Léanne Keet, founder of Masikhule, welcomes the principals to the meeting.

Local NPO Masikhule started the new year by holding its annual ‘principals’ meeting.

The organisation, which was established in 2005, trains women in early childhood development (ECD) in the Helderberg region.

“The principals’ meeting is held for general information sharing for the year – establishing and maintaining our ongoing relationship with the principals of the early learning centres we work with and mentors,” said founder Léanne Keet.

These early learning centres educate and nurture nearly 2,000 children from zero to six years in marginalised communities, from Macassar through to Sir Lowry’s Pass.

The women who run the centres have attended many of the Masikhule training courses along with their staff, and have been mentored by Masikhule over the years.

Their main objective is to strive towards being centres of excellence and registration with council’s social development department.

This year, Masikhule is offering the following ECD training at no cost for women from impoverished communities:

- **First 1 000 Days** — from conception to birth;
- **Basic ECD training** for unemployed women and caregivers in creches;
- **Basic teacher training** for teachers in early learning centres;
- **Advanced teacher training** for teachers who want to continue training;
- **Teacher enrichment workshops** for senior teachers and principals;
- **Best nutrition workshop** for cooks at these centres; and
- **ECD business management** for principals.

Masikhule also facilitates training through other organisations, in such activities as first aid, computer skills and the formative power of play.

For more details on the organisation and courses, or to contribute towards the costs for training and mentoring, email Léanne at lee@masikhule.org.

Three of the principals who attended Masikhule’s annual principal meeting (from left) Janetta Brinkhuis (Sunshine Kiddies in Sir Lowry’s Pass), Candice Febuarie (Happy Feet in Strand) and Ntambazanele Sibaji (Bright Future in Zola).

**TASMIN CUPIDO**

Hip-hop fans of the Helderberg should get ready for the hip-hop explosion due to hit the basin next month.

The first-ever Hip-hop Served Fresh event will be hosted by Mojam Entertainment at Superclub Legends at the Gants Centre, Strand on Friday 2 March. And the organisers promise that the fans of the genre are in for a treat.

The event, which will be held in the Helderberg monthly, aims to build a solid and professional platform for hip-hop artists in the area. The concept is the brainchild of Mark Matroos, a former Strand business owner.

He is passionate about hip-hop. “I want to provide local artists with the opportunity to be heard,” Matroos explains. “This platform is for them to express themselves.

The line-up for the first event has already been cemented. The evening’s proceedings will start with the screening of artists’ music videos, followed by sets by DJs Don 1 and Killa B, and live performances by the evening’s performers, Likwit, Shellbeat, Juanita, Chase Lutron and Cream. The evening’s MC will be Miss Lisa B.

“Although none of the artists in the line-up are from the area, we hope to get more performers from the area in the line-ups of gigs in the future.”

The event aims to target people aged 18 to 35, but all lovers of hip-hop are welcome to check out the gig. “The idea is to showcase the hip-hop talents of those living in the Helderberg. The monthly gigs are open to all rappers and b-boys,” he said, adding that anyone interested in joining the line-up in future months can contact him.

Superclub Legends is on the corner of Gants Mills and Primrose streets. Admission to Hip-hop Served Fresh costs R20, and doors open at 20:00.

For more information on the event, or to be part of the line-up at future gigs, contact Matroos on 071 474 3144 or via the Hip-hop Served Fresh Facebook page.

Mark Matroos, hip-hop lover and organiser of Hip-hop Served Fresh, promises the event will entice all local fans of the music genre.