



## Vuleka St Michael'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***

This verse has never been truer for us as a school as it was in 2017. As I look back on an extremely full and successful year I realise that while we faced a number of serious challenges, we were also blessed with many happy and victorious moments.

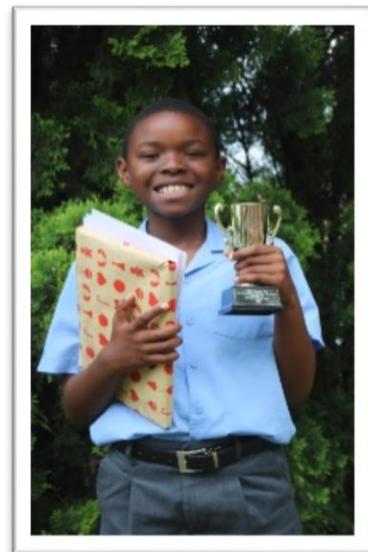
It seems incredible that our first Grade Ones completed Grade 9 this year and will have selected subjects to carry them through to matric. The original Grade 4 class that we created with a handful of children from each Vuleka venue wrote matric this year. Our fledgling school has certainly come of age.

### **Pupil Development**

Our pupils have certainly done us proud this year. They have enjoyed success both inside the classroom and on the sports fields. Some have overcome personal barriers, fears and difficulties, while others have improved their academic performance. Overall, there has been a tangible sense of belonging and togetherness throughout the school this year.

#### Academic Achievements

The Grade 3 GDE (Gauteng Department of Education) Common Assessment tasks written in June produced some good academic results. The class average for English Home Language was 71% and the Mathematics average was 60%. Reabetswe Bopape and Makwande Makhathini both achieved 91% in the English, while Thando Motaung achieved 83% in the Mathematics.



Makwande Makhathini – Top Student Gr.3 2017

The Grade 6 Common Core examinations also produced some pleasing results. The class average for Natural Science was 60% and for Mathematics it was 63%. Sisanda Gambu and Kamohelo Mhlari both achieved over 80% for the Mathematics with Makoali Lekhema and Kamohelo Mhlari achieving over 80% for the Natural Science paper.

The Grade 6s write the IEB (Independent Examinations Board) Core Skills tests. This assessment is written by a large number of IEB and other private schools. The required standard is high and we are proud of Zinhle Mlambo and Sisanda Gambu for each receiving a Bronze Award for Commendable Achievement in these assessments.

The Grade 7s write the ISASA (Independent Schools' Association of Southern Africa) Shared Assessments in English and Mathematics. These assessments are set by an assessment team made up of teachers from different ISASA schools and are extremely challenging. Keisha Pakari achieved 86% and 76% for English and Mathematics respectively. Matodzi Phidzaulima achieved 86% for the Mathematics paper. We are extremely proud of these excellent results.

#### Scholarships

St. Peter's Boys Prep School offered a bursary to a Grade 3 boy who met their stringent criteria. We were very excited that Makwande Makhathini was selected as their recipient. Makwande was the top achiever in Grade 3 this year.

#### Sporting Achievements

The school has enjoyed many successes in the sporting arena this year. It is part of the school's strategic plan to increase the sporting opportunities for our pupils and I believe that increased opportunities have encouraged more pupils to get involved. Greater involvement has in turn contributed to the general well-being and sense of belonging experienced by our pupils.

#### Swimming

The gala was moved from February to November due to rain. It was wonderful to see so many more of our parents attending this exciting event. Our thanks must go to Rosebank Primary School for providing the venue for this event at the very last minute.

The Sun City Dischem Open water swim remains a firm favourite amongst our senior swimmers. This year a team of 20 pupils accompanied Mrs. Walker to Sun City. The Valley of the Waves is part of the attraction and the children enjoyed many happy moments on the various rides.

The swim itself was a great success with 18 of the 19 pupils completing the 600m swim. We would not have managed this event without the assistance of Tracey Hemphill and her team from Orcas and Florida Swimming Club.

#### Derby Day

It is wonderful to see so many Vuleka families enjoying time together. It is this sense of belonging to a bigger community that makes Vuleka strong. St. Michael's acquitted themselves well this year with most of our teams enjoying successful results. Our continued gratitude goes to Agape Christian School and the parish of St. Michael's for allowing us to host this event once again.

#### Athletics

The annual athletics day was held at Rosebank Primary School again this year. The level of fitness and skill of our children has been increasing



steadily and a large number of them achieved “personal bests”. Every Vuleka child is encouraged to compete no matter the level of competence. The St. Michael’s team was particularly enthusiastic this year and we once again won the overall event and the Spirit Cup as well. Special congratulations must go to Keabetswe Balala who won the Senior Victrix Ludorum trophy for the second year in a row.

### Judo

The pupils train regularly with Sensei Rock and the benefits are slowly becoming evident. In the Inter-schools competition held at Leeuwkop Prison Hall in October, the St. Michael’s team came second in their division. We look forward to the continuation of this popular and worthwhile sport.



The Phendulani Books annual event provides Grade 6’s and 7’s with a specified selection of 12 books to read and then participate in a quiz against other schools. This year we entered 2 teams consisting of Grade 6 and 7 pupils. One team was placed first overall while the other achieved a third place. Another great moment!

Hooked on Books is a drama company that generates a love of reading in a number of schools. The show is very interactive and always includes audience participation, which the children love. The programme goes a long way to instilling a desire to read and to improving literacy in our pupils.

The Grade 7 pupils were invited to spend the day at our high school so that they could make informed decisions about their future. The Grade 7s enjoyed physical games and mental challenges.

Charity begins with Me, a local charity initiative in the Weltevreden Park area that we have chosen to support. The charity identifies specific needs in the area and works towards addressing them. We have collected boxes of soup for the soup kitchens and made Valentine’s Day and Christmas cards for the police and old age homes in the area. Through initiatives like these the children learn to contribute to the community at large.

### **Staff Development**

The year started with a number of new staff. Miss Clementine Moffett was appointed to teach Grade 1 and Ms. Kim Jones replaced Mrs. Pakari in Grade 3. Mrs. Tracy Viljoen joined the senior phase to teach Natural and Social Sciences. Miss Courtney Hamburg took over the Afrikaans from Miss Wentzel who moved to Life Orientation, Art and Social Science. A new ISASA intern, Mr. Katiso Madumisi, joined our internship programme.

Mrs. Calitz and Mrs. Viljoen were expecting babies and both would be off in the fourth term, and Auntie Pat became a great-granny with birth of her grandson’s first child. Unfortunately Ms. Jones left at the end of the first term and had to be replaced temporarily by Ms. Buhle Moyo, the Foundation Phase intern. Ms. Moyo stepped in at short notice until we appointed a qualified teacher, Ms. Siobahn Hartin, to see the Grade 3s through to the end of the year. We are grateful to both these ladies for enabling the Grade 3s to continue their year with little disturbance.

Miss Wentzel left us at the end of the third term to head another school. She will be sorely missed but we wish her well in her new position. We also wish her the very best on her engagement.



Mrs Heleen Van Pletzen was appointed to take over Miss Wentzel's classes until the end of the year. Miss Kirsty Standing was selected to represent South Africa in the Triathlon World Championships that were held in the Netherlands. She was placed 58<sup>th</sup> in the world in her age group. Mrs. Walker represented Gauteng at the SA JKA Karate Championships and received National Colours for both Kata and Kumite.

### **Parent and Community Partnership**

The school has enjoyed wonderful support from our parents throughout the year under the guidance of Mrs. Vicky Makhathini, our Council representative, there has been a very active committee serving tea or selling items at our various events. We are extremely grateful for all this involvement.

I am indebted to those parents who contributed to our IQAA (Independent Quality Assurance Association) report and made such positive contributions regarding discipline and hair issues.

### **Financial Stability and Capacity Building**

We have held a number of very successful fund raising initiatives this year and would like to thank all our families for their support. Each class is expected to raise R2 500 for the year. This money goes towards the general school account to be used where required. We then raise money towards special projects at St. Michael's itself. We are working towards raising enough money to put projectors in all the Foundation Phase classrooms. We would also like to lay artificial grass in all the play areas.

Our fundraising efforts this year have included the Annual Raffle, Valentine's Day, the Big Walk, Derby Day, the Gala, Market Day and Senior Chef.

In closing, I would like to thank all our reading angels, English and Math's tutors and community members for their time and dedication. To Rector Doug Torr, the staff, the members of the St. Michael's parish and others who willingly assist our school, with donations, time, toys and stationery. I would like them all to know how deeply grateful we are for their efforts.

**Sharon Walker**  
**Headmistress.**

