



# MATJANA PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY KHETSIWE, PINKY AND MICHELLE

## THE THINGS WE ARE CELEBRATING IN 2023, PLANS FOR 2024

Matjana is left with three weeks before the end of the school year. This year has been great. We've enjoyed lots of good times and learnt a lot from the things which didn't go so well. This month we will share the ups and downs for the year 2023 and our plans for 2024.

### The wins for 2023

Teachers said the most amazing thing that has happened to them in 2023 is that they got a salary increase. This was recommended by the Friends of Matjana Committee and the school committee approved it. Teacher Nokuphila said, "I was so happy that I got a salary raise as the price

of everything has gone up." Our teachers had not got a salary raise since 2022 January. We are proud of all our teachers. It's amazing how hard they have worked in the past years despite all being fairly new to their jobs.

We have had financial problems in the past years where teachers' salaries would be delayed by 3-4 months but it hasn't happened this year. Precious who was a school chairperson in the past years (before being a teacher) said "Teachers would not get their pays for 4 months because the school didn't have money." We are so thankful to all the people who have donated money

in Matjana Preschool for the year 2023 and ensured we could pay the teachers and increase their salary.

It was also exciting to get a visit from Jim, who plays a big role in raising funds for Matjana Preschool, and his brother Rob. We really enjoyed having people at the school who have played a big role in developing Matjana Preschool to what it is today. Khetsiwe said, "The kids were equally excited to see Jim and Rob and the goodies they came with and had a great lunch that day." Those of you who have been reading the Meet the Kids section will know that many of the kids say that bread and

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juice is their favourite food — and that is what Jim and Rob bought them. The school committee was also present on that day to welcome them and they were equally grateful to have them around. One member of the school committee said that they hope that Jim and Rob will come back to visit again and to see other new developments. They will always be ready to welcome them.

We are also pleased to have finally managed to successfully organise an excursion for preschool. We have also improved the fence

### MEET THE



### MATJANA KIDS



NAME:	Athandwa Simelane	Sinenhlanhla Dlamini	Nonhle Lukhele
MEANING:	Being loved	He is lucky	Beauty of the child
FAVOURITES AT SCHOOL:	Drawing and shading	Reading books and toy cars	Playing with blocks
FAVOURITE FOOD:	Rice and fried chicken	Rice and beans	Rice and beef stew
WANTS TO BE A:	Doctor	Police	Nurse
TEACHERS SAY:	He is energetic and a bit naughty	He is very emotional	She is shy

## THE THINGS WE ARE CELEBRATING IN 2023

which is another thing we celebrate having done in 2023.

Since all our teachers are fairly new, we are also happy that we have had experienced teachers who have shared their expertise with us. This includes Matjana long friend Tessa, who is always willing to take questions and send educational stuff to our teachers. One of our former teachers Swane had organised two workshops to empower our teachers about classroom management stuff. In a short interview she said, "I am always willing to help Matjana, it is only the time that is limiting me." We are very grateful to Swane and Tessa for sharing their knowledge

with our teachers.

We would be lying if we say we have all good things, but we have learnt something from the bad things.

For our kids to go to primary school they need to have a birth certificate. At pre-school we only need a birth card, which all of the children have. We found out recently that some of our kids do not have a birth certificate which means they are likely not to go to primary school in 2024. We have learnt this year that we should make sure that we remind parents and help them to sort out the birth certificates at the beginning of the year.

### Plans for 2024

Repairing outdoor equipment and buying new furniture for the second classroom is something we had planned for this year but unfortunately we could not do it due to the fact that we were not sure if we will have enough money to do it, as well as difficulty finding people who could do the work in our area. However, this is on our top list for 2024 then we can do other things for pre-school maintenance.

Since we now have two classroom and three teachers, we are planning to separate kids according to their ages. We are also excited to say that we are now registering new students for 2024.



## 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
<b>Bank</b>	Standard Bank	The Community Mutual Group
<b>Account Name:</b>	Matjana Preschool	Friends of Matjana Preschool
<b>Account Number:</b>	9110001038268	719585
<b>Bank SWIFT code:</b>	SBICSZMX	-
<b>BSB Number:</b>	66056441	932000