

Vuleka St Mark's Annual Report 2017

“ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’ ”.

Jeremiah 29:11

The vision of our school is to educate pupils who are going to be responsible global citizens to make meaningful contributions to the country and the rest of the world. In order to prepare our children for a changing world we need to change the way we educate them. Our curriculum should help pupils connect with the world and understand the issues that our world faces, especially our own country.



Pupil Development

There are many skills that children will need in order to be successful in the 21st century. A few of the most important 21st century skills are communication, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity.

'Green education' and environmental issues are assuming greater urgency in the 21st Century and therefore the learning space (classroom) needs to be changed to accommodate teaching and learning these skills.

At Vuleka we strive to provide a holistic education that addresses the mental, emotional, spiritual and physical aspects of the child. We have realised the importance of embracing 21st century education to produce pupils who are communicators, critical thinkers and team-players, to be creative and to function in the digital society.

Academics

We have exposed our pupils to a whole range of educational activities and internal and external assessments to enrich the academic programme.

Some of our Grade 7 pupils took part in the Phendulani quiz which was hosted by Roedean School and our school came third. We also took part in the Conquesta examination. Some of our pupils did well, especially in Natural Science. A special mention of Mthokozisi Masilela who got 84% (Diamond) in English, 86% (Platinum) in Natural Science and 78% (Diamond) in Afrikaans We're certainly proud of Mthokozi's results and those of all the other pupils who obtained good marks. We have earmarked the areas we can improve on next year.



Sport and Culture

Our school sport has grown immensely and we have achieved good results in some of the sporting events.

Our swimming team did very well at the Vuleka swimming gala and were commended for great sportsmanship and being well dressed for the event. We thank My Swim school for the sterling job they have done in helping the learners to swim and be water safe.

Soccer and netball are the most popular sporting disciplines but we also have exposed our pupils to cricket, volleyball and hockey.

Future plans in sport include

- coaching clinics to promote various sporting codes
- acquiring more sport equipment
- a multi-purpose court : we have a netball court and are planning to draw tennis lines on it too
- organise friendly matches against other schools



Culture

As a school, we have invested more time and resources in culture. We offer marimbas, ballet, art, drama/public speaking, music (choir) and chess. We have used the school assembly to profile some of the activities.



Future plans in cultural activities

- provide one-on-one music lessons in guitar, drums, piano/keyboard and vocal skills
- expose our pupils to art exhibitions
- arrange more public speaking/drama forums

Spiritual and emotional interventions

As a Christian school, we're committed to the spiritual being of the child. We teach some of the important values such as honesty and kindness. We need more parental involvement in this area. Every second Monday, our pupils attend church and have benefited hugely from Rev Shona Flemming's sermons.

On the counselling front, we are committed to providing a safe environment for the pupils to be heard. Our school has benefited from the efforts of our counsellor, Gabi Stein. She has done a fantastic job and we're planning to grow this department and change the counselling room to make it more comfortable and friendly for the pupils to receive good counselling.

Staff Development

We are fortunate to have a great team of teachers and administrators whose commitment in education is commendable. We need to invest more in our staff to yield positive results.

Future plans for our staff include: More training and workshops for staff, teacher exchange programmes, well quipped classrooms, staff conferences to share ideas and the school vision



Parent and Community Partnership

Our sincere thanks go to the Revd Shona Fleming, staff, parishioners and community of St Mark's church for always thinking of us. We would also like to thank our parent representative Xolani Mthwecu and our dedicated parents for the support they have given us throughout the year. Your help on maintenance day and the painting of classrooms displays your strong commitment to our partnership.

Future plans

- create a group of volunteers (PWC : Parents Who Care group)

- involve parents in various school activities

Future development plans

We're planning to do the following: (from the Vuleka Strategic Plan 2016-2019)

- Focus on reading and organise workshops to enrich the reading programme.
- In Mathematics, get involved in the number sense programme.
- Ensure our teachers are part of the cluster meetings so that we can network with the other schools.
- Change the classroom space to accommodate the 21st century skills.
- Arrange more public speaking forums to produce pupils who are confident communicators and problem solvers.

'Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success' Henry Ford

Sanele Majola

Headmaster

