

2020

VULEKA ASSISTED LEARNING CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT



'It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, will affect its successful outcome' William James

2020 was a very challenging year for all of us. The coronavirus took the education sector by surprise and forced us to adjust.



PUPIL DEVELOPMENT:

We started the year on a great note. On the first day of the school year, our children got a surprise. Every child received a goodie bag with a chocolate and some stationery. New children were so surprised but very happy. We also moved the ISLC2 class from the dungeon to the new building where other classes are. This helped a lot especially with discipline.

We also introduced the new values to our pupils. We used assemblies to teach our pupils these values. Janet, our social worker started life skills group sessions with our older children. She covered topics like bullying and low self-esteem, among others. With the help of Vuyiswa our educational psychologist, we started assessing children whose reports were older than two years.



Academics

We continued to have 15 learners in the class so that we can maintain one-on-one approach as opposed to teacher centred. At the beginning of the year reading age tests were done for all learners. These help us a lot as we are then able to adapt the curriculum to our children's needs.

Sports and Culture

The children started with swimming lessons at the beginning of the year at Kengsinton B swimming pool. We participated at the Vuleka Annual Swimming Gala. We also started with Marimba and Choir at the beginning of first term and our children enjoyed these lessons. Unfortunately, 2020 was a different year, Vuleka School took a decision to suspend sporting and cultural activities for the whole year because of COVID 19, which meant that annual sports events like Derby day and Athletics day were cancelled. We sent exercise videos to children during lockdown to help them stay fit.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

At the beginning of the year, we welcomed Vuyiswa Halana, our educational psychologist. I want to thank the Vuleka management team for appointing her. This is going to help Vuleka school especially Vuleka Assisted Learning Centre because special schools require the service of an educational psychologist. Ryan Horsley and Atlegang Setshedi passed all their exams and Atlegang got 3 distinctions. The two interns did so well academically in the year 2020 and I am so proud of them. Emily Kapuya also obtained her honours degree in Education Psychology. She is an inspiration to all of us. We also welcomed Miss Ivy Chindeza who joined Vuleka Assisted Learning Centre on a one-year contract. She taught our Junior Class. We also started attending SAALED workshops and we hope to be a member of SAALED in 2021.



PARENT PARTNERSHIP

On the 14th of February, some of our parents, together with Multichoice employees, spent Valentine's day with us. We first painted the school and later during the day, they joined our children in the hall for our annual Mr and Miss Vuleka competition held on the 14th of February. Multichoice donated very beautiful gifts for the winners. I want to take this opportunity and thank Multichoice for always supporting our school. We also had our first parents meeting on the 25th of January. I would like to thank our parents who are so supportive especially in

2020 where they had to help their children with schoolwork during lockdown. We had our first zoom meeting with parents on the 30th of May 2020 and some of the things they said about Vuleka School made me very proud to have been part of this organization for 15 years.



Multichoice handing out gifts

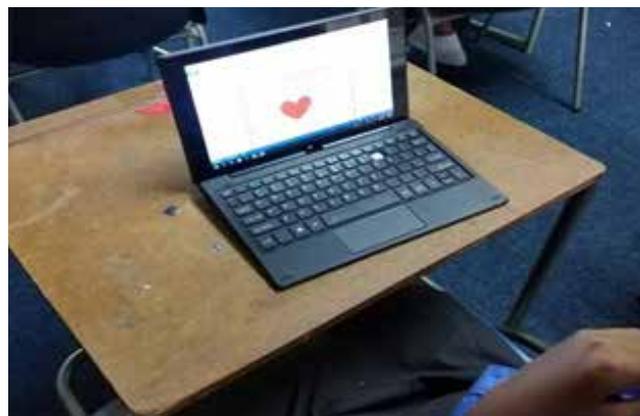


Multichoice painting our school



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

As a school we have identified Technology as an area that needed improvement. As they say the 4th industrial revolution is upon us, we do not want to fail our learners by not preparing them for that. At the beginning of the year, we received a donation of R25 000 from Multichoice and we were able to buy projectors for every class. This helped us because we were able to use technology more in the class. Computer lessons took place and we also used IPADS in the classrooms. Coronavirus also forced us to adjust to Online Teaching and Learning in a short time. We managed to have meetings using Zoom and later Microsoft Teams. Staff regularly attended online workshops organized by one of our heads, Mr Thato Majola on how to teach using Microsoft Teams. Learners were also allocated Microsoft email accounts with passwords.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Our main aim as a school is to make sure that ALC can sustain itself for many years to come. We took a decision to discontinue the senior class (ISLC4). Since we introduced the class two years ago, we have never had more than 10 learners in the class and many parents did not pay school fees in this class. We also remind parents about the importance of paying school fees.

On behalf of the staff, pupils and parents of Vuleka Assisted Learning Centre, I would like to thank all our sponsors, especially Multichoice, donors, benefactors and Vuleka Council and Central Office for all their support this year.

PETER MMIRWA
HEADMASTER