

## A Special Day for Literacy Project

On the Saturday 22nd Mays 2016 we had special visitors in our club; one of the board of directors of Calabar Foundation and Sifunda Kunye Ali Pauluhn and her friend Linh. Because it was special Mhlahikazi Khumalo, a literacy project facilitator told a story of a special bird, a story of the rain bird. Children then painted their own imaginative birds and wrote special messages to their birds. It was all fun and games. Linh had brought gifts for the children which included books and stickers! there was so much excitement and happiness! stories bring us together!



### Learners take a stand for their Education

On the 12th of September 2016, the staff of St. Matthew's high school called a parents meeting where hearsay was that "If you arrive without your parents, you will not be permitted in school premises." This of course was not true because the school gate was closed and no one, not even the staff entered. Everyone including parents, teachers and learners were outside the school premises. Learners were completely confused about the incident because they thought the meeting was about their performances but here was a meeting held about school funds at the beginning of the term and it loaming effect.

After a lengthy conclusion with SGB, learners were asked to get closer to where the teachers were standing. It was announced that there would be no school because department did not want to listen to the school's complaints about stationary to continue with the September tests and if the department did not respond, the SGB would be left with no other choice than to strike. Of course teachers did not strike but left that decision.

The learners did not even take time and decided that they would protest alongside their parents. It was amazing to see such experience whereby learners took over the reigns and performed really well. It was like a usual strike with burning tyres whilst cars and trucks were sent away and though there were acts of violence just like any other strike. The strike continued for hours until the hailstorm disrupted everything had to come to a complete end. Everyone rushed away to set shelter and also to wait for their transports.

Feedback of what the department has to say about this hasn't truly been verified because loyal informants have been found so all that is said about department is hearsay and we would not like to follow up on that, would we? Also the strike has turned out to be a success because I'Solezwe and Daily Dispatch press were present to publicise the event. We are still waiting for department to respond and we hope that sooner our complaints will be heard.

**By:** Liselihle Majola



### **Amahlathi Literacy Day Debate 2016**

What went on, on the 22nd of September was the most nerve wrecking. Yes at first we didn't think it would be a successful day we motivated ourselves and travelled hope that all prayers and hard research would be into work. Debate, debate, debate one word which gave us a lot of nerves, the thought of traveling to another place fighting to become champion was what was happening.

What mostly made us feel like how we felt; it was because we doubted ourselves that we were not capable of so much. We felt that of what our previous seniors had done, the standard they have raised, we would not cope with but as we started that prayer and hard work did it all. Sometimes being part of a school that has so much history of adequate achievements isn't good in such a way that we never saw ourselves fit enough to have an impact in its sterling work. By: SaintsDebate.org.

We all know that getting on stage isn't a child's play speaking in front of a crowd and being listened to, isn't easy. Fortunately enough our speaker were comfortable in the most uncomfortable point of juncture. Saint Matthew's High School, we made it and brought home victoriously a second prize. Shocking right? Yes we might have came 2nd but atleast we worked for it, we earned it. Hence we say it was EXTREMELY EXQUISITE.



### **Debate And Drama Competition - THEME: Booze NOT for learners**

On the 18th day of August 2016, St Matthew's High School in conjunction with the Eastern Cape Liquor Board (ECLB) hosted a debate and drama competition for learners from grade 10 and grade 12. We had visitors from stakeholders, departments and educators from the eight (8) schools who were part of the competition.

The results were as follow:

In the debate competition Ligani High School emerged first, followed by Luxolo High School, and in third place came Rhabule High School. Our debate team worked at their best for the competition but unfortunately didn't make it. The team said it will work harder in their next competition since this was their first attempt. In the drama competition our school, St Matthew's High School took the first prize, followed by Mthwaku Junior, and third place went to Luxolo High School.

My experience in the competition taught me that every individual performance isn't about "who", but a whole. Anyone who has ever watched a football game knows that a coin has two sides. Anyone who has ever had a heated argument with a teenager knows that the sword is sharp on both edges.

Thanks to our judges who had powerful skills and the ability to see issues from both sides. The Eastern Cape Liquor Board, Mr Adabla, Ms Damoyi, Mr Mbambo and

more specially the learners who made this competition a success to them we say Kudo.

**By:** Dayile Zimikhitha



### **The Bronze Adventurous Journey**

In life we have many challenges that we have to overcome. That's how life operates; it gives you challenges that cannot overpower you if you are willing to fight for what you believe in. Life is like a rollercoaster. On Saturday 3rd September 2016, we went on an adventurous journey which helped us as the bronze learners at St Matthew's high school to realise that all the training we did was not just for fun but that we were going to benefit from it because it helped us through the 15 kilometres we walked on Saturday carrying our camping bags which were heavy with our needs on the journey.

The first time we ever climbed a mountain may not be the same as other times the training we did was preparing us for the hiking to the final destination, all the hard work and effort we put through the training payed off that day. We worked ourselves off and when we finally got there everyone was happy the way from school carrying those camping bags was no child's play but all in all the singing on the way also helped us to believe in ourselves more than ever and never to give on life because there are many obstacles in life that you face, bridges that you have to cross and mountains that you have to climb.

Most people would have given up but we fought through the heat and rain, many people on the way thought we would give up because we aren't fit enough for such a journey but we proved them wrong because with God on your side nothing is impossible .Many might not believe in you but if you believe in God and yourself, you don't have to worry about others.

All in all, Adventurous journey is all about life. It simply shows how life is and how long it is. Climbing a mountain is difficult all it need is just to believe in yourself and turn the curved paths which are included. Life is complicated but that does not mean you have to give up it deserves time to combine everything together. Wise words, to reach your destination or to climb a mountain. "Don't miss any steps in life because mountains and hills won't give you a comfortable landing. Always focus and conquer your fears". Everything went awesome the hiking was challenging but we overcome the challenge it was long and difficult, but the president's award taught us about life. The journey begins here. Figure out your life and move on.

We also thank Mr Lwazi Mbambo, Mr Chumani Mxothwa, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, Sifunda Kunye for providing us with food and encouraging us to do the program. We would also like to thank the President's Award office and St Andrews for providing us with sleeping and camping bags not forgetting the students from St Chads which is in England for supporting us with our journey lastly our school for giving us the opportunity to have a President's award in our school.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH WE APPRECIATED EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR US.

#FORWARD \_EVER\_BACKWARD\_NEVER.

**By:** St. Matthews Bronze Team



## Sifunda Kunye Writting Camp 2016

Hello friends, this is Liselihle Majola reporting on the most wonderful time I had at the SK writing Camp at Richard Varha Senior Secondary School in Dimbaza. Boy! It was a blast meeting our fellow campers again and our facilitators. We had new facilitators this past camp, Tar Tulz , DJ B.I.G , Sis Sanga ,Simisa and Onela. Ta Tulz, DJ B.I.G and Sis Sanga were the elder facilitators whilst Simisa and Onela were the younger ones. Like the first camp this year , we had 3 days where we did our work but we were divided into 3 groups. All was good and we did not suffer any hiccups. I would've loved to tell you all that happened but my fellow campers made a rule "What happens at the camps, stays at the camp".

I can give a sneak peak of what we did in our writing times. So we were given poems and short stories to write based on heritage. I had one poem (isiXhosa) for heritage and English for freestyle, a xhosa story for my short stories and the English for freestyle. When we had breakaway sessions intending that we had to stretch, we would head outside and play. It was very funny to see that Sis Mhlali and Tar Lux aren't very good dancers they have two left feet. My favourite part of the camp is when we had the Group Poetry Jam Competition whose groups had to go together and present their expressions on our theme which was of course Heritage. My favourite Group 2's with Bhuti Asanda and Tar Tulz as facilitators. A pity that my group didn't win but we're winners anyway.

What I learned at the camp was that when you write, your words are forever written on the heart, mind and soul of other because you can change a generation and that it doesn't take an educated person to change the world but an educated person with love and passion. Being at the camp inspired me to think about life and it's daily memories and to treasure each breath taking moment. It was not nice when we had to say our goodbyes and depart but remember, goodbyes doesn't mean forever.

**By:** Liselihle Majola



## Young Academics Club(YAC) Background

St. Matthews High School faces a crisis of having a shortage of learners who's averages range from 80% and above. It is for these attributes that a need was seen. The need to start a club that will focus on a learner to learner style of interaction of tutorial assistance. **THE YOUNG ACADEMICS CLUB**, founded by prestige blazer owners of 2013 and 2014 with the support of Mr Lwazi Mbambo as the advisor.

The top priority of the club is to raise learners academic performances by combating the weak spots of learners regarding school work. Work carried out in the club is highly beneficial not only to students in the school but to all the selected learners involved, as they will also be revising the work they did in the previous grades and learn communication skills.

A mutually beneficial relationship that encourages active citizenship, the act of selflessness and putting other people's needs before your wants in order to play an integral part in the success of someone's future. The young academics club, raising the stakes of our education higher for it is our right and in it, our future is bright. The light of our life . A gift of academic rife. The key to a bright future. A path to divine success. The progressive discovery of our true selves. A torch of academic brilliance. A backbone of inner resilience.

Regards,  
Lwazi MBAMBO(Mr)  
Snr. Facilitator St. Matthews High School



