Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter of 2016

This year has started off on a really good foot and we are all rearing to go - we hope you will continue to support us and enjoy our progress throughout the year ahead.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

We are proud to announce the launch of our Early Learning Resource Library (ELRL)! Eighteen ECD centres will now have access to resources such as Theme Packs, resource books, educational games and books, computer and printing facilities on a fortnightly basis.

*With Thanks*

Many thanks to Sunrise Rotary Helderberg for their encouragement and for arranging for us to participate in the vehicle transfers for the children to participate in the development of their Early Learning Programme.
Capacity building is one of our three pillars and we give our heart-felt thanks to everyone who has worked on this project and donated time, money and energy to making it happen.

Part of our focus on Capacity Building this year will be on installing and developing Reading, Numeracy and Fantasy Corners at ECD centres. Please contact us at info@maskhule.org if you would like to donate a unit at a cost of R7500 each.

Never stop reaching for your dream!

We’d like to highlight three of the ECD Centres we mentor that have recently upgraded significantly. Much of this is thanks to donors and supporters - and much of it is thanks to raw determination, selfless hard work and the belief by these women that they can help to make a difference in their community.

**SOPHUMELELA DAYCARE**

in Lwandle, run by Nopinky Nxombe Khaya Tokota

**Before**

**During**

We had loads of fun and were delighted by the very generous donation given in return.

We have to share some of the wonderfully happy faces from the end of 2015 parties have a look at the multiple smiles created by the generous gifts received!

Thanks to Operation Shoebox, Santa Shoebox, ECHO and SAFARI/365, every one of the ECD Centres we mentor were touched by your love, kindness and generosity.
With huge thanks to ECHO for their substantial contribution to this upgrade.

**SINOXOLO EDUCARE**

in Asanda Village, run by Noloyiso Mathayana

Before: in a shack

Step by step!

Getting there ...

**SING, AFRICA! POEMS AND SONGS FOR CHILDREN**

We were thrilled to be approached by Patricia Schonstein with a generous donation of 100 copies of her wonderful book Sing, Africa! Poems and songs for children.

She also gave an additional 100 copies which we shared with Pebbles Project, Anna Foundation, Halli Trust and Thembalitsha.

Thanks to Better Life Organisation for donating six lovely Book Nooks made by Hands of Honour - we have installed these and will complete stocking them as we receive funding.
Noloyiso needs storage space and shelves for the office, kitchen work surfaces, paint and toilets. If you can help contact lee@masikhule.org.

**LITHEMBA DAYCARE**

in Asanda Village, run by Beauty Mkiva

Before

Loving the new building.

Up, up and away!

When Beauty could no longer grow due to lack of ground space, she decided to go up instead! Thanks to Isabelle Scotton, a volunteer from Germany, for helping her with some of these costs.
TRAINING

This year has also seen us start our training in the wonderful new premises at Urban Voice Church - we are very grateful for this lovely space at a reduced fee.

The room is generously sized, carpeted, safe and just lovely to be in - plus it is accessible and conducive to training.

TEACHING ENRICHMENT WORKSHOPS INTRODUCED

Young children from marginalised communities are at risk of not reaching their physical, mental, social and learning potential due to a number of factors. The most important being the dire physical and socio-economic environment in which they live, poor nutrition and attending crèches that are mostly understaffed, unregistered, under-resourced, over-crowded and staffed by untrained women. Over the past 10 years, Masikhule has put measures in place to address these concerns, and our new Teacher Enrichment Workshops should further enhance our impact on ECD in the informal settlements surrounding the Helderberg.

In 2015 we developed an initiative to screen/assess 4 to 5 and 5 to 6 years olds at our Masikhule-mentored ECD centres on an annual basis. The main objectives were to assess the children’s general development (physical, fine and gross motor, perceptual, school readiness, early literacy and numeracy, etc).

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Masikhule Relate Bracelet:
Are you sporting the latest in trendy arm-wear yet? If not, it is time to get your Masikhule Relate Bracelet - and one for everyone you know too!

You could even buy in stock and sell the bracelets to make yourself some tidy cash (cost from Relate is R27 + VAT and selling price is R39).
and with this information, to report to the teachers and principals on the findings; to inform parents on how they can encourage developmental skills and to adapt and improve our training, mentorship and in-service training program according to these results.

From these initial findings, our Occupational Therapist has developed and will implement Teaching Enrichment Workshops throughout the year for pre-school teachers and principals to highlight the challenges the children are facing (based on the assessment results); how they can be assessed in the class; why these skills are important for learning and how teaching can be adapted and enhanced to minimise these problem areas.

During 2016 screening will continue and information will be collated, integrated and reported on.

**EVENTS**

**XTERRATRIATHLON**

Team Masikhule takes on the Xterra Triathlon – Grabouw 2016

20 February 2016
Take a look at this intrepid team of warrior women!
Masikhule salutes you and wishes you well in the build up to this challenge:

http://www.masikhule.org/xterra-triathlon-2016/4501500373

---

**ECHO Charity Golf Day – 4 March 2016:**

ECHO Charity Golf Day - 4 March 2016

There are only a few 4 balls left up for grabs so be sure to book yours now or you may miss out on this fabulous event (bookings confirmed with payment received).

Four-Balls at just R3000 (that is R750 each and includes Welcome Station, Goodie Bag and a Prize Giving Dinner with Paralympian Hilton Langenhoven). Format is Betterball Stableford and non-playing partners can be included for the dinner at R180.

**Bookings are open:** (021) 847 1906 or please contact Des McLeod on 076 314 6160 or davidmcleod@absamail.co.za.
http://www.masikhule.org/what's-new/4506096422

---

**Sunrise Rotary Business Breakfast**
12 May 2016

"South Africa: Challenges and Opportunities" presented by Nicky Newton-King.

Masikhule is very grateful that Sunrise Rotary has chosen to donate the proceeds of this prestigious event to us.