



# MATJANA PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY PRECIUOS ,NOK'PHILA AND MICHELLE

## THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF TEACHING AT MATJANA IN 2024

Matjana preschool started the year with close to 30 kids. If you had been reading our newsletter you will know that for the past years, we have had around 17 kids (with less than 5 boys in 2022 and 2023) but this year the number just shot to 30 (with more than half of the class being boys) kids in the year 2024. The teachers said they were excited that this year they have 28 kids, which they all said they haven't taught that many students since they started teaching. This month they will share their experiences of teaching in Matjana.

When asked about where they

kids are coming from, Khetsiwe said, "I guess maybe people are seeing the school progressing and they think that's where they can bring their children to."

"It's nice..."

The teachers said it's nice to have many kids because it also gives them confidence that they are doing well.

Nok'phila mentioned that it gives them confidence about what they are doing when they see more parents bringing their kids to preschool.

"It also sort of gives us assurance that people are bringing their children to preschool de-

spite that they have financial problems. For those who are not aware most of the money donated by friends of Matjana helps in the running of the school so that all kids can go to preschool. The large number of kids came as a surprise to us even though that means we have to double everything, food , stationary etc." Nok'phila said.

Besides that we have a larger number of kids this year, Teacher Precious said it is also nice to teach in Matjana this year because the kids would sometimes bring them things like fruits (for example emantulwa, guavas, lemons

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etc) that grow on the trees in their homesteads and around the community. "Our kids have excellent sharing skills, which makes it easier for us even in the classroom when resources are sometimes limited."

### It's hard

Hearing the sad stories of the kids everyday is emotionally draining as teachers said.

We will share one instance of an emotionally draining story shared by the kids to the teachers. Before we closed for Easter, we

### MEET THE



### MATJANA KIDS



NAME:	Smakhelwe Stewart	Yenzokuhle Mngometulu	Vuswane Mzileni
MEANING:	He had build for us	Done good things	No meaning
FAVOURITES AT SCHOOL:	Puzzles	Playing with cars	Running around
FAVOURITE FOOD:	Meat	Rice and beans	Cakes
WANTS TO BE A:	Teacher	Police	Teacher
TEACHERS SAY:	She is ever smiling	Class leader	She is a good helper

## TEACHING AT MATJANA IN 2024

asked our students what they will be doing during the holidays. Most of the kids were talking about visiting their relatives and one kid spontaneous said, "I don't have anywhere to go to because my mom dump with my granny."

Precious the teacher who was in charge that time, said, "I did not know what to say besides a very soft guilty, sorry. I felt I should not have asked the kids what they will be doing this holidays." But despite not knowing what to say, teacher Precious has worked hard to make sure this child, whose family situation is complicated, is attending Matjana Preschool.

Precious was aware that the student had been left to live with their grandmother,

who worried about sending the child to preschool because she didn't have any money. Precious intervened, let the grandmother know that the child did not need money to attend, and the child is now at preschool. Precious is also trying to help the grandmother get the child a birth certificate, which they will need to enrol in primary school, but which is difficult because the child was not born in Eswatini and their mother is not a Swati. Precious has helped a number of grandmothers in the community get birth certificates for their children, which is a human right and a requirement for enrolling in primary school in Swaziland.

"We have never had a class so far that

shares so much of their emotional stories like this one," Precious said. "Teaching at Matjana sort of makes you aware that you cannot ask kids questions that seem simple like, 'what have you eaten for dinner,' because it might be emotional for them. I asked that one day and one of the kids said they didn't have anything because there was no food in the house."

Matjana teachers have lots of fun with the kids, but they also take on challenges of the children that they work with. We're proud to have committed teachers like Precious, that go beyond the call of duty, to ensure that children living in challenging circumstances get to attend preschool and experience the benefits of early childhood education.



## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

It is with great pleasure to start the year with a bit more donations to buy stationery and cover teachers pay for a couple of months. We are looking forward to get more donations for other projects, e.g play equipment and furniture. If you would also like to donate any form of stationery, seat swings, please do feel free to contact us by email and make an arrangement of how you can send that through. Thank you for your generous support. If you haven't yet been able to support our school, please consider making a donation 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

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