



Newsletter

Working for a brighter tomorrow for the children of South Africa

Vol. 2 Issue 3
October 2011

The Kusasa Project provides literacy, recreation, nutrition, life skills and scholarship programs to over 1500 disadvantaged children in South Africa. In this issue we honour our Volunteers who make this happen.

To our Volunteers and Donors – it's you who make it happen!



Afternoon Study with Jeff Spinks. A chance for the seniors to get extra advice on classwork and homework.



"They are a great bunch of children" – Bonny Whytock at a morning small group reading class.



Young volunteers from Bridge House inspire the Grade 3 readers in the library in the afternoons.



An outing to see "Jock of the Bushveld" gave learners their FIRST ever chance to go to the movies. Thanks go to our American donors for their generous sponsorship of excursions and educational outings and to Bridge House for lots of popcorn.



A recent volunteers' meeting gave our almost 60 volunteers feedback on the project. Here are (back, left to right) Barry Fletcher, Margie Cunnam, Jenny Fletcher, Jacque Bérard-Spiers, Joan van Genderingen, Deborah Flanagan and Karin Rebel (front) Geraldine Daniels, Siyanda Zangqa, Sally Humphris and Wendy Crowther.



You'll always remember your first Check Mate! Barry Phillips runs a very successful chess club for the children and several of his group have been selected for WPCCU!



An afternoon in the library reading and playing teacher-teacher - thanks to the volunteers who help keep the library open and make it a safe haven for the children.



Enkosi! Hamba Kakhule! Thank you for a wonderful day!



You cannot teach a hungry child – so Kusasa's Breakfast club feeds about 700 a day. We have reached 400,000 children to date!

South African Charitable Trust (Number: IT 53/2007) & PBO Number: 930026072
Affiliated with Kid's Force International - 501(c) 3. US Charity (EIN 62-1834336)
UK Charities Commission Number: 1134655

CONTACT NUMBERS

The Kusasa Project Office: +27 21 876 3735
Fax: +27 21 876 3735
Fax to email: 086 719 5764 (South Africa only)

Dave Riordan: +44 78 2527 4677 (UK)
Doug Gurr: +27 726 107 208 (RSA)
Jacque Berard Spiers +27 76 142 9461 (RSA)
Sintu Quza: + 27 72 082 0850 (RSA)
Sally Weighill: +27 83 880 6021 (RSA)

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
73 B Village Artisan
Cabriere Street
Franschhoek

EMAIL ADDRESS:
info@thekusasaproject.org



Messages from our Founders

The Kusasa Project's success is due, solely, to the generous nature and spirit of volunteerism. This includes all supporters, whether they are financial donors, providers of resources, volunteers who offer their valuable time, or just those who offer encouragement.

Every individual has helped mould The Kusasa Project, whereby we endeavour to impact the young children of our region in a truly meaningful way.

Our foundation is the selfless nature of so many wonderful people who come forward with the desire to create change and we are proud to be associated with all of you.

We cannot thank you enough. Our unwavering aim, using this swell of support, is to grow, and ensure sustainability and transparency and to use all of our collective skills for the benefit of the children of the valley.

What is obvious is that we have helped to open their minds to the broader world, to steer them down a positive road and to uplift and improve their education. This can only materialise into better futures for the children, their families, and communities.

We thank you all, for it is you who are The Kusasa Project, helping create a brighter future for the children of South Africa.

Doug Gurr "Every year for 5 years I have been energised by the children I have taught"



Dave Courts, president of The Rotary Club of Franschhoek presents Doug with a cheque for the project. Thank you Rotarians, for your loyal and consistent support always!



5 yrs seems like a long time ago when I look at what has been accomplished since 2006, and yet it has flown by! We've learned a great deal, and as a team – our staff, volunteers, schools, teachers, the children, donors (local & international) and the entire Franschhoek Valley community – have created something very special. We've been blessed to have wonderful people give of their time and resources to help The Kusasa Project evolve (as it must) to serve our primary objective: providing a more enjoyable childhood and brighter future to the children of South Africa. Seeing these photos I am honoured to be associated with all of you, young and old, and am full of hope for the future of South Africa – a unique country with a rainbow of special people.

Dave Riordan



Tribute to Ntkisi Jobela who passed away on the 3rd August 2011



Ntsiki – a wonderful warm man, with incredible style and charm, who will be missed by us all and The Kusasa Project. He has been there from the very start back in 2006 and he leaves a gaping hole in our lives. To see his big smile and big personality always gave the day a positive and motivational start. Our lives are less for his tragic and sudden passing. Doug



A very sad death at Dalubuhle this Wednesday morning of the Grade 6 teacher: young, vibrant, zany and very loved by all, Mr Jobela. Now the 60 year 6's he taught have no-one! With 23 illiterate in that class one can but pray - awful for all of us and all in a state of shock.
Jacquie

I am sorry to hear of the sudden death of Mr Jobela. I remember him well . He was so supportive but never interfered with what I was teaching unless any of the children were starting to talk and then he would quietly tell them to stop so that I could continue the lesson. Such a professional man. Lynn Collens



A wonderful bright and lively group of grade 3s.... I love their reaction to getting an answer right, or having to do a spelling test. Their enthusiasm is infectious" Emma Gray



Kathy collecting yet another pile of books to cover - Thank you



"It is very fulfilling to work with these special children. Everyone needs an opportunity to improve however marginal. They are very motivated...." Sonja Louw

Guido and Erna Louwerse welcome young Franschhoek High scholars, Claudia and Zhane, to their house twice a week to do their homework with their three girls.



Rene van der Westhuisen - keen supporter of The Kusasa Project, waxing lyrical to a bemused Siyanda Zangqa, a new volunteer.



Margaret Courts - committed reader in Gr4 Dalubuhle. She and Rosemary have kept the group going whilst the swallows were up north



"To play a small part in the energetic and enthusiastic, noisy, and enquiring learning process is a great privilege." John Chomel-Doe



George Backhouse, teacher in charge of Rotary Interact club at Bridgehouse. He organises a dedicated group of young people to read with the kids..



Barry Phillips treats the children to all sorts of experiences on his Chess tournament days. They are all doing him proud with their results.



"What a pleasure to teach these kids!" Fiona Coetzee with a group of gr 2s at Wemmershoek



"What fun! Great to see the improvement made during the year." Liz Mills. "A new experience! I hope I can contribute too." Rosemarie.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VOLUNTEER



"With my super stars! Everyone is a unique opportunity waiting to happen. They are happy clever children and are a pleasure." Tracey Schoeman



Sally Weighill, senior administrator at The Kusasa Project, taking time out with Alison Beaumont's son at the volunteers meeting.



Alison Beaumont with the grade 1 teacher Susan and her group. "Awesome little bunch, desperate to learn and so inspiring to work with."



Hugo Blaisse with the running club.



"I enjoy spending time with the grade 1s as they are so eager to learn and they give so much of themselves" Geraldine Daniels



Anne Terpend is our financial fiend keeping us under control. She met reading volunteers at a volunteer's meeting. Candice Holgate is our social networking wizz kid.



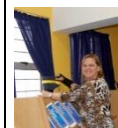
WOW! What a pleasure to have an opportunity to be involved in this project. Lovely kids to work with and our hope for the future. Zelda Ngcambu



My bright and lively grade 2s. We have worked through the G1 prog and are now well into the G3 syll. They are a fantastic group of kids. I love teaching them - Belinda Lindhorst



Thanks to Mark Denby-Young, Purdon Rhode and Tammy van Zyl from La Petite Ferme for a wonderful afternoon at luncheon club and for their inspirational talks.



"It is a great pleasure to bring some colour into the lives of the children" Irene Vorster



Rosemary Atkinson, a dedicated reader and supporter of The Kusasa Project.



Karin Rebel assiduously covering books. Thank you.

"My group of grade 3's at Wes Reading is their favourite and their progress is amazing. It has been very rewarding and I feel I have been helping in a small way." Wendy Crowther



"The kids are such fun to teach and they make me laugh often with their insights." Lindy Truswell



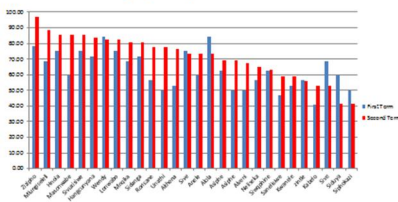
Reading with this special select group of talented gr 6's is truly uplifting. Each student has many stories to tell and they express these enthusiastically! Kitty Cortes

Deborah Flanagan and Joan van Genderingen working in the Wemmershoek library "If everyone gave just a little of their time to their community it would make such an enormous difference - We love the kids"



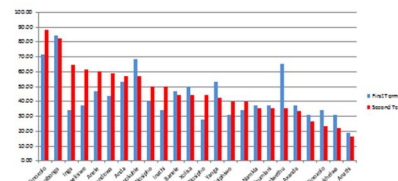
Volunteers!!! Have you wondered **what we all are achieving?** Jacquie has been testing the kids and Sally has collated stats for her to see what is happening. Here are a couple of charts to show we are achieving LOTS! Come to the Volunteers meeting on **18th November at 9:30 Domaine des Anges** to hear the full story. Dave Riordan, co-founder and trustee is flying out from the UK to meet you all!

G4 Strong group with volunteer



Major improvement in most pupils, but the improvement is greater the more able the pupils initially.
Term 1 in **BLUE**
Term 2 in **RED**

G4 Weak group without volunteer but with MENTOR and teacher



Stronger pupils improved, weaker went backwards or no improvement.
Term 1 in **BLUE**
Term 2 in **RED**

Thank you to everyone who has raised funds or encouraged donations from individuals or companies. Any idea is a good idea – here are some recent ingenious (and profitable) fund raising projects

THE GIANT PUMPKIN...

Tony and Beth French hold a Giant Pumpkin Competition in Surrey. It was won by Eric Hewitt, a sprightly 79 year old, who has been to Franschhoek and visited Dalubuhle School. His pumpkin weighed in at 139lbs. People pay a nominal sum to enter and then pay to come to the end event held at Tony and Beths house. They had nearly 50 people attending and raised 1500GBP.!

Quotes from entrants:-
"It's such a great fun idea, although my attempt to grow failed miserably", Lindsey
"Mine died. There is obviously an art to it. I am devising a plan for next year. First lesson is to teach our hungry rabbit not to eat it!" Jonathan Moxon (Maybe stick to climbing mountains rather JM! The Kusasa Project)



The winner with his Kusasa hat!

UK Admin



" the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dream " Lindsey Collinson, who looks after admin for Kusasa UK

THE MOUNTAIN CLIMB...



Johathan Moxon and his son's Yannick and Fred at the summit



Jonathan Moxon in the centre front of all the sherpas They climbed to the summit of Kilimanjaro for the Kusasa Project and have made to date over R70,000 for their endeavours! JMoxon is one of our Trustees.



Thank you le quartier français and Pick 'n Pay

They support us in lots of ways, from hosting the luncheon speaker's club to supporting the feeding scheme. Here are Karen Protheroe and Chef Margot Janse

COME BACK SWALLOWS! We miss you!

We are anxiously awaiting the return of our swallow volunteers. Their reading groups have carried on whilst they were away, but it is time to give each child just a bit more.
"I must remember to take a big pack of tissues with me when I go back as I suspect I am going to need them!" Lynn Collen
Remember the meeting on 18th Nov at 9:30 at Domaine! Tissues and coffee supplied!



Breakfast Club runs EVERY DAY,

Thanks to Karen Protheroe, our Dalubuhle, Wes Eind & Bridge House child volunteers The Kusasa Project Breakfast Club has served over 400 000 breakfasts in the schools! That is 400 000 days of learning.



Other news items...

Thanks to a donation from Street Smart, we now have our own **Social Worker** on the team. Nomzamo is out evaluating problems and providing solutions for our scholars on our behalf.

The Early Learning Centre is a GO! We have appointed one early learning specialists and two highly competent assistants teachers. We will be able to give children a quality education to set them on the road for their success later in their school careers. All systems GO for January 2012.

South African Charitable Trust (Number: IT53/2007) & PBO Number: 930026072
Affiliated with KidsForce International - 501(c) 3. US Charity (EIN 62-1834336)
UK Charities Commission Number: 1134655

CONTACT NUMBERS

The Kusasa Project Office: +27 21 876 3735
Fax: +27 21 876 3735
Fax to email: 086 719 5764 (South Africa only)

POST ADDRESS
P.O. Box 429
Franschhoek
South Africa
7690

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
73 B Village Artisan
Cabriere Street
Franschhoek

EMAIL ADDRESS:
info@thekusaproject.org

Dave Riordan: +44 78 2527 4677 (UK)
Doug Gurr: +27 726 107 208 (RSA)
Jacquie Berard Spiers +27 76 142 9461 (RSA)
Sintu Quza: + 27 72 082 0850 (RSA)
Sally Weighill: +27 83 880 6021 (RSA)