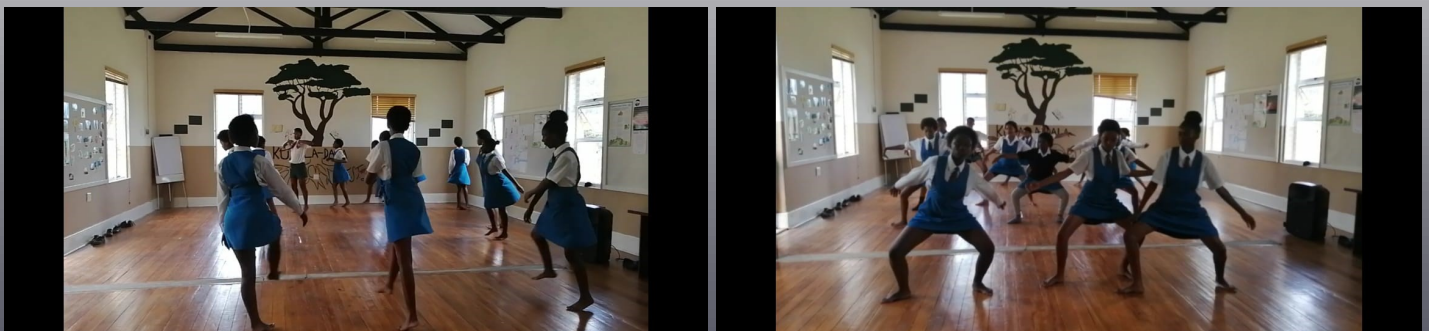
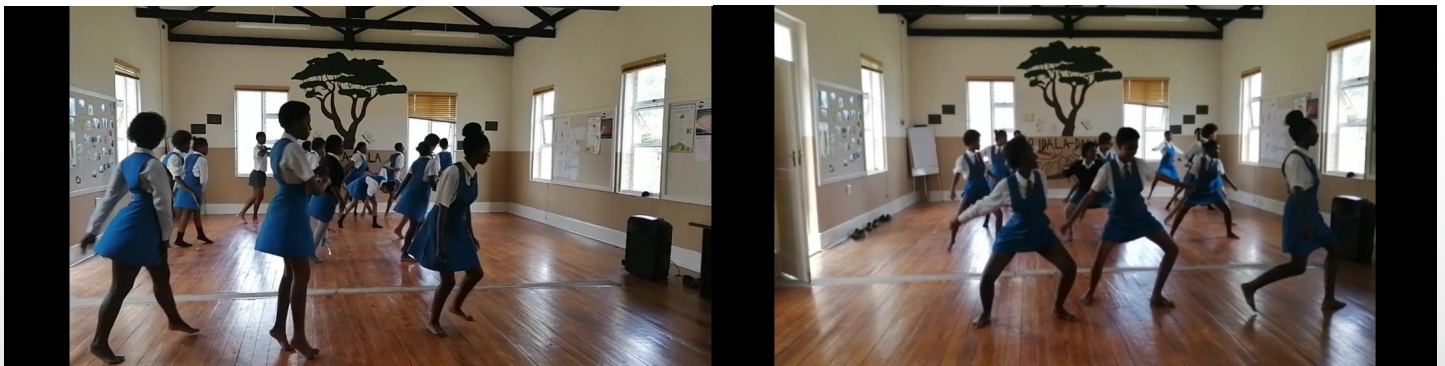
Drama

Drama is not being the best performer or a star. It is about creating, making, exploring and responding in the search of our true selves..

Drama is a dynamic practice that introduces students to a world of wonders and play. It also encourages them to continue questioning, exploring and teasing our new ideas and ways of living and thinking in drama learners also benefits are:

- Self confidence
- Empathy and tolerance
- Communication skills
- Problem solving

At St Matthews high school we have learners who are taking part in Sifunda Kunye drama club under the supervision of Sanga Mabulu. These learners are leading by example. Here is some action photos of our drama clubs:





Reading Club

Calabar
FOUNDATION

Sifunda Kunye literacy center host weekly community reading clubs every Saturday during the term. During our first term of 2020 we had increasing numbers of community learners attending our reading clubs on Saturdays. This year we have 16 new grade 11 facilitators that have joined our leadership program. These ladies have truly been inspiring so far. Duties of the facilitators include library duties, book club duties and reading club assistance.



LRC PRESIDENT

On the 7th of February 2020, LRC Elections were held at St Matthews High school. Before the election took place students were called to the Tebra Hall to hear the candidates deliver the speech on why they deserve the seat they are canvassing for. All the speeches we hear were good but we had to pick one that spoke to us the most. The Candidates were Buhle Siguqu, Emihle Tyhilekile, and Nikita Mbali.

After the speech giving was done we went to our classes, waiting for the teachers who were going to give us the election papers. After handing in our votes back to the teachers, then after a few minutes we were called to the assembly to be told the results. Miss Blom told us that of the 3 candidates, 2 will be Vice Presidents and 1 will be the President: Vice President of the school- Siguqu Buhle, Vice President of the Hostel – Mbali Nikita, and our President was called as Tyhilekile Emihle.

Everyone was extremely happy, including learners, teachers and Tyhilekile herself. Mostly the excitement was around the fact that a female student was our President. Pupils rejoiced and we took some pictures and videos just to reminisce that truly amazing moment.

On the 14th of February Tyhilekile delivered a speech at the assembly, telling us school pupils what she will do to make a difference in the school, academically and socially. What was truly remarkable and inspiring about these election results is that Tyhilekile Emihle is that she is academically strong and motivated, she has a vision for the school and herself. A quote from her speech “I am a woman and she rules.” That was truly inspirational to us girls. We can even see positive changes within the school already, for example social clubs.

Written by Natasha Mpondo

