

2020

VULEKA ST MICHAEL'S ANNUAL REPORT



"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

It gives me great pleasure to submit Vuleka St Michael's Annual Report for 2020.

2020 presented unique challenges for our school as COVID19 impacted most of our "normal" school life. This in turn presented new opportunities for our school, staff, learners, and parents. Throughout it all, it was a blessed and successful year for our campus. This would not have been possible without all the stakeholders who have contributed to our success: enthusiastic pupils, committed staff, supportive parents, the Vuleka Management Team and Central Office staff; our school community as well as donors and friends of Vuleka. To be the Headmistress of Vuleka St Michael's is a great privilege and I am blessed to be in this role.



PUPIL DEVELOPMENT:

Academics

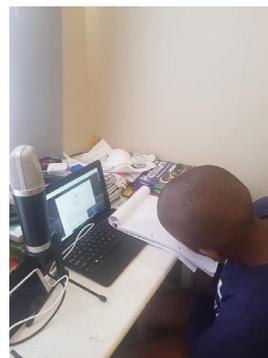
When South Africa was placed into hard lockdown in March 2020, management acted quickly to ensure teaching and learning will continue. Teachers worked tirelessly to get teaching packs ready while our IT department worked on Microsoft accounts for learners. When the national lockdown was extended, online teaching commenced and most of our children were able to join online classes.

Our Grade 7 learners were back at school first on the 6th of June 2020 and the rest of the grades followed in a staggered manner.



As a school we decided to continue teaching and learning throughout the year using a staggered approach. All Grade 4-7 completed their formal assessments in November.

Our learners' end of year results truly reflects the dedication of our children, commitment of our staff and the support we received from our parents.



Sport and Culture

We had a successful gala for our Grade 4 – 7 learners at the beginning of the year. A special thank you to Vuleka Jellicoe for organizing this wonderful event!

Unfortunately, all other sporting activities were cancelled for the remainder of the year, in line with COVID19 protocols.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Our staff remains one of our most valuable resources and I am proud to announce that St Michael's had no resignations from 2019-2020.

All staff attended regular staff meetings, phase meetings and ISASA cluster meetings.

In 2020, our teachers were certainly thrown out of their comfort zones (classes) and had to familiarize themselves with online teaching. A special thank you to Mr Thato Majola, head of IT for arranging training courses for all staff.

Our Interns once again did very well and received several distinctions in both the June and November UNISA Examinations even though these exams were different and challenging.

Ms Tamia van der Haar completed her 3rd year of BEd Degree Ms Thembisa Mbhele completed her studies and has been appointed as Foundation Phase isiZulu teacher at Vuleka St Michael's and St Mark's.

These young people are making great strides in their development as capable and competent teachers.

Congratulations to Mrs Nelly Ngcongwane for receiving her BEd Degree! Unfortunately, she missed out on a graduation ceremony due to COVID19 protocol.

All admin and cleaning staff went through COVID19 safety training before teachers came back to school. Teachers were back before learners started and were also trained to screen learners. All staff received a pack containing two cloth masks sponsored by Styles & Co.



PARENT PARTNERSHIP

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our Council Representative for 2020, our class representatives and all our dedicated parents for the support throughout the year. A special thank you to our parents who donated disposable masks for our mask drive.

It was especially encouraging to see the large number of parents who attended our online parent meetings before school opened and during the rest of the year.

2020 was a year of relationship-building; a year that was successful because of our parents' dedication to their children's education.

We had a large number of parents attending our Annual Prize Giving, even though this took place in a staggered approach over two days.



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Learners, staff, and parents quickly had to get use to the "new normal" where lessons and meetings took place online.

Staff meetings, ISASA workshops and Council meetings moved to online platforms.

Mr. Thato Majola created online surveys to identify which devices our children and parents had. Mr. Thato Majola trained staff on MS Teams and created manuals for parents. A special thank you to Mr Thato Majola for ensuring we can continue learning online. Thank you to Gentrion for setting up email addresses for all our learners and having them ready before the lockdown was extended.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Vuleka St Michael's would like to thank all donors for supporting our school especially during financial difficulties faced in lockdown. A special thank you to each person who donated food parcels that were distributed to our families in need.

St Michael's worked hard at our other fundraising efforts such as chip rolls, ice cream and pop-corn sales, class food sales and civvies days.

Thank you to the Vuleka Central Office for the help with the ongoing maintenance projects at our campus

We want to take this opportunity to thank our donors, Bokamoso Trust and all the staff at Vuleka Central Office for the support in making our campus a safe and happy place and for procuring PPE's before staff returned to school.

*Karien van der Merwe
Headmistress*