



MATJANA PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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MATJANA KIDS ENJOY THE FIRST EXCURSION IN FIVE YEARS

Matjana Preschool had its annual excursion for the first time since 2018. Difficult circumstances, including the COVID-19 pandemic and lock down, as well as financial challenges caused the delay. Although the teachers tried to organize a trip last year, the first year out of COVID lock-down, it didn't work because parents weren't financially ready to send their children on a school trip and teachers we had not fully organized everything need. In recent years the preschool has seen a lot of changes of teachers, which made planning and organizing the excursion difficult — the new teachers were

not sure where to go or how to organize an excursion.

So we are very pleased to announce that in 2023 we have returned to the tradition of ending the second semester with a successful excursion. The Matjana kids had an opportunity to visit various places around Eswatini including King Mswati III International Airport at Sikhuphe, Hlane Game Reserve and Mpaka Railway Station.

Organizing an excursion is not easy

Teacher Khetsiwe, who was organizing the school trip, said, "Organizing a school trip is not

easy, no wonder we couldn't make it last year. You cannot believe that we started the preparations on the first day of school this year (January) but things only came together on the last week/days before the trip."

The teachers said their aim was to get all the kids to go on the school trip and ask parents to contribute 'something' to cover the costs of their child going for the excursion. It works best if the money is paid in advance so that we can book the transport in time and inform the places where we need to go — they always need the number of kids com-

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ing in advance. Although not all parents managed to pay for the school trip, we manage to ensure all the kids enjoyed the fun and educational benefits of the trip, by using school funds to cover the shortfall.

The excursion began at 6:30am

In Eswatini most school goes on excursion towards the end of the second term, which is why we went at that time. Because we knew there would be lots of schools in those places that day, we arranged to leave preschool at 6:30am, so as not to miss out

MEET THE



MATJANA KIDS



NAME:	Similo Simelane	Aviwe Dlamini	Sphokazi Manana
MEANING:	Good character	Not sure of the meaning	A big gift
FAVOURITES AT SCHOOL:	Reading picture books	Playing with dolls	Telling others what to do
FAVOURITE FOOD:	Beef and rice	Chicken and rice	Rice and beans
WANTS TO BE A:	Teacher	Nurse	Dancer
TEACHERS SAY:	He is shy and very brilliant	She is Ms. always right	She is a born leader

MATJANA'S FIRST EXCURSION IN 5 YEARS

on seeing anything. This meant parents had to bring the kids to preschool because it will be too early for them to walk alone. Some students walk even more than 3km to preschool, usually a little later in the morning with older children who attend the primary school.

As usual we started our journey with a short prayer asking God to protect us from accidents or any other things that might disturb our trip. "The kids prayed loudly (even the ones are usually quiet) and were noisy for the better part of the morning and were dancing to music which the driver played as they drove.

They began to be more excited when they got to the tarred road. Teacher Khetsiwe said, "It was amazing to see kids getting exciting when seeing even small things like bridge." She continued to say some of the things which the kids were happy to see are things which we all haven't

thought they didn't know or could be happy to see them. "Who could have thought kids would be happy to see a 'black road' as some of them were referring to the tarred road?"

Teachers said they know that some of the kids have never been to town/city, but we haven't thought of pointing out to them the uncommon things along the way. "We had only focused on the places which we were going to, which I think next time we would arrange with the driver to make a 2-minute stop at the things like bridges, big rivers, orange farms etc."

We had breakfast along the way and arrived at the Game reserve around 10. As we approached the Game Reserve we saw an elephant, which the kids were very excited to see and took a picture of.

"When we arrived at the Game Reserve, there were over 30 schools, so we were sharing one game ranger with 5 other

schools who told us all the rules like do not make noise. Our poor kids were now whispering but they were told not to make noise. Anyways, we took the tour around where we saw lions, elephants, rhino and other animal that the kids had learnt about by looking at pictures in class, but never seen in the flesh before.

We then quickly left to the airport because we were running out of time. But when we arrived we



were told to wait for an hour as there were no planes on the ground, but one was on its way from Johannesburg. We were taken to a big room where the kids would view the airplane nicely when it came in to land. After the wait the plane arrived and the kids shouted, "Here is an airplane". Thank goodness there were no rules about noise at the airport!

Time was already not on our side, and we rushed to the Railway Station and by then the kids were tired and sleepy. Fortunately, they found train about to go. They were shown the different rails, and how the trains changed from one rail to another. A few minutes later the train departed and the children jumped up with happiness seeing the train moving. It was nice to see the train and rail besides being tired and running out of time.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We are looking forward to getting more donations to enable other projects that will improve our school, such as fixing broken play equipment. It is with great pleasure to say that we are still able to pay wages monthly for our hardworking staff and have given them a payrise. Thank you for your generous support! If you haven't yet been able to support our school, please consider making a donation to help us buy books and pay teachers and in the details below:



	Swaziland	Australia
Bank	Standard Bank	The Community Mutual Group
Account Name:	Matjana Preschool	Friends of Matjana Preschool
Account Number:	9110001038268	719585
Bank SWIFT code:	SBICSZMX	-
BSB Number:	66056441	932000