Masikhule makes a positive contribution to the upliftment of communities through skills training, mentorship and capacity building in the field of Early Childhood Development.
Welcome to 2017

We have news to share with you!

This is the first of our quarterly Newsletters this year and we are thrilled about how this year has started. We constantly strive to improve and expand our offering and this year is no exception.

As you may know, we already offer Basic ECD and Advanced ECD Courses, a Business Management Course, Teacher Enrichment Workshops and First 1000 Days training. In January we kicked off with a new course to address a need we identified in our Strategy Session last year, namely a Basic-Intermediate ECD Course (details below). Next month we will be introducing our first Best Nutrition Workshop (see below for more details).

Even more exciting was the news we recently received that the application made by Helderberg Sunrise Rotary to Rotary International for a Global Grant for Masikhule had been successful. We are very grateful to everyone involved in securing this funding and look forward to sharing the results with you over the year.

Our Founder, Léanne Keet, had this to say: "Masikhule is the privileged recipient of the Rotary International Global Grant, in partnership with..."
Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club. In 2015 Masikhule launched a programme to assess, identify and design a training program to rectify and remediate barriers to learning experienced by young children from our disadvantaged ECD Centres. What started out as an ambitious dream has resulted in a promising reality. The Global Grant has made it possible for the Masikhule team to offer teachers from community ECD centres monthly Teaching Enrichment workshops, aimed specifically at how to recognise, assess and address the most common barriers to learning in order to ensure all children receive quality, inclusive and sensitive teaching and play opportunities. Combined with this, the Global Grant will make it possible for us to expand the resources that these teachers have access to through our Early Learning Resource Library, further ensuring that teaching and learning is fun, variable and relevant. The ELRL is also being upgraded to include a computer centre where teachers will have further access to teaching and play ideas."

Introducing the Basic-Intermediate Course

Last year we realised that whilst our Basic ECD Course provides tremendous training in Early Child Development,
we always had to take into account that some attendees had no background at all in ECD, whereas some were already assisting in ECD Centres and therefore had a more advanced understanding of the requirements.

We decided to address this need by introducing Basic-Intermediate Courses available only to teachers and volunteers already working in ECD. This way we can deliver slightly more advanced and relevant material with emphasis on early stimulation as well as the importance of play-based learning activities. One of the attendees at our first Basic-Intermediate Course said: "I have a lot of information to take back to the school, new activities and a new plan! I have learnt so many things that I thought weren't important. The best is that we can share our knowledge with our communities."

Masikhule has reached a point in its development where we are confident that the teachers and volunteers working with the most vulnerable young children in our community have insight into the scope of Early Childhood Development.

**Best Nutrition Workshops**

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**WITH THANKS**

To the following for much-appreciated donations in kind

- Alet de Witt of Y-Knot Embroider It for embroidering our logo onto our table cloths for events at no charge. They look fabulous!
- Ada Buys for donating children's tables - they have found a grateful home at one of the ECD Centres we mentor.
- Op Die Plaas Preschool for donating much-needed mattresses - much appreciated!
- Barney Jordaan and friends for the kind donations in lieu of a birthday gift.
- Julie de Waal for donating a lovely doll’s house for Sonskyn’s fantasy corner and a climbing frame for Rise Shine.
- Janet Keet for donation of books and toys.
- Heidi Stenslunde for the donation of a computer and printer now used by Lulu Ntulini, Masikhule Project Manager and for books and toys for the ELRL.
- Bruce Hedenskog for making our fabulous reading corner units.
Development (ECD). We feel however, that the nutritional status of many of the children is hampering the full learning experience and potential to develop. We need to ensure the children receive the best nutrition possible within the existing severe budget constraints at most of the ECD centres.

We also want to ensure that the ECD kitchen staff realise what an important role they play in the children’s development and learning potential. Under the expert guidance of dietitian, Deborah Hoepfl, the Best Nutrition training, mentorship and monitoring project will be launched in March 2017, with a second Workshop in August.

Huge thanks to Balwin Properties for their wonderful donation of R40 000 to each of the charities involved in the 2016 Balwin Charity Hat Walk! Masikhule was thrilled to be involved for the second year in this festive, family and furries event.
This year we had support from a number of the Early Learning Centres we mentor as Principals, teachers and children all joined in the fun - thanks to you all for being there and being part of the Masikhule family.

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Our ECD Courses for 2017 are filling up quickly - so please contact karen@masikhule.org to book a place. Note that training for those who are unemployed is at no cost - should you wish to book your domestic staff for an ECD Course then there is a fee.

The perfect gift is now available online! Please order and share to support Masikhule Relate Bracelets and the women who make these.

MySchool My Village My Planet Card Drive Cardlets

Thank you to everyone who supported our MySchool My Village My Planet card drive at Woolworths Waterstone.

Remember that your card never expires so if your children have left their school, you can change your beneficiary to a charity organisation close to your heart - namely Masikhule Childcare! You can
First Advanced ECD Group for 2017
making every moment count.

add and change
beneficiaries online:
https://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/update/

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