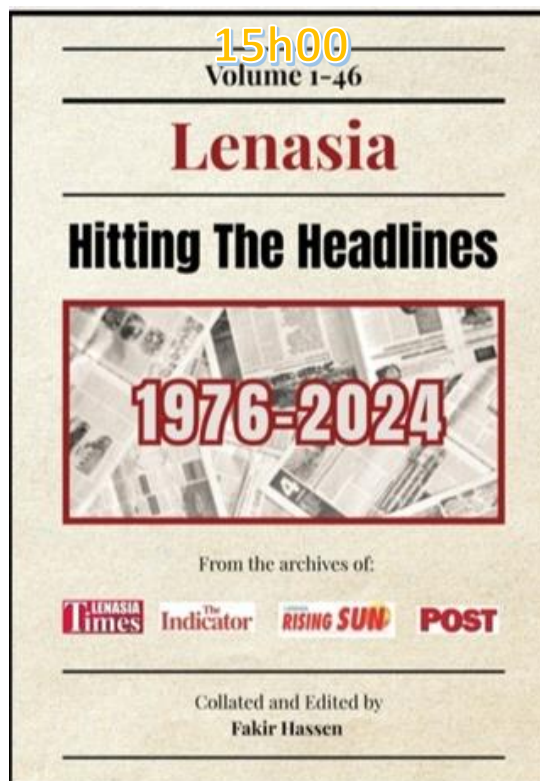




# LENZ TEACHER'S REUNITE

25 OCTOBER 2025

ALPHA PRIMARY SCHOOL



# HITTING THE HEADLINES 1977 - 1980 ( FAKIR HASSEN )

## TIME-TO-LEARN UNCOVERS SHOCKING DEFICIENCIES

After uncovering some shocking deficiencies in school children from the Thomsville - Greyville area, Time-to-Learn, a voluntary group of student-teachers from the Transvaal College of Education, has started a homework centre in Lenasia.

Several surveys conducted among some Thomsville - Greyville children brought to light the following:

- Most homes are overcrowded and too small, especially the Thomsville "two-rooms".
- Home conditions were not conducive to learning.
- Educational stimulation was seriously lacking.
- Most parents from this area could not assist children with homework and studying because of the modern syllabi.
- Lack of necessary educational stimulation



Mr. Mohmood Essop.

In a bid to substitute for these deficiencies Time-to-Learn provides 4 hours a week by conducting a homework centre. The classes are held at the Reform Church, Flamingo Street and the tutors do not do homework for the child but give guidance in study.

LENASIA Times  
AUGUST 1977

## Pentarosa Prize-giving



Mr. Mohamed presenting a student with an award at a prize-giving day held at the Civic Centre by the Pentarosa School. Looking on is radio personality Goolam Majam.

## OVERCROWDING CHAOS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Warnings not heeded say education bodies

CRITICAL overcrowding of schools in Lenasia, Laudium, Rosedale and Artsworld is being blamed for Indian Affairs, Community Development and constructive Indian bodies, which are all connected with Indian education.

While the Department of Community Development had been moving great numbers of Indian families into Indian townships, and thereby increasing the school population, the Department of Indian Affairs had made the concerted effort to build more schools and additional classrooms to existing schools.

The Department of Indian Affairs Planning Commission was fully aware of the critical shortage of schools and classrooms.

It was also informed of the shocking lack of people in the various Indian townships.

But according to education officials, the following department of Indian Affairs did not have the number of schools.

Indian Affairs is supposed to get its statistics and data concerning the increase in schoolchildren and the need for extra classrooms or more teachers. From the Department of Community Development and local representative bodies like the township organisations and the SA Indian Council, various overcrowding education as well as the city schools during the term.

The local schools complained the Department of Indian Affairs with statistics about their annual increased enrolment.

All these warnings, according to education officials, were not heeded since the school that Indian Affairs and the Department of Community Development had been planning to build in other areas.

They said racially differentiated education had robbed them of their dignity and relegated their learning to an inferior level. They said the "apartheid" education drawn up for them was plagued with problems and shortcomings as follows:

- Their syllabi was inferior compared to that of privileged white students.
- Their school were far inferior to that of white schools.
- The amount of money spent by the authorities on a white school child was far above that of an Indian, coloured and African school child.
- There was always a shortage of text books which they were forced to buy.
- Because of the shortage of qualified teachers, students were failing at a high rate due to the poor standards of tuition, which resulted in

## A model school planned ...



... what a playground for the pupils of Park Primary School.



Broken windows ...

The Park Primary School Education Committee is all out to raise that final bit of money to achieve their goal of converting their school into a "model school of which pupils, teachers and parents can be highly proud of."

A group of serious and hardworking parents of the Park Primary School Education Committee are determined that the kids of this school deserve a better environment than what they at present have.

"Just look at these photos and you can see for yourself what the conditions at present at the school are," a spokesman for the Committee said while showing us a pile of pictures of classrooms with broken and cracked walls and windows.

A complete facelift is what the Committee has in mind: turf grounds, mini tennis courts, volley ball and grounds etc. "A healthy environment is what we are aiming for," the spokesman said.

"Our aim is to assist the principal, teachers and pupils by giving them a school with an environment that will make going to school a pleasure — after all its for the benefit of the child," the members said.

Work will start in about a months time, it was learnt.

To raise the necessary funds a float and drum majorette procession is being organised for Friday 24th March (i.e. Good Friday). The procession will start from the Park Primary School to Vulture Street first and then on to Flamingo Street. From there to Hummingbird Avenue and then back to the school.

LENASIA Times  
MARCH 1978

## SCHOOL UNRESTS STUDENT GRIEVANCES FINALLY EXPLODE

THOUSANDS of Indian students throughout the country have come out in total support of the school boycott, started by coloured students.

The students said they had no alternative but to voice their grievances in a boycott demonstration because the authorities handling their education had ignored their pleas over the long years to scrap "discriminatory education and replace it with a universal system of non-racial education".

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- Because of the shortage of qualified teachers, students were failing at a high rate due to the poor standards of tuition, which resulted in

principals grading students by forcing them to take their subjects at lower levels — thus ending their chances of ever getting into university.

Schools were overcrowded to the extent where staff rooms and recreation rooms were being used to help make up for classroom shortages.

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# HITTING THE HEADLINES 1981 - 1982 ( FAKIR HASSEN )

## TEACHERS' ORIENTATION COURSES IN LENASIA

**LENASIA Times**  
FEBRUARY

Teacher delegates from schools throughout the Southern Transvaal, from Meridorp to Standerton, converged on Lenasia early this month for three-day orientation courses.

Lady physical education teachers met at the M. H. Joosub Technical High School, where they learnt and put into action the latest techniques in teaching physical education to our children. Particularly dazzling was a display of the exciting exercises involving long ribbons.

Male teachers of handicraft, woodwork, metalwork and technical drawing gathered at the Trinity High School to learn the newest developments in these children under their care.

## Winners of Nirvana High Cross-country race



**LENASIA Times**  
NOVEMBER

By FAKIR HASSEN  
THE Nirvana High School held a cross-country race in Lenasia for the first time recently.

Two courses were laid out, one for boys and a shorter one for girls. The courses were tough, requiring entrants to go through such obstacles as water puddles and long dry grasses.

Some 600 entrants completed the course.

Our photographs show the winners in the boys' section, Ameen Bhyat, Dina Pillay, and Manoj Sukha with Mr A Bismillah, and the winning girls.



## Farewell to Mahendra Singh

by Fakir Hassen  
AT a function at the Jiswa Centre last week, a number of prominent persons from Lenasia paid tribute to the Principal of the Jiswa Training Centre, Mr Mahendra Singh, who is leaving the school to take up another post in Natal.

Mr Singh had started a new era in the history of the Training centre in the years he had served there, said one of the speakers, and it was regrettable that he was leaving before one of the biggest ideals of the centre, its own premises

with full facilities, had been fully realised.

Mr Singh said that he had been very happy in his years in the Transvaal, where he had been accepted as part of the community, and it was with mixed feelings that he was leaving the Centre.

The Chairman of Jiswa, Dr E. Jassat, handed over a token of appreciation to Mr Singh for his services to Jiswa in particular and to the Transvaal Indian community in particular. Mr Singh is now to head a new school for the disabled in Natal.

## Alpha Primary School is 25 years old!

**LENASIA Times**  
NOVEMBER

THIS year marks an important milestone in the history of the Alpha Primary school. On 9 April, 1957, Alpha Primary school will be twenty-five years old. The school has a colourful and kaleidoscopic history.

Alpha Primary was opened on 9 April, 1957. The school came into being when the Transvaal Education Department transferred the Klopies Indian School to Lenasia. This was the first Indian school in Lenasia. The school was opened by the then Minister of Education, Mr J. G. Hofmeyr, on 9 April, 1957. The school was named Alpha Primary School. The school was the first of five Indian schools in Lenasia. The school was the first of five Indian schools in Lenasia. The school was the first of five Indian schools in Lenasia.

565 pupils and with Mr D Naidoo as the acting Principal. April 1957 brought an end to the Indian Schools being under the aegis of the Transvaal Education Department. All the Indian Schools fell under the jurisdiction of the Department of Indian Affairs, (today known as the Department of Internal Affairs).

On September 20, 1968, the School, first Education Committee and its staff and a meeting was convened to discuss the future of the school. Amongst the members were: R. A. M. Saloojee, Mrs V. Govender, H. M. Dadoo and E. L. Bhebe and Mr M. Hatfield. According to Principal Mr Harry R. Saloojee, the school is on the drawing boards of a new building. "Tremendous efforts are being made by the teachers and staff to convert classrooms to serve as workshops, science laboratories, and needlework rooms," said Mr Saloojee. To mark its Silver Jubilee Anniversary, the Principal Mr H. R. Saloojee, the staff and members of the Education Committee have planned an

Pictures taken at the official opening of the Impala Crescent Primary School



Saloojee's Book Centre this month donated a duplicating machine to Lenasia High School. Picture shows Principal Mr Lorgat (centre) and staff receiving the machine from Mr Ebrahim Saloojee.

## Transvaal School's Exhibition

by Roquiva Hassan

THE exhibition at the M H Joosub Secondary School this week of work by pupils of Transvaal Indian schools drew a large number of unique entries.

The organiser of the event, was Mr Radha Naidoo, Principal of Park Primary School in Lenasia.

Mr Naidoo said that the exhibition was thrown open to all High and Primary schools in the Transvaal, and 45 schools responded, by submitting articles of a very high standard.

Large numbers of viewers visited the exhibition during the last week to see all types of work in handicraft, needlework, and industrial arts including metalwork and woodwork.



Principals of schools with inspectors and inspectresses



**LENASIA Times**  
SEPTEMBER

## Teachers launch Seaside Fund



Some of the principals and teachers who initiated the idea of the seaside fund. From left to right, Messrs. D. Chedour, J. Desai, M. Jeevar, A. Vail and A.S. Munshi.

THE Orient Seaside Fund has been established by a group of concerned school principals and teachers in Lenasia.

The object of the fund is to provide for seaside holidays for children in deserving circumstances.

The Chairman of the fund, Mr M Jivan, says that through proper housing, feeding,

supervision, and recreation, the welfare of the pupils and skill in building human relations can be improved.

Membership of the fund will be open to all Transvaal primary schools and primary divisions of Secondary schools.

Mr Jivan emphasised that a tour would go beyond a mere visit to the beach. It would be supplemented by organised educational excursions under the supervi-

supervision of teachers. The tours will be financed from donations by the community, and sponsors will be asked to contribute R100 towards each child's holiday.

Overwhelming support has already been received from individuals and business concerns who have been approached, and the Fund organisers are now awaiting the outcome of an application for the W.O. number to begin the fund-raising.

# HITTING THE HEADLINES 1983 - 1984 ( FAKIR HASSEN )

## Lenasia School for the Deaf launches building programme

THE Lenasia School for the Deaf launched its building programme at a gala dinner last week.

The Chairman of the School's Board of Management, Mr Barry Omar, said that the building project was born out of the needs of the community, which has

had no such facility up to now.

When completed, the R4m project will have all the facilities for the education of the aurally handicapped child, to allow him an opportunity to enhance his quality of life. In this way he could take his rightful place in society.

for the school.

The guest speaker at the dinner Dr Zac de Beer, said that all charitable work blesses both the giver and the recipient. He said that he was pleased to see the community's willingness to give in order to help others.

Dr de Beer said that there are lots of wrong laws in this country, but, out of evil comes good, and discrimination, when shared, serves to unify the spirit.



Mr Sayed Mia, Mr Zac de Beer and Mr Barry Omar

Referring to Mr Sayed Mia, who was made the first patron of the school, Dr de Beer said that what began as a purely business relationship between them had grown into a mutual regard by two South Africans who shared many common beliefs and ideals.

The Chairman of the Lenasia Society

## Science awards for Impala pupils

SIX pupils of the Impala Crescent Primary School have achieved noteworthy distinctions by winning top awards in a Science Competition organised by the Teachers Association of South Africa.

The six pupils who won the awards are:

- Dharmeshbhai Modi: Std V - First Prize - Cheque R20.

- J Docrat: Std V - First Prize - Cheque R5
- F Fajander Std V - First Prize - Cheque R5
- M Fazander - Std V - First Prize - Cheque R5
- M Ismail - Std V - First Prize - Cheque R5.

R5.

- Ismail Karodia - Std V - Second Prize - Cheque for R15

The competition was open to all schools in the country.

## Inexperienced, but actors do well

### Topaz School's modern version of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'

by Jay Mithal

THE Lenasia Secondary No. 5 School (Topaz) recently presented an abridged and adapted version of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" at the Patidar Hall.

The cast consisted of Standards 6, 7 and 8 pupils. Producer of the play Mr V Pillay said he chose "Hamlet" because "it is considered to be one of Shakespeare's greatest and most popular tragedies; it

has a plot and a story which can be identified even in present time."

He added: "In this adapted version, there is no castle but a huge oil company, there is no king but a chairman of the company."

The original text of the play was unchanged but the players wore modern clothes. Hamlet was excellently portrayed by Hajira Dangor and for a cast consisting of students

who had no previous theatrical experience, the players did very well.

However, the audience found it difficult to swallow a "Modern Shakespeare" as portrayed in this play. The play would have come across better had the original text been adapted to modern language or if the players were garbed in costumes which was compatible to the text of the play.



The pupils who took part in a modern version of Shakespeare's play HAMLET: from left to right - Imraan Munshi, Hajira Dangor, Aziz Dindar, Nadine Pillay, Ruwayda Gani and Sarlis Adam.

## After 45 years Mrs Chetty is retiring.....

A HIGHLIGHT of the programme of the 45th Anniversary of the Impala Crescent Primary School was when the Principal, Mrs. Chetty, was presented with a memento and a certificate of appreciation from the school staff.



Mrs. Chetty with Impala Crescent Primary School staff.

Mrs. Chetty has been teaching at the school since 1939, during that time she has worked in other schools and at the Department of Education.

LENASIA Times DECEMBER

THE Libra Primary School had a special Road Safety Programme organised in Lenasia to commemorate "Road Safety Year."

"The object of this exercise was to involve our children and make them aware of exercising road safety in their daily lives," said the principal Mr Hoosein Ayob.

All the children took part in some

## Libra School held a very successful Road Safety programme



Pupils who took part in the Libra School's Road Safety programme



The Lenasia School for the Deaf and officials from the Department of Community Development

THE Lenasia School for the Deaf has purchased a site from the Department of Community Development to build a modern school with all facilities.

The Chairman of

LENASIA Times

APRIL

the School's Board of Management, Mr Barry Omar, said that the Department of Internal Affairs' Division of Indian Education will finance 95% of the cost of the project and the community will have to fund the rest. This is expected at present to be about R200,000, but with rising costs it could be more.

## School for Deaf buys a site

## Topaz pupils win TASA's maths award



Teacher A Khan with his maths award-winning pupils Pirza Limbada Dori and Ebrahim Hassen (right)

# HITTING THE HEADLINES 1985 ( FAKIR HASSEN )



Anisa Bhana, Shereen Dockrat, Fatima Mayer, Yasmin Ismail, Ayesha Patel and Sumaya Ajam seen with the principal Mr D Naidoo and senior geography teacher Mr I Loonat with a graphic drawing of their class project highlighting the housing problems and shortage among the black, Asian and coloured communities.

by Goolam Majam

PUPILS of Trinity High School investigated the problems of housing within the Black, Asian and Coloured communities in the Pretoria, Vereeniging and Witwatersrand area, as a project for the Geography class.

Senior subject inspector, Mr N M Moodley was astounded with the result and the manner in which the group went about gathering the relevant information.

He said their effort was outstanding and the interest and initiative shown by the group was a reflection of the pupils attitude to their work.

The group working under the supervision of Geography teacher Mr Ismail Loonat interviewed civic leaders, journalists and liaised

with the various government departments in order to complete their project.

Mr Loonat said that the pupils received wonderful co-operation from all departments except the chairman of the Lenasia South East Management Committee, Mr Dinkie Pillay. He refused to talk to the children who were gainfully engaged in a school project.

The pupils based their findings on the statistics available for the year 1982. They found that there was a shortage of 35 000 houses in the urban Black area, 10 000 houses were required in Lenasia and 6 500 for the Coloureds.

In Pretoria, the West Rand, East Rand and Vereeniging the situation was less critical.

**T. LENASIA Times**  
MARCH

## Lenasians to attend World Congress on mental deficiency study

TWO well-known Lenasia personalities are in India, attending the seventh world congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency (IASSMD).

Representing the Jiswa Training Centre will be Mr Prakash Singh, the principal, and Mrs Neeru Bhana, head of department. They are amongst a group of people involved with mentally handicapped children who are attending this well-known conference.

The week-long conference, which began on March 24, is held in New Delhi. This year's theme is "Progress through knowledge in mental retardation" and papers will be presented by more than 25 eminent educationists and sociologists, all experts in the field of the mentally handicapped child.

The congress is a scientific meeting of the highest quality and will have a truly global focus and IASSMD believes that the disseminating and

sharing of new and existing knowledge is the best way to deal with the important problems in mental retardation faced in all sections of the globe.

The programme will consist of keynote papers, special symposia, panel discussions, workshops, group and poster sessions and consultations with experts on programme and research activities.

It will embrace topics on biomedical aspects (including genetics, psychiatry, therapeutic approaches, medical interventions, and remedial methods) in social, educational, vocational and behavioural sciences (including intervention in infancy), attitude change, aging and human relationships; service delivery, policy and management issues; legislation; parents and families; personnel training and international perspectives.

Other issues areas will include social integration, prevention, residential changes, surgical intervention, and the



Mr Prakash Singh, principal of Jiswa Training Centre, and head of department, Mrs Neeru Bhana.

adult life needs of persons with mental retardation.

**T. LENASIA Times**  
MARCH

adult life needs of persons with mental retardation.

"This is an opportunity of a life-time and our trip has been made possible by the kind gesture of South African Breweries. SAB, who have always come to the assistance of the JTC, have financed our entire trip", Mr Singh said before his departure last week.

"We will have the opportunity of not only listening to professors and doctors who are specialists in the field of handicapped children, but will also be able to meet these world famous persons. I am certain we can learn a lot from them".

## Lenz High looks ahead to the second generation

And, according to principal Mr Moosa Lorgat, Lenz High has "without doubt" taken over from the JIHS as the foremost Indian school in the Transvaal.

In the school's 30th anniversary brochure, Mr Lorgat, who has been principal of Lenz High for 17 of its 30 years, says: "From its humble beginnings, the school has emerged as a power house of learning — for through its corridors, students of outstanding calibre have made their mark in the manifold activities of human discipline.

"They have become doctors, lawyers, engineers, university lecturers, teachers, leaders in industry and commerce."

Despite the disadvantages of apartheid education and the inconvenience of long-distance travelling to and from school, many pupils and teachers made the most of the opportunities that came their way.

From an enrolment of 50 pupils with four staff members in 1955, Lenz High now has more than 1 100 pupils and 53 teachers.

The Indicator  
JULY



\* The head of Lenz High for the past 17 years: MR MOOSA LORGAT



**Soweto, Lenasia educators share their experience**

DURING the July vacation a group of Lenasia school counsellors were part of the Careers Centre, Soweto, delegation to the international conference to evaluate the Human Potential under the auspices of the American Society of S.A. Ministers.

A few weeks later the newly-formed Progressive Teachers' League (PTL), formerly Teachers' Steering Committee, fronted a sharing experience related to the conference. This seminar was held at the Lenasia Teachers' Centre.

In his welcome address, Mr. C. Luchman said the PTL was engaged in a number of activities which would update educators on new trends in education.

Mr. Silva Naidoo of Nirsanna Secondary read a paper on "Identifying the

This article was written by a member of the Progressive Teachers' League.

**Workshop**

"Learning Problem". Some aspects highlighted were defining learning disabilities, learning disability problem areas, specific learning disabilities and strategy for remediation.

Mr. Dee Lala of Lenasia Secondary conducted a workshop on "Problems Solving" based on an input by Mr. Harvey Adams of the University of Natal. Small groups were formed to solve word puzzles and non-verbal problems.

A talk on "Education and the Community" was delivered by Mr. Ben Redunde of Topaz Seco-

dary. The Parkway Programme as it operates in Philadelphia, US, was discussed.

This open school approach, initiated by Prof John Bremer, makes use of the skills available in the community in the educational process. There is a great deal of integration and co-operation between the open school and the community.

The executive director of Careers Centre, Mrs. Sebotole Mshunye, spoke fondly of her long standing association with the Lenasia school counsellors.

She invited all present to visit Careers Centre at any time and take advantage of the free career/assistance services.

**JISWA School wins honours**

THE JISWA School in Lenasia showed their mettle when they took the Hon's share of the honours in a special athletic meeting last week.

The sports day for handicapped children was hosted by the Schola Amoris Training Centre at the Municipal Grounds in Umzinto. It was part of the National Year for the Disabled Person.

Handicapped children, from the age of six years to over 18, and from seven training centres took part in the all-day event.

Among the competing centres were Schola Amoris (Umzinto), West Park (Westville), Golden Gateway (Durban), H S Ebrahim (Murrumbidgee) and Sianger.

Iswa took four of the six major awards on offer, including the Sucrose Nissan, Jay Sharma Memorial and the R C Rei Memorial floating trophies. In addition, the Jiswa teachers won the teachers' relay and the female staff of the Lenasia school annexed the tug-of-war event.

"Of course, I am very proud of the pupils and staff. It was the first in Jiswa's history that we took an athletic team out and they defeated all the Natal opposition," Jiswa's principal, Mr. Prakash Singh, himself a former Durbanite, said.

"Some of the staff members and several parents went to Umzinto at their own expense to be with the kids. Their morale support was tremendous.

"Along the way, too, we had tremendous help from people. As the handicapped child cannot travel all the way from Lenasia to the Natal South Coast, we were accommodated at the Newcastle School for Industry and in Durban at the V N Nank School for the Deaf."

**LENASIA Times**  
MAY



**Student group Lesco gets off the ground**

A NEW organisation has been launched with the aim of organising and uniting Lenasia schools, correspondence college and university students.

More than 250 students attended the inaugural meeting of the Lenasia Students' Congress (Lesco) at the Nur-ul-Islam hall last month, according to a spokesman for the new organisation.

He said the aims and objectives of Lesco were:

- organise and unite the students of Lenasia;
- oppose and challenge the apartheid education system and to strive for a relevant, democratic and non-racial education system;
- facilitate communication between parents, teachers and students;
- serve as a co-ordinating structure for progressive student organisations in Lenasia; and
- work with and/or affiliate to any organisation that has similar aims and objectives.

Students from Soweto, Alexandra and elsewhere attended the launch on behalf of the Transvaal Students' Congress (Trasco).

Messages of support were received from organisations such as the Lenasia Youth League, Call of Islam, Soweto Students' Congress and the United Democratic Front, the Lesco spokesman said.

In the opening address, Mr. Prema Naidoo, a member of the Transvaal Indian Congress and the Federation of Residents Associations, urged students to add their voices to the call for a non-racial, democratic South Africa based on the Freedom Charter.

Lesco president Mr. Rashid Seedat said: "Lesco must be a dynamic organisation in the hands of students. It must actively oppose apartheid education and (House of Delegates Chief Minister) Rajivani's control of the education system.

"The building of student unity is crucial to ensure a non-racial, unitary and relevant education system for all," Mr. Seedat said.

**Principals hold glittering ceremony**

SCHOOL principals from all over Transvaal met in Lenasia at the Jiswa Centre recently to welcome new and to bid farewell to old members of the teaching profession.



The retiring chief inspector receiving a presentation from Mr. C. N. Naidoo.



Mr. B. Pather receiving a gift from Mr. M. M. M. Bhecho as a smiling Mrs. Pather looks on.



Mr. M. M. Lorgat, Mr. D. N. Naidoo with the new chief inspector Mr. C. C. Marx.

**LENASIA Times**  
MAY

**New Remedial School**

A REMEDIAL Centre, to serve all primary schools in the Lenasia area, is being established at Sharicrest Primary School in Extension 10.

The centre will provide full-time, intensive, assistance to pupils who are experiencing learning difficulties. It will be staffed by four experienced remedial specialist teachers, and will be supervised by School Psychological Services of the Department of Education and Culture (House of Delegates).

Children who require assistance will be transferred to the centre. A spokesman said each child would follow a programme tailored to suit his/her individual needs, abilities and learning styles. Transport to and from the centre would be provided by the department.

During their attachment to the centre, pupils will share in the extra-curricula activities of Sharicrest. "They will thus retain the benefits of a proper programme of sporting and other activities," the spokesman said.

A feature of the centre will be the close team effort between teachers, parents, school psychologists and other professional people.

Once a child's learning difficulties have been resolved, he/she will be transferred back to his/her original school. Pupils will continue to receive supportive services from the school and from Psychological Services until they are able to fend for themselves.

The centre will initially cater for 40 pupils. As pupils are returned to their original schools others will be transferred to the centre to maintain a roll of 40 pupils.

**The Indicator**  
JUNE



Pupils and staff of Lenasia High collected R26,90 for the Remedial School, and Sharicrest School donated R500,00 this month. The money was handed over at a gathering at Sharicrest attended by Mr. Ajodha (senior DP, Lenz High), Mr. M. C. Mathur (principal, Sharicrest), Mr. D. Lalla (HOD school council), Mr. M. M. Lorgat (principal, Lenz High), and school psychologists Mr. R. C. Chagan and E. William.



Junior primary pupils of Impala Crescent in a scene from the school's 'Alice in Wonderland' concert at the Patidar Hall, Lenasia, this month.

**Progressive Teachers' League looks at links**

ON 12 June 1986, the People's Education Committee, Lenasia, convened a meeting of teachers to discuss the general crisis in black education.

Those present adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of a steering committee, whose task was to investigate the possibilities of launching a new teacher body, as existing teacher organisations such as the Teachers' Association of SA (Tasa) did not adequately address themselves to teacher grievances and broader problems in education.

After widespread con-

**The Indicator**  
OCTOBER

## Soweto pupils apply to Lenasia schools

SCORES of pupils from Soweto have applied to be enrolled at high schools in Lenasia, but their applications are being held up by the 'Indian' education department.

It is understood that up to 300 pupils have applied, and while local high schools are prepared to accept them, principals have been told to refer the applications to the department.

The Transvaal Indian Congress has slammed the hold-up, saying the "permit system is intended to strictly control the access of African students to local schools".

It has urged principals to admit the pupils unconditionally, promising to support them and saying they would not be breaking any law.

Principals are not allowed to comment, but teachers told The Indicator schools had decided in principle to accept African pupils from standards six to eight. "Because of the differences in syllabi, it would be very difficult for matric students to adapt," one of them said.

The department sent a circular to schools asking that applications from African children be referred to it. It is asking principals to do its dirty work. The Indicator put several questions on the applications, and other matters relating to education, to the House of Delegates authorities last Thursday. A spokesman said replies would be given by Friday afternoon, but at the time of going to press on Sunday evening, no statement had been received.

...but run into red tape



## Private Muslim school to be started in Lenz

A PRIVATE Muslim school is to be established in January, the Jamiatul Ulama has announced. No final decision had been taken about where the school would be located, but existing classrooms at LMA, Sunnall-Islam or Saaberie schools could be used. It would cater for primary (grade 1 up) and high (standard 6 up) school classes, said the spokesman. He said the meeting also decided that:
 

- the school be programmed to cater for an integrated system combining both the religious and secular needs of the child;
- the secular subjects be programmed for matric certification purposes;
- the school be conducted as a fee-paying venture employing the "best available teachers who are Islamically inclined"; and
- adequate sponsorship be made available for those pupils who may not be able to afford the fees which "at this stage" would be about R100 per month.

## 15 African pupils in Lenaz schools

ONLY 15 African pupils have been admitted to schools under the Department of Indian Affairs in the Johannesburg area — out of more than 300 applicants.

The number of pupils admitted was revealed this month by Home of Delegates Minister of Education and Culture Mr Kaate Ramdath.

He said 11 applications received from African pupils for admission to Trinity Secondary School in Lenasia have been approved, while another two are also being considered.

Mr Ramdath said a further four African pupils have been admitted to Lenasia's Topaz Secondary School.

In a statement, Mr Ramdath said: "Applications from black pupils for admission to Indian schools are being received and processed on an on-going basis."

"This far in 1987, 222 black pupils and 684 coloured pupils have been admitted to Indian schools. (This figure includes the 15 approved black applicants in the Johannesburg area.)"

"To date, three applications have been received from white pupils and are awaiting finalisation pending a recommendation from the Department of Education and Culture in the House of Assembly," Mr Ram-

dath said. Mr. Ramdath confirmed that about 200 African pupils applied for admission to Trinity Secondary School during the first week when schools reopened this year.

They African pupils have applied for admission to Lenasia Secondary School. Their applications have been referred to the department.

"Three persons have applied directly to the department for admission to Lenasia Secondary School," added Mr Ramdath.

"They have been requested to approach the school's principal to complete the relevant application forms."

Mr Ramdath said each application was "treated on merit and in accordance with the prescribed guidelines."

"We are administering the Indian Education Act, and for practical reasons non-Indians will be admitted provided space is available," he said.

"The Indian education policy provides that black applicants would be considered only after provisions for Indian pupils have been made, no additional staff and special arrangements are necessary and the additional pupils can be accommodated within the current school budget."

## Well-known educationist dies

MR Frank Sangaran, the well known educationist and principal of the Johannesburg Secondary School, passed away on 2nd September.

Born in 1927 his career in education stretched over many years. He was trained as a teacher at the Eurafican Training Centre in Johannesburg. After teaching for several years he was appointed deputy principal of the Fordsbury Junior School. He continued his studies in education and obtained an M.Ed. degree from the University of the Witwatersrand for his thesis: an Historical Evaluation of Indian Education in Transvaal.

In 1971 he was appointed Head of the Department of Education at the Transvaal College of Education in Fordsbury. Frank Sangaran held many positions during his distinguished academic career. He was a trustee of the South African Leadership Trust, a member of the S.A.D.C. Television advisory board, a member of the Southern Transvaal Committee of the Race Relations

Institute; and Deputy President of the Lenasia Tamil Education. Mr. Koobie Naicker, Deputy President of TASA, said in his funeral address: "Mr



Mr Frank Sangaran

Sangaran had endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact by dedicated service in the field of education and community welfare. We in the teaching fraternity will remember with reverence Mr Frank Sangaran for his active involvement in the affairs of TASA. He served as its executive officer for many years. He was Chairman of the Johannesburg Branch of TASA, Chairman of the Transvaal Regional Council and Vice-President for External Matters. His contributions to Teacher Unity, teacher welfare and for a free, equal and relevant education for all South Africans shall always be remembered."

# Now Lenasia High plans to expand its English festival

LENASIA High is delighted by the success of its English festival, the most ambitious of its kind staged in the township.

Scores of students, educators and members of the public attended the various sessions throughout last Saturday.

background of controversy. Several participants, publicly opposed to the tricameral system, had accepted invitations on condition they did not share a platform with House of Delegates members.

A day before the festi-

stressed that the festival was arranged entirely by the school and that no-one else was party to it, all the panelists took part.

Guest speaker was Professor Ian Steadman of Wits's School of Dramatic Art.

## Libra School in Speech Contest



Minesh Bhagaloo, Khalid Bin Ally, Aysha Kola, Azeenah Majam, Farhad Gattoo and Zahed Aboobaker

TWO pupils from the Libra School this month represented the Central Transvaal region in the TASA Oral Communication competition held in Durban.

Those pupils emerged as winners in preliminary competitions held at the M.H. Joubert Technical High School hall on 21 and 22 September 1987.

The results of the preliminary competition were:

STD. FOUR: 1. Minesh Bhagaloo

(Libra)

2. Aysha Kola (Libra)

STD. FIVE:

1. Zahed Aboobaker

(Libra)

2. Khalid Bin Ally

(Libra)

3. S Mousammy

(Flamingo) Trucshai Naidoo

of Libra Primary School, won the top gyzant prize of the East Zone Gyzant competition which was held at the M.H. Joubert Tech. High School on the 9th September, 1987. She went on to victory in the Ugrade Ten section in the final.

# Lorgat steps down

VETERAN educator Mr Moosa Lorgat is to retire as principal of Lenasia Secondary (Lenz High) this week.

His announcement that

he has decided to take early retirement because of ill-health was made at a luncheon for school staff and his family members last week.

Under his headmastership, Lenz High has produced scores of people who have made their mark in various fields.

Mr Lorgat intends writing a book on 'Christian national education' and its

impact on black education, a subject he researched for his Bachelor of Education degree.

He has been a high school principal for nearly 25 years, and principal of Lenz High for the past 20.

In The Indicator next month, Mr Lorgat will take a trip down memory lane, recalling some of the highlights and low points of his long career.

# Teachers told of need for SA unity

By MUNIRA BISMILLA

TEACHERS must work towards a national non-racial organisation — which must be democratic in the true sense — if national teacher unity is to become a reality, says Mr Yusuf Gabru, president of the Western Cape Teachers' Union (Wectu).

Speaking at the Progressive Teachers' League's first annual conference at the Jiswa Centre, Lenasia, last weekend, Mr Gabru said he had "no illusions about the fact that the road to unity is a long and hard one".

He would lead to the "liberation process".

Resolutions were passed on "education for liberation", women, progressive trade unions, detention of teachers and scholars and national teacher unity.

Riot police kept a low profile at the meeting. In addition to Mr Morgan, six others were elected to the PTL executive: Ahmed Moonda (vice-president), Benjamin Richards (secretary), Razak Karolia (treasurer), Mrs S Moonsamy, Azhar Saloojee and Sandra Moodley.

However, he was optimistic that national teacher unity would materialise.

Despite ideological differences, he said, all teacher unions and organisations were opposed to apartheid in education and this dissatisfaction would be the "uniting force" to bring them together under one umbrella body.

The PTL's Mr Billy Morgan, who was re-elected president, said teachers had been "cowed into submission so that the good teacher is the one who goes about his work doggedly, accepts the word of his/her management and inspectorate as though it

were some sanctioned divinity".

He urged teachers to strive for the dismantling of apartheid "because it is detrimental to our children's education, to us as teachers and to society at large".

Father Smgangaliso Mkhatsywa, secretary of the Institute of Contextual Theology and patron of the United Democratic Front, spoke on the role of teachers.



• Mr Yusuf Gabru

The Indicator  
AUGUST

# Science, commerce fundis!



Topaz Secondary of Lenasia won the regional science junior section quiz at the Ramakrishna Hall last month. Its team edged out Lenasia's Azara and Johannesburg Secondary, which took joint second place. Third was Nirvana followed by Roshnee.

In the top picture, Topaz science teacher Mr Basheer Naidoo is flanked by team members Ayesha Wadde (left) and captain Nabeel Moosa. Colleague Shereen Dudhia is not in the pic. Topaz was awarded a trophy and the students received book prizes.



Pictured left are Trinity teachers Mr Mohamed Moosa and Mr Salim Bulbulia with winners Zainab Goodiwala (head girl), Pradip Rama, Haroon Kola (head boy) and Prakash Parsooth.



Azara participants (l-r): Avinash Bhatt, Azhar Doodha, Sumaiya Bismilla, Sallim Essop, Naeem Munshi, Vishnu Naglah, Iqbal Dindar, Divyesh Chiba, Zareena Dawood, Shamima Esackjee, Sumarath Singh, Safiya Mahmood, Sohail Dollie, Radia Motale.

# Azara students get into the habit of winning contests!



Christiana Candisami, a standard three pupil at Finetown Primary, took first prize in the recent Inter-Primary Schools Speech Contest in Lenasia. She was awarded the A S Munshi floating trophy in the intermediate section for her topic 'Where have all the children gone?'

AZARA Secondary is shining in different fields.

The school has won the regional science quiz competition at Mondoor High. It attained gold, silver and bronze awards in the GEC Expo for Young Scientists, won the Inter-High Speech Contest finals and took the first two positions in the Budding Historians Conference.

In the first annual science quiz competition it beat four other schools. Matriculants Ebrahim Hassen, Dinesh Naidoo and Rakesh Rapoan (more than 10A) won a trophy

and book prizes.

In the GEC Expo regional competition last month at Mondoor High, Azara students took gold, silver and bronze awards. Avinash Bhatt won a gold for his work on the human heart and a silver went to Iqbal Dindar.

Sumaiya Bismilla, Sallim Essop and Naeem Munshi for their project on "Problems in Crimbling". Zareena Dawood and Shamima Esackjee took a bronze for their exposition on eye defects. Mohamed Hansa, So-

hail Dollie and Azhar Doodha won a bronze for their construction of a house alarm.

All will now represent Azara at the GEC national final at the University of Pretoria next month.

In the elimination rounds of the Inter-High Speech Contest, Azara was the only school to have participants in the final round in all three divisions. Nariman Dindar, who spoke on 'Time to question your educational system', was first in the intermediate division. Sumaiya

# School for the Deaf's achievement



WHEN a school obtains a certificate for emergency planning, it is a remarkable occasion indeed.

But when a special school receives such an award, the occasion surely becomes

much more important.

Last week the M.C. Kharbai School for the Deaf of Lenasia were awarded an Emergency Planning Certificate by the Johannesburg Civil Defence Corps, the

first school in Lenasia to receive this award.

"The need to respond quickly and appropriately in an emergency is vital and such action assumes an even greater importance when one is dealing with children

whose hearing is impaired," Mr Sini Padiachi, principal of the school, told LENASIA TIMES.

"Therefore, we are proud to be the first school in Lenasia to receive this certificate."

# HITTING THE HEADLINES 1990 – 1991 ( FAKIR HASSEN )

## Protests against handling of education and teachers' plight **TEACHERS ON THE MARCH!**

LENASIA saw a massive march through the main streets of the township this month.

The march was a protest against the House of Delegates handling of the Indian education and the teacher situation.

Principals from all the schools were at the head of the five kilometer long procession, which started at the Powerlines Sports Complex, wound its way up Rose Avenue to the local HoD offices at the HNJ Centre in Hollycock Avenue.

The protest march was organised by the Southern Transvaal Teacher Unity Forum (STTUF), comprising of members from the Teachers Association of South Africa, Pro-



from Lenasia, and other areas such as Fordsburg, Laudium and the East Rand, participated in the long trudge. Some were sporting banners demanding equality in educational and teachers' complaints.

When the march ended a six-page memorandum was presented to the HoD representative, Mr I A Ismail, who accepted it on behalf of Department of

Culture in the HoD. Neither the Chief Executive director, Mr A K Singh, nor any of the senior officials or inspectors in the Transvaal were present.

**LENASIA Times**

**JUNE**



THE Greyville Primary School celebrated its Silver Jubilee in grand style this month when parents and supporters were treated to two nights of exciting entertainment — yes, it was the school concert held over two nights at the Patidar Theatre.

Talent galore, that is the only way to describe what the pupils of Greyville dished out. Beautiful stage decor and a variety of items had the audience sitting right till the end.

One of the oldest school in Lenasia (built in 1965), it is about time the school building was brought down and a new one put up. What is the delay when all other areas have been given their share of a proper school building?

Principal Ebrahim Patel assured the parents that a new building has been promised for 1991. LENASIA

TIMES is prepared to champion this cause and we will wait till next year to see what happens. The Education Committee, parents and this newspaper will campaign vigorously come 1991.

**LENASIA Times**  
**SEPTEMBER**



Principal Mr E Patel  
...a new building promised in 1991.



Head of Department and one of Lenasia's pioneer educationist Mr A Joseph as the MC

## Country touch adds spice to Trinity's 21st birthday bash

IT MAY be small in numbers, but it's big in spirit. Lenasia's Trinity High celebrated its 21st birthday in rollicking style this month.

The day's events started at 10am and finished close to midnight. The climax was in the marquee where a variety concert was held on a makeshift stage.

There was plenty of noise, confusion and some chaos. But that added to the charm of the occasion, turning it into a country-style fair for the big crowd.

The highlight was undoubtedly the last event of the day -- the 'Mr Legs' contest. Trinity's male students, in drag, wiggled and giggled their way around the stage.

They came close to emulating the real females who put on a fine fashion show.

But there were plays and sketches, gymnastics and aerobics, some good, some a little chaotic, but it was great fun for all, as happy principal Mr Harun Ebrahim watched. Teacher Mr Eugene Moonsamy keeping the crowd in good cheer as a lively MC.

Earlier, Dr KC Naik, of the department of computational and applied mathematics at Wits University, was the guest speaker.

Education committee chairperson Mr Barrie Omar expressed delight with the way the celebration turned out and praised the staff and pupils for their input.

## Principals praised as nearly 1 000 African pupils enrol in Lenasia

OMHLE, the organisation of the homeless, has praised all principals in the Lenasia area scuttling apartheid.

Omhle spokesperson Mr Basheer Logat said some 800 African pupils from camps of the homeless and other nearby areas had been accepted in Lenasia schools.

"Another 200 applications are pending. We are satisfied that artificial race classifications are not being used," he added.

Omhle, however, still demanded a single, non-racial education system.

Meanwhile, the HoD department of education and culture has promised that no teacher will be retrenched.

At a meeting with officials of the Teachers Association of SA (Tasa), acting chief executive director Mr M Pillay also said 600 "elderly" teachers would be given the option to retire prematurely at 55 years and over.

### Vacancies

He said a "floating pool" of educators on permanent appointment would be created to fill vacancies when they occur.

"The apparent surplus of educators in the greater Durban area does not mean that there are countrywide redundancies. There are many vacancies in Northern Transvaal and in the Transvaal which educators from the coast are reluctant to fill," he said.

Mr Pillay added that the department was "striving" to find suitable posts for teachers who had as yet not been allocated teaching loads, and for the newly qualified educators.

**The Indicator**  
**JANUARY**

## On this successful trail of Progress



PROGRESS Primary of Lenasia Ext 5 has hit the winning trail.

At the Transvaal Science Fair held at Azara Secondary last month, Progress pupils were overall winners in the primary schools section.

Anisa Jadwat, Zakiya Bulbulia, Reshna Daya, Riaz Mangel and Parmanand Naran won the Transvaal shield, and gold and silver medals, says science teacher Mr V M Chetty.

Anisa took second position in the Transvaal at the English Teachers Society's speech contest finals at the Jiswa School in Lenasia Ext 8 on 4 September.

Progress's chess team were overall winners in a chess competition held at Libra Primary last month.

Says acting principal Mr Thakur Singh: "All Lenasia primary schools participated in the chess competitions. The team will compete in the national competitions later in the year."



Above: From left, Anisa Jadwat, Parmanand Naran, Reshna Daya, Zakiya Bulbulia and Fliaz Mangel with teacher Mr V M Chetty

Left: Anisa Jadwat, runner-up in the speech contest

## Well done, girls



Nazarana Khan

GIRLS dominated Highveld Primary's annual speech contest at the MH Joosub Tech Hall on 16 May.

The adjudicators, Mr J Vandeyar and Mr MF Hassen, both of Lenasia Secondary School, had to make difficult decisions.

Winners and runners-up were:

Category 1 (class one): Anisa Vadi and Nazarana Khan.

Category 2 (class two and standard one): Meserina Sewetsi and Musarrat Haye.

Category 3 (standards two and three): Shobna Rowjee and Namita Kana.

Category 4 (standards four and five): Rochelle Chetty

# HITTING THE HEADLINES 1992 - 1993 ( FAKIR HASSEN )

## Greyville School is tops



Mathematics geniuses Irooska Govindsamy and Mariam Motala with their Maths teacher Mr C S Moodley.

GREYVILLE Primary School showed South Africa what Maths is all about.

Last Friday, two 12-year-olds from the school walked away with the title in the 1992 Old Mutual Maths 24 national championships, held at the Indaba Hotel

outside Sandton. Mariam Motala and Irooska Govindsamy defeated 17 other primary schools in the country-wide competition which has involved one million children from 9 000 primary schools.

They beat the more-funded team of Marc Wartenweiler,

12, and James Hillburn, 13, of Blairgowrie Primary. Third place was taken by the Manthe Primary team of France Matebesi, 14, and Abel Gaberone, 12.

## Susheela breaks new ground

By Gulam Majumdar

THE precepts of a woman's place in Indian society have changed dramatically in the last two decades. However, in South Africa, women in upper management roles are still in a great minority, and an Indian woman in the position of a school principal is a rarity, especially in the Transvaal.

Susheela Moon-samy, acting headmistress at Harmony Primary School is such a person. She is the first female to break new ground in the previously male dominated domain since the establishment of Lenasia 39 years ago.

Deep rooted in tradition, the 40-year-old Susheela is not a total feminist but a liberated woman who is opposed to discrimination based on sex.

"There are many dedicated and very capable female

teachers around and now that the 'ice has been broken,' I long to see the day when females are officially appointed as Principals in the area," she says.

Although Susheela is only acting Principal at Harmony Primary since the beginning of the year, she has put her heart and soul into the job maintaining an open-door policy with the staff, pupils and parents. This has resulted in tremendous parental support and the school has had positive response from the various tasks undertaken.



Lenasia gets its first headmistress

## Nirvana is tops!

A LENASIA school proved to be the best when they out-smarted several other high schools in a national science quiz.

Nirvana Secondary School defeated four other schools in the

finals to win the first-ever televised East-Net science quiz.

The five teams, of three Std. 9 pupils each, tested their knowledge and wit against each other and a science ques-

tionnaire prepared by the Department of Education and Training in the House of Delegates.



The whizz kids: Hiten Hari, Shamil Gowen and Ashik Nannoo. Behind them are Mr G Mashev (Senior science teacher), Mr R Mohamed (Principal), Mr R R Polah (QED - Scientist) and Mr D Pridvey (Senior science teacher).

## Honours for Penta Rosa school



PENTA Rosa Primary School achieved two honours in a recent national competition.

## Sobs and tears as Nurul Islam Girls' High School closes

By Yussuf Nazeer

THERE were sobs and tears in classrooms and corridors of the famous non-racial, non-sectarian Nurul Islam Girls' High School which sadly closed its doors after four years of enterprising education.

The school's pioneering founder, Dr Mohamed Momoni, said the closure was forced on the school by a number of unforeseen factors, the dominant one being the country's economic recession with escalating running costs.

Many parents, he said, simply could not pay the necessary fees needed to run the private school with an enrolment of about 40-50 pupils from Standards six to matric.

And with the continuing drop in enrolments, the school could no longer continue to meet its overheads. He did not elaborate on the other factors.

Teachers and parents took their pupils to other schools in Lenasia to get them enrolled.

Most of the schools were overcrowded.

Meanwhile, the closure of Nurul Islam's Girls school has also shattered a novel educational dream which the Principal Mr Ahmed Vawda and his teachers were working on.

Mr Vawda, a leading Islamic and secular educationist, who was Principal since the school's inception in 1989, said the closure was a great disappointment to him and his qualified teaching staff of eight who were involved in building new concepts of Islamic education into the pupils.

"We were inculcating in our students the understanding of looking at the world through broader visions. There had to be contact with wider experiences of life in order to come to terms with the realities of the day," Mr Vawda revealed.

He said the students learning experiences were structured to go beyond traditional stereotype studies. "Besides

their standard academic subjects which they studied," Mr Vawda added, "we introduced self-development programmes to encourage the growth of leadership qualities."

"We tried to make our students acutely aware of international events, of what their fellow humans around the world were experiencing in terms of pain, suffering and joy in order to heighten their sense of concern and compassion."

"There had to be an inter-play with the world and its different peoples and cultures on a broad universal basis. This is what Islam's wider perspectives called for, and this is what we were endeavouring to achieve at the Nurul Islam school," Mr Vawda said.

It was the termination of this educational vision, he added, which came as the hardest blow to Nurul Islam's students and teachers. He hoped that the teachers who had gone elsewhere to continue their teaching career, would continue to impart this educational goal to other pupils and students.

Meanwhile, the Nurul Islam Primary school (from Grade 2 to Standard 2) is still functioning. It is a co-educational (boys and girls) school being run by a committee of parents and teachers.

Parents hope this school would eventually develop into another co-educational private high school in a future South Africa with a better economic climate.

## Alpha Primary girls scoop top prizes in speech contest



Teacher Ms Puvanesvary Pillay with trophy, flanked by, Nazera Karani (left), Rookaya Surtee, Trishna Mistry, Bhavita Nana, Kumeshnie Padayachie, Imtiaz Ismail, Shobha Mistry, Sangeeta Mistry, Vindana Chhibabhai, Ameera Adam, Kavita Mistry and Kavita Bhowan. Insets: Ushanta Naidoo and Avishkar Ajoodah (right).

## Apex excels in both sport and academic performances

THE pupils of Apex Primary School must be complimented for their meritorious achievement at both sport and academic performances.

At the annual volleyball tournament held at Harmony Primary on the 6th June, the Apex

boys beat All Primary and the Apex girls beat the Progress school in the finals. What makes this victory more remarkable is that for the fourth year in a row the Apex boys have reigned as champs.

The Apex Primary

primary and the Apex girls beat the Progress school in the finals. What makes this victory more remarkable is that for the fourth year in a row the Apex boys have reigned as champs.

The Apex Primary

## Lenasia Secondary scores major double



The debate team: Haqiqatunnisa Mohamed, Mr R Jajbhay (coach), Nitasha Outhar and Fatima Cassim.

LENASIA Secondary School students brought new accolades to their school last week when they outclassed other students in two tough major competitions.

In the first competition, Lenz High was adjudged the winner of the South African Institute of International Affairs debate on the Kashmir Crisis facing India and Pakistan.

Representing Pakistan they outclassed well-known private and government schools like King David, Marian College, Deutsche Schule, St Andrews High and First National College. The UN Security Council-style debate involved four

month's of research, mentoring and discussion and it all paid off the schools Haqiqatunnisa Mohamed, Fatima Cassim and Nitasha Outhar.

In the second competition, Johannesburg City Council's Air Pollution Project, involved a first-hand study of air pollution in Johannesburg and its effects.

Of the many schools that entered, Lenz High's contribution was declared the best.

The student's, whose entry included original photographs, taped interviews and a colourful chart, won overwhelming praise from the panel of judges.

Their work 'Air Pollution

in Lenasia', won for the school science equipment and research books for the library.

## Progress Primary is 25-years-old

PROGRESS Primary School in Lenasia celebrates its Silver Jubilee this year and will be hosting a two-day fete on 16 and 17 September. In its 25 years of existence the school has made tremendous all round progress.

A school spokesperson Progress's pupils have been known to achieve top honours in the academic field and sport. Pupils have also been successful in art competitions.

The spokesperson said: "Former Progress pupils make up the bulk of students from Lenasia attending universities. These students either qualify as doctors, lawyers, opticians, pharmacists or teachers."

"Over the years this school has boasted to have had some of the best soccer teams in Lenasia. In recent years, its athletes and cricketers have brought honour to the school. Many of the school's cricketers have earned either local or provincial colours."

Progress Primary was the fourth school to be opened in Lenasia. In the latter half of the 1960s there was a strong need from the community in the vicinity for a school since the other three schools were too far away for pupils to attend and were already

filled to capacity. The influx of people from Fordsburg and surrounding areas further prompted the need for a school.

According to the spokesperson for the first time in Lenasia, the then Department of Indian Affairs approved the construction of a brick built school. "All the other schools in Lenasia — both primary and secondary — were pre-fabricated asbestos structures."

"At the time the department gave little attention to aesthetic appeal in the construction of school buildings. Facilities at the schools were limited. All that was provided was offices for the principal and for the secretary, a staff room, a stockroom, a multi-purpose room, cloakroom, caretaker's quarters, and 20 ordinary classrooms."

"Amongst other things the staff room doubled as a sick bay, offices for heads of department and a kitchen and stockroom for physical education apparatus. At one stage the staff room was also used as a needlework room," said the spokesperson.

The first principal to be appointed at Progress Primary School was Mr B Pather, popularly known as Dolly Pather. "Under his principalship the school made tremendous progress. A real stickler for discipline,

Mr Pather made every effort to ensure that the culture of learning reigned supreme."

In 1985 Mr Pather was seconded to Novena Primary (now Lenasia Teacher's Centre). Mr Pather was pursued by a string of principals who headed the school then onwards.

The spokesperson said: "As far back as 1986 the school was embattled with the department for specialist rooms and additional classrooms. The painstaking efforts of its principals paid off when from once humble beginnings an administration block is now nearing completion."

"The block comprises offices for the principal, deputy principal and secretary. It includes a committee room, sick bay, cloak rooms, staff rooms, kitchenette and a stockshop. There is also provision for a library, general-purpose, handicraft, needle work, physical education store room and change rooms."

"Some existing rooms will be converted to offices for heads of department, stock rooms, an art room and a science room. With these additional facilities Progress Primary will proudly take her place amongst the finest schools in Lenasia."

## Impala Crescent's school concert with a difference

By Iqbal Gaffoor  
THE recent variety concert of the Impala Crescent Primary School brought to life the various cultures existing in South Africa.

Entitled "One Nation, Many Cultures," the scenes in the various performances at the Gandhi Hall highlighted the different cultures in a united country.

The guest speaker, PWV MEC for Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture, Mr Peter Skosana, was invited for the occasion. But he could not make it. The evening's performances got underway after a prayer by acting principal, Mr Ronnie Morgan, and the singing of the national anthems. The highlight of the evening was "New Agenda," a play staged by the Std 5 pupils.



And her stepmother is Dipna Magan



And Ishiyak Gaffoor played Zac de Beer and Aslam Osmay played Nelson Mandela.



Sudesh Daya played Amitabh Bajbansi

The Indicator  
SEPTEMBER

## Cheer as Mandela visits Greyville Primary

By Munira Bismilla

OOZING warmth and charm, President Nelson Mandela told pupils of Greyville Primary School in Lenasia Ext 2 that he loved each and every one of them but he would love them even more if they studied hard and passed their exams.

The President, Gauteng's Premier Tokyo Sexwale and Education Minister Mary Metcalfe visited Lenasia's oldest primary school last week. The visit was to ob-

serve conditions at the school and to foster co-operation between pupils, teachers and parents. ANC MPs Ahmed Kathrada and Ismail Vadi accompanied the trio on their tour of the school.

Excited pupils, referred to as "flowers of the nation" by Mr Sexwale, listened to the Mr Mandela talk about the importance of education and the evils of drugs.

"Each and everyone of you is a leader but there are certain things you must not do. Never use drugs. Drugs de-

## Lenasia educationist records historical poems for posterity

WELL KNOWN Lenasia educationist, Melvyn Roger Masher (52) who was a principal at various primary and high schools for 17 years since 1972 before retiring to help establish a number of private schools in the Johannesburg area, is planning to publish a book of historical poems that records the events, tears and triumphs of the apartheid era.

Critics who reviewed

ed the poems felt it would be a valuable contribution to South Africa's history which must not be forgotten despite the death of apartheid. Tomorrow's children who may never know of the sufferings and struggles that their oppressed parents and grandparents had gone through, will have to rely on the work of poets, writers, journalists, playwrights and artists who recorded this history, they said.

As a school pupil, Melvyn displayed two talents — drawing and poem-writing. But he had never kept any of his early work.

"When I was in high school my inspiration was fired by such noted English poets as John Milton, Shelley, Keats, Wordsworth and others such as Roy Campbell, and it was only in 1986 that I began to write serious poetry which I started filing away," Melvyn recalled.

"My switch to politicised so-called protest poetry came after reading the works of well known South African poet-writers such as Don Mattera, Oswald Mtshali, Dennis Brutus and others, and I began to follow their style."

Of the scores of poems he had written over the past decade, Melvyn passed on several of his originals to friends and acquaintances to read. They were never returned. They are now lost-forever, he said with touch of regret.

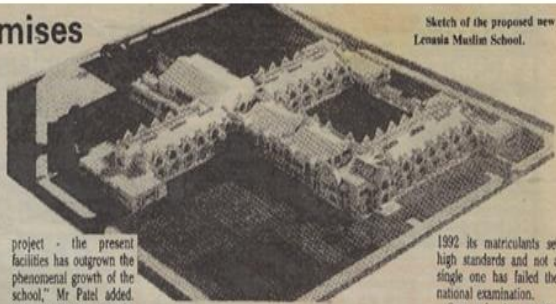


Melvyn Masher

## New premises for the Lenasia Muslim School

THE Lenasia Muslim School (LMS) has outgrown its present premises and will soon move to ultra modern facilities.

This was announced by the school's principal, Mr



Sketch of the proposed new Lenasia Muslim School.

project - the present facilities has outgrown the phenomenal growth of the school," Mr Patel added. "We are hoping that the R10-million project, headed by Mr A K Latif and myself, will be completed within two years. The new

school will provide all the facilities, including those lacking at our present

home, and for a much larger group of students." The LMS has been a model of success. Since

1992 its matriculants set high standards and not a single one has failed the national examination.

One of the pupils, Sheeren Ismail was one of the four top students in Lenasia last year, scoring six distinctions.

## Model Primary School to celebrate its 30th year

THE Lenasia Model Primary School will be hosting an open day to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

The red letter day is planned for March 24, to celebrate 30 years of educational, sporting and cultural development.

From humble beginnings in pre-fabricated buildings, the school has grown. And since it opened its doors of learning, it has produced several professionals and persons who made their mark in their respective communities. Among

those who passed through the corridors are lawyers, teachers, doctors, and many in commerce.

In addition, all the members of the school's parent committee are former Model pupils.

"We want all people associated with our school to congregate on March 24 to celebrate our 30th anniversary," said deputy principal, Mr E M Tagari. "This is an important milestone in the history of our school and we want all who were part of it to be there to mark the oc-

casion".

Several activities have been planned for the day, including a mini flea market, fun and games, cultural items and live bands. Special messages from dignitaries will also be received.

There will also be a concert and a lavish banquet to mark the occasion. Proceeds will be utilised for the completion of sporting and academic facilities at the school.

"It must be noted that the success or failure of an educational institution is judged by its contribution to the general upliftment of the community as a whole," added Mr Tagari.

"In this context, we are appealing to everybody to come forward and assist us in the activities and share in this historic occasion at Lenasia Model Primary. "All our teachers, pupils, parents, guardians and well wishers - past and present - are invited to join us in our celebrations. We don't want to venture into this alone."



Gauteng's Education MEC Ms Mary Metcalfe cutting the ribbon at the official opening of the Shree Bharat Sharda Mandir School

## Shree Bharat Sharda Mandir officially opens its private school

LOCAL government officials and community leaders attended the official opening of another private school in Lenasia.

Gauteng MEC for

Transvaal United Patidar Society (TUPS), was the realisation of months of preparation. It opened its doors to pupils at the beginning of this year.

LEBOGANG Maja, a pupil from the Jiswa School in Lenasia, had the honour of hoisting the International Special Olympics flag at the opening ceremony in Toronto, Canada, this year.

This is the second time a South African athlete was given this honour. In 1993 an ice skating member lit the torch.

When SA participated in the first World Winter Games in 1993, they were represented by 11 athletes. This year the SA team comprised of 46 members - 23 figure skaters, 9 speed skaters and 24 floor hockey athletes.

This year's World Winter Games were held in Toronto, from February 1 to 8.

"There SA delegation was warmly welcomed by the Canadians," said coach T.K. Pather.

"Even though our athletes came up against

## Jiswa School hoists Special Olympic flag



Coach T Pather with Brain Mathys and Lebogang Maja

international competitors. They brought home two golds, one silver and three bronze medals.

THE elections for the governing council of Park Primary School reminded one of the historic 1994 elections - with long queues the order of the day.

A total of 11 parents were nominated for the six positions.

After a secret ballot, conducted along similar

## Park Primary school's governing council elections

Our photograph shows the principal of Park primary, Mr A Ajoodha, introducing the electoral officer, Ms Aslaah Omar to the crowd.

PICS BY GOPAL NABANSAMY

## Exchange student returns

EXCHANGE student 17-year-old Phillip Ehrenreich (middle row 6th from left returns) home to Hamburg in Germany next week after spending almost a year in Lenasia, S. Africa. He is shown with students from class 12E of the Lenasia Secondary School. Second from left in the same row is Biology teacher Miss R. Naidoo.

## Nirvana officially opened - 30

ONE of Lenasia's oldest schools, Nirvana Secondary, was officially opened earlier this month.

The school, established in 1964, had steadfastly refused to hold an official opening ceremony in protest against the apartheid government.

It was opened by African National Congress MP and presidential advisor Ahmed Kathrada on 7 August at a function at the school. Kathrada unveiled a plaque to mark the school's official opening as former principals of the school and dignitaries looked on.

South African ambassa-

dor to Iran, Mosi Moola, was among guests who had graced the historic occasion. Others present included ANC MPs Isu Laloo Chiba, RAM Salojee and Ismail Vadi, and councillor Yosof Salogee.

Nirvana's first principal B Moodley, 85, now resident in KwaZulu-Natal, travelled to Lenasia for the opening.

Nirvana also celebrated National Women's Day at its opening.

Speaker after speaker applauded the school for its resistance against apartheid. Its pupils and teachers were at the centre of boycotts, protesting against apartheid's local elections and

## Harmony celebrates 15th birthday

HARMONY Primary School in Lenasia Ext 5 celebrated its 15th anniversary in fine style earlier this month when it staged a fun and sports day for its pupils.

The event aimed to raise funds for the general upliftment of the school. Parents and members of the School Governing Body (SGB) attended the event held over two days.

Pupils were taught leadership qualities, being responsible for the master of ceremonies portfolio over the two days.

Some of the activities included a Mr and Miss Harmony, talent search, solo and group singing, face painting and jumping cas-



Miss Harmony Paballo Makcato flanked by first and second princesses Jennifer Challen (left) and Beverly Scheepers.

ties. The school also staged a soccer tournament.

Principal Mr Mohammed Farouk Hassen said the fun

day was a huge success through the efforts of teachers, parents and pupils.

## Educationist Rathinasamy honoured

for 1998, for his dedication and life long service to the community of Lenasia.

Mr Rathinasamy contributed to education, as principal of Nirvana High School from 1959 to 1991 and as a member of different teachers' organisation, including SADTU.

He also has an outstanding track record in community,

having served various welfare organisations. Mr Rathinasamy was also in the forefront in fighting injustices in South Africa and the struggle against apartheid.

Despite temporary health setbacks, he continues to serve the community. He is currently on the local civic association and is a member of several religious and social organisations.



## A first for MC Kharbai school as it compliments its first matriculants!

THE MC Kharbai School for the Deaf hosted a special evening on Saturday — to compliment their first set of matriculants. Previously, deaf pupils completed the equivalent of a matric, the N3. This results in the newspapers in a few weeks time.

set of matriculants.

Previously, deaf pupils completed the equivalent of a matric, the N3. This results in the newspapers in a few weeks time.

"Applications for tertiary education for our candidates was made at Unisa, JCE and Springfield College and, I

## Nur-ul Islam hosts international educationists at school

NUR-UL-ISLAM School on 17 February hosted a group of internationally acclaimed Islamic education giants during their two-day stop-over in Gauteng.

to discuss education manuals for private Muslim schools.

Islam also launched his new CD which can be used in the school curriculum.

## HITTING THE HEADLINES 2000 – 2001 ( FAKIR HASSEN )

**ONE OF** Lenasia's newest schools, Al Aqsa, scooped existing institutions by sweeping the board at a recent regional speech contest.

Pupils from the school took three first prizes and a second in the four categories that were contested at the Lenasia Secondary Hall on May 9. Grade 1 pupil, Bashiera Mahomed walked away with the honours in Division 1, for Grade 1 pupils, with her "Ghosts". She outspoke six other pupils from other schools in the district.

Masecha Waja followed her in her talkative father's footsteps by winning Division 2 (Grade 2 and 3). Her topic was "Days of our Lives".

honour to the school," said Al Aqsa principal, Mohamed Sayed Saljee.

"All credit must go to our hardworking teachers — Julie Essack, Norma Pillay

### Al Aqsa sweeps the board at regional speech contest



Our picture shows the teachers, Julie Essack, Norma Pillay and Soraya Lackhine, with the winning pupils: Raeesa Ebrahim, Besheera Mahomed, Masecha Waja and Muboen Akhalways.

### Lenz High learners return from exciting Denmark trip

BY RAFIQ JAJBHAY

"THE experience of a lifetime", was how most of the students and teachers of Lenz High described their study tour of Denmark.

The 27-strong group has just returned from a ground-breaking intercultural exchange among a South African school and three Denmark schools.

Their hosts, pupils and teachers from the schools, exposed them to a variety of experiences, many of which reflected a society very different from ours.

One learner, Shaimal Bhika said: "The Danes love art, thus they have many paintings in their homes. They also love their pets like they do their children."

Another learner, Jolene Naidoo, added: "They are

main island Zealand across a magnificent bridge by train to Jutland — an area very much rural and also very interesting.

Sightseeing trips included visits



ZODIAC primary school was crowned chess champions to the millennium year.

In this year's final Zodiac ousted Park while Flamingo received

bronze medals for their effort.

Other schools that participated in the competition was progress, Libra, Model, patidar and Greyville.

The champion school's Deenan Kundan, Keshnee Naik, Leandra padayachee, Shaniel Ooka and reshad Subjee received gold med-

### Kharbai School for the Deaf rejoices at 100% pass rate

THE M C Kharbai Class of 2000 rejoiced as they successfully completed their schooling years with a thrilling 100% pass rate.



The M C K Class of 2000. Standing from left: Tejal Jivraj, Gerard Padayachi, Annah Makume, Faith Moia, Emmanuel Tshwagong. Middle Row from left: Mateboho Victoria, Candice Morgan and Sebelelo Nhlapo. Seated from left: R Naidoo (Teacher) and Braam Dyrarvane. Not in the photo: Johannes Tlali

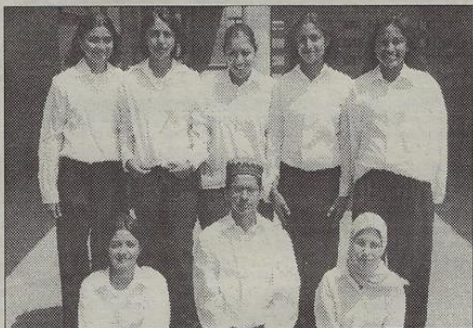
### Lenz learners join US colleagues in prestigious photo exhibition

EIGHT learners of the Lenasia Secondary School are presently involved in a prestigious International Childrens Photograph Project called "My World Our Children".

The project began in November 2000 when learners from Lenz High, Dr Vilakazi Secondary School and The Ridge School were "twinned" with students from the Indianapolis Art Centre in the U.S.

The learners from both Johannesburg and Indianapolis attended two workshops before taking pictures over a two-week period. They then reviewed all the photographs and selected the exhibition images — 60 in total.

The exhibition began touring the US in March for six months with a special showing at the



Standing from left: Nayanta Dayah, Faheema Valymia, Bavika Bhowan, Nandini Nagin and Deneshree Govender.

Kneeling from left: Deepna Nagar, Ahmad Mahomed, Faatima Moosa.

### Retired educationists to provide tuition to students

TWO retired educationists have joined hands to provide a tuition and community centre in Lenasia. Anguth Ajoodha

and Ismail Sujee, Lenasia's own "William Smiths", who were prolific mathematics and science educators at

Nirvana Secondary School from the 60's to the 80's, have established the Lenasia Tuition Centre, to provide tuition in Science and Mathematics for Grades 8 to 12.

The centre will also

# HITTING THE HEADLINES 2002 – 2003 ( FAKIR HASSEN )



Amina Goondiwala...retiring after 35 years of teaching

year cannot be surpassed."

Amina feels the same joy, when learners she taught years ago approach her in the street to in-

roduce themselves. "When they share their success stories I feel honoured to have been a part of their lives."

Like her teaching career, Amina has been left with mixed feelings on her early retirement. But, she has the opportunity of reflecting on the various people who shaped her life-experience over the years – learners, colleagues, parents and the communities of Lenasia and Mayfair.

"I would like to thank all those who helped me along

the way. Each and everyone has enriched my life in some way." Amina said she would like to spend

some time doing things she did not have the opportunity, due to the demands of teaching.

**THE Lenasia-based M C Kharbai School for the Deaf was honoured to host former president Nelson Mandela last month.**

Madiba's November 29 visit to the Extension 9 school was part of his whirlwind trip throughout the country during which he visited several schools and institutions catering for the handicapped. His message all along was simple: *You are one of us. You are no different from the rest of us.*

In welcoming Dr Mandela, school manager (principal) Vis Naicker said Mandela has shown all of us how to build bridges of love and reconciliation across communities.

"This lesson is taught at M C Kharbai School, more so with the government's policy on in-

## M C Kharbai School honoured by Madiba's visit

treasure and remember.

"Be assured that your influence and magnetism continues to make an impact in the lives of the learners you meet, showing them that you want them to continue to become worthy leaders of the fine example that you

and many others have set to follow.

"May your modesty, love and compassion continue to grow in each one of us, especially our learners who look to you as a 'Beacon of Hope' to improve and help each other to face any challenge."



## Park Primary's Walk for literacy



Park Primary School's Principal Shoukat Khan

SUCCESS is not the word to describe the third annual Walk for Literacy, hosted by Park Primary School.

On September 7 it was a festive and colourful atmosphere as the "Rainbow" school hosted a 7km walk, which was followed with entertainment items while food and other stalls were kept busy.

Park's principal, Shoukat Ali Khan, was ecstatic with the tremendous response he and his staff received from the community, parents, children and well-wishers. Although 200 tickets for the

race was sold, more than 800 of all shapes, sizes and colours took to the streets to ensure event's success.

To top it all a host of items by school learners were held to entertain the large crowd that stayed until late in the afternoon.

The response to the race, the mini concert, prize giving and the fun added to a great day that was enjoyed by those that were present.

The guest speakers, Ina Chiba and Reggie Vandeyar, spoke mainly about literacy and its importance while Ian Challen had the crowd in stitches.

The Reset and Second Nature bands provided the music and entertainment. Pupils from all grades entertained the audience with dances which included

Pantula, village and ballroom.

The school also showcased its own Hritik Roshan in Sarvaan Qader who impersonated the Bollywood Star.

A dance competition and karaoke competition had the crowd on their feet. "At the end," says Khan, "it was a fun-filled and an enjoyable day for all of us."

"We need to thank everyone that contributed to the success of this day."

"The success was mainly due to the participation of the community, parents, well-wishers, the staff of the school, the SGB and the many volunteers. I'm sure with all these lovely people at our disposal what can go wrong."

## Libra learners shine in speech and sport

LIBRA Primary School has been flying its flag high after their Grade 1 learner Kiasha Pillay took home the silverware for first position in the annual English Teachers' Society regional speech contest.

Kiasha competed against 27 other learners from schools in and around Lenasia.

Life College judges including Pat Pillai awarded her first prize with distinctions in all categories.

Said a school spokesperson: "Well done Kiasha. Your hard work and dedication paid off."

Other learners also did her school proud in the sporting field. Libra's players excelled in the Lenasia Primary

School under 13 volleyball trials.

Eight schools participated in the trials from where a team of 10 had to be selected.

Sandra Masinga, Sadia Saloojee and Bridette Kgasoe were among those selected from Libra to represent Lenasia schools.

On June 8 Zone A trials were held where three clusters – Lenasia, Lenasia South, Ennerdale and Klipriver Valley – participated.

Sandra and Sadia were selected to represent Zone A.

Sandra was elected squad captain.

On 14 June a second trial took place at Moletsane grounds where Zone A and B met.

A D11 District team



Kiasha Pillay, winner of the speech contest

was selected to participate in the MEC Ball Games in Pretoria from 20 to 22 June. Both lasses were selected to represent this team.

The school also showed success in table tennis.

Seven schools participated in the Lenasia Primary Schools' Sports Council and Love Life Games trails for table tennis.

The trials were played in two separate pools where winner 'A' played winner 'B'.

Libra girls Keshnie Pillay, Nabeelah Fakir,



Saadia Saloojee excelled in volleyball

Moosa, Suliman Bulbulia, Bilal Ahmed and Taahir Mahdav, competed against Model in the U13 finals doing

## Babla's memory lives on at Pentarosa School

THE memory of one of South Africa's great anti-apartheid activist, Sullivan "Babla" Saloojee, will live on forever in Lenasia,

Tsengwa from Kumba Resources. The event was also graced by Babla's widow, Rookeya Saloojee.

Pentarosa was officially opened in 1976, the years that changed the course of South African history. Even then, the school was above the rest, as it was the first double storey brick school in Lenasia.

The highlight was the unveiling of the plaque by Minister Moosa.

After the unveiling, Mrs

Saloojee said: "I will never forget what Pentarosa Primary did in memory of my late husband, Suliman."

In his address, former Robben Islander Ahmed Kathrada said June 12 had special significance for him. It was 39 years to the day he was sentenced to imprisonment on the island.

But June 12, 2003, was a happy occasion as it celebrated the memory of a fellow comrade.

## HITTING THE HEADLINES 2004 – 2005 ( FAKIR HASSEN )

### NUR-UL-ISLAM SCHOOL MARKS ITS 15th YEAR

**TO celebrate a 15-year anniversary is no mean achievement and speaks of the determination and perseverance of the leadership.**

This was said by Dr Jane Hofmeyr, the national executive director of the Independent Schools Association of South Africa during the 15th anniversary dinner of the Nur-ul-Islam School at the Nur-ul-Islam Hall on July 31.

This important milestone was attended by several high-ranking and specially invited guests.

"Although the school was forced to close in the early 1990s as a result of high costs, a group of parents and teachers were given permission to re-launch the same school at the same premises under a new leadership and at their own cost," Dr Hofmeyr added.

"Nur-ul-Islam School was born in January 1993 with one class each from Grade 1 to Standard 2. It is now a fully-fledged combined school up to Grade 12.

"In last year's senior certificate examinations the school achieved a 97% pass rate, with a pleasing number of distinctions in English, Mathematics and Science."

Dr Hofmeyr added that independent schools are

fortunate that their right to exist is enshrined in the Constitution.

She went on to explain the core tenets of independence, the value of independent education and the responsibilities of independent schools.

Another speaker, Justice Mahomed Jajbhay, spoke about the history of Muslims in South Africa, Islam and Muslims' role.

### Lenz High celebrates a glorious 50 years

JERRY WAJA

LENASIA Secondary School, popularly known as Lenz High, turns 50 years this year. It is the first school in Lenasia to turn 50.

During the half-century this school has played a central part in the history of Lenasia and has contributed significantly through its students and some of its teachers to the economic and social growth and development of the area and the political struggles nationally towards the attainment of freedom and democracy for all our people.

Some of the notable business persons who were teachers at the school include Sayed Mia, Yunus Ravat and Miley Kara.

Some of the notable business families who emerged from this school include the Govenders, Naidoos, Padayachees, Ajoodhas, Singhs, Patels, Bulbullias, Khans, Hassens, Days, Ravats, Bhamjees, "Goodwill family", the "Fomis"

family, Nosarkas, Mistrys, Modis and many, more.

During the 50-year period many students became professionals such as doctors, physicians, lawyers, judges, teachers, educationists, accountants, social theorists, nurses, professional business persons and others.

There are far too many to mention and it would be unfair to mention any one professional person at the risk of offending any other professional person.

Sporting greats from this school are notably the former Bluebells professional soccer players such as Allan Moonsamy, Louis Jeevantham, Prega Thandirnd "Bikkies Bismillah" (cricket), Gauteng Cricket Board chairperson

Mahomed Jajbhay, and tennis administrator Younaid Waja. In part, due to the repressive nature of school management during the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties many political activist and trade union activist emerged from this school.

They include Sadeque Variava, Hassan Lorgat, Linda Moonsamy, Yasmin Adam, Haroon Bera, Jerry Waja, Nits Palani, Mohsin Moosa, Natalie Sunker, Aysha Rajah, Nozlan and Angenie Poonen, Vally Moosa (Former Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs), Ismail Mamoniat (Department of Finance), Shan Bolton (DDG in the Gauteng Premier's office), Quraysh Patel (etv chief operating officer) and not forgetting religious leaders as well as social welfare activists.

The present Deputy Minister of Education Anver Surty was also a student at this school.

This school in the new democratic order has all the reasons to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

Due to severe budgetary constraints the celebration will not be a fanfare of razzmatazz activities.

The school host its anniversary with a modest dinner-concert for 500 persons on 30 July at the school hall.

### Book quiz and netball spoils

THE Lenasia Muslim School seems to be making a habit of coming out tops. After clinching the first and second positions in the senior and junior categories respectively last year, LMS has again finished runners-up in the Annual Book Quiz 2005 in the junior section.

The competition is annually organised by the English Teachers' Society annually and was hosted in grand style by Daxina Primary.

26 schools from Lenasia, Lenasia South, Zak Park, Roshnee and Johannesburg entered with their avid readers who cruised through the first round of the

quick-fire questions. Six schools emerged winners of the first round of the quiz.

"The event allowed our learners to form lasting bonds of friendship through reading and sharing common observations. We must encourage learners to read and motivate them to aim for excellence," said LMS primary school headmaster F Akoojee.

We were extremely overjoyed that all our efforts paid off. Besides taking silver we won friends and that was more special to us. We thank our dedicated teachers, loving parents and fellow friends for their love and support."



This year's recipient of the annual award for community service made by the Shree Bharat Sharda Mandir School in Lenasia, Narayanswamy Rathinsamy (garlanded) receives his award from the previous winner, sportsman Mohan Hira. Others from left are Prashana Dhanjee, SRC member; Bhakti Madhav, teacher; Vinay Nathoo, Principal; Mrs Rathinsamy; Prabhashni Samuels, teacher; Jitendra Parshotam Parent Body member; and Meera Jivan, SRC member.

## PARK PRIMARY HOSTS SPARKLING BANQUET

By Fakir Hassen

AT a sparkling banquet in the Baitun-Noor Hall in Lenasia, the Park Primary School hosted guests to a dance, comedy and five-course dinner treat as they contributed towards the funds needed to build a multi-purpose hall at the school, one

was television personality Vuyo Mbuli, who started off the fund-raising initiative with a pledge of R1 000 from him and his wife Savita, who found difficulty staying off the sumptuous dishes as she tried to keep to her diet.

## It was a special day for Nirvana

By Fakir Hassen

MORE than three decades after it was first established in Lenasia to force Indian parents from central Johannesburg suburbs such as Newclare to send their children there because local schools were closed down under apartheid-era group

involved in the project, many of whom had done work free of charge or at very low cost.

"What makes this so remarkable is that most of these unselfish people are not from the local community and have no connection to Nirvana Secondary School.

Once they became involved, they developed such a passion for the project that their unstinting effort left me humbled."

Kaloo said the hall will serve two main purposes as a decent facility for learners' activities and a one-stop facility to be hired out to the community for social functions to help absorb the school's overheads, caused by "large scale apathy and a culture of non payment of school fees."

There was some mirth when local Member of Parliament Ismail Vadi, in introducing the Minister, handed over a box containing items such as apples and Sudoku puzzles to return twofold to Manuel everything he had presented to those who attended his Budget Speech each year.

Not to be outdone, Manuel retorted that what had not been presented to him were the income tax cuts he had

In an ironic twist, one of the longest-serving school principals in the country, Narayanswamy Rathinsamy, who spent 30 years at the school, could not join other former principals who were honoured at the function because he was with his family celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Parliamentarians Schools' mini-Parliament portfolio allied to the national politicians. From left: Bhavini Patel, Issu Ch Saffiya Hassen, Thandile N



## They served...and they served well

PENTAROSA Primary School in Lenasia honoured three of the educators who served the school loyally for three decades.

Mrs V Papia, Head of Department, Foundation Phase, Mrs F Karrim and Mrs C Lala each served Pentarosa for 30 years.

The school's governing body recognised this loyalty to the three educators



Thirty of loyal service to Pentarosa Primary School... Mrs. C. Lala, Mrs V. Papia and Mrs. F. Karrim

## Standard Bank rewards Impala learners for 'Battle of Books'

SIX learners representing Impala Crescent Primary School at the annual "Battle of the Books" were acknowledged by Standard Bank Lenasia for their outstanding achievement in the competition.

A bank account with a donation of R50 was opened for each learner. "As a Lenasia based bank, we are proud of the efforts of this local team and wanted to reward them for reaching the final of a tough competition," said the bank's Katie Mangera.

The team that included Nomfundo Phambuka, Muhammed Yaamen Suliman, Karabo Kotane, Margaret Thekkethala, Thulisile Manana and Attyya Dawood, successfully topped the three initial rounds to make the final.

On the way to the top they overcame some stiff competition from the Lenasia Muslim School, SBSM Independent School, Aloe Ridge, Rossettenville, Boipakitsi and

Library and Information Services' reading and development programmed.

Said team and HoD W Moolala: "In addition to broadening his reading interests of the Grade Six and Seven learners that take part, the competition aims to develop knowledge of and a taste of South African books.

"It also affords learners who may not have the opportunity to represent their school in any other field, a chance to do so as a member of the 'battle team'."

The competition involves a series of inter-school; knockout quizzes leading up to the metropolitan final. The quiz is based on 25 prescribed books and play-offs begin in August at the local library. All finalists receive prizes as well as certificates. The winning school is awarded a floating trophy *The De Beers Shield*.

The "Battle of the Books" has been run annually since 1998.

## Proud Libra has work of art published in international book

LIBRA Primary School is proud that a piece of art produced for the Valued Citizens Initiative was selected and published in a book called *Faces and Dynamics of Culture*. The book is available in bookstores around the world.

The Valued Citizens Initiative is a Nation Building Programme sponsored by Renault, FNB, Calyon, Suez, WSSA and Symetrix and is endorsed by the National Department of Education.

The programme is designed to train teachers to teach citizenship and spiritual perception to

learners. 35 schools from Gauteng and 18 from the Free State participated in the art project based on the theme of religion and religious tolerance. Libra's artwork was displayed at a media conference in Sandton.

The art team comprised K Jairam and G Isaacs and three learners who were filmed while working on the project. A video grab was shown at the conference where the audience included Kader Asmal, education minister and Pallo Jordan, minister of arts and culture.

## 50th Anniversary celebrations of Alpha Primary School in Lenasia



Alpha Primary School principal, R A Seedat, holding the 50th anniversary cake.

## CAMARADERIE AT PARK PRIMARY BANQUET

School fundraising events where educationists or academics are usually the keynote speakers can often leave audiences bored and irritable, but there was none fo this at the annual Park Primary School banquet at the Baitun Noor Hall in Lenasia recently. Always a sought-after event that is sold out, the camaraderie between school principal Shaukat Khan and his "boss" Lucky Chauke, made for a lot of mirth as they ribbed each other, Khan adding that he was the "boss of all bosses".

It was clear, much tot he delight of the audience, that the two shared a special friendship beyond that of just employer and employee.

Chauke lauded Khan for the way in which he administered the school, often assisting those in need so that they could continue their education.

"I wish I had a child who needed to go to primary school, because I would most definitely have sent her to Park Primary, the best school in Lenasia," Chauke said to thunderous applause from the parents and well-wishers of the school.

An auction of items ranging from cell phones and satellite decoders to a cricket bat signed by the Deccan Chargers, who won the IPL series in South Africa, raised more than R80 000 to help the school with its various projects in support of the learners and the community around them.

## AL AQSA EXCELS IN PICK 'N PAY SCHOOLS CONTEST

Al Aqsa School of Lenasia excelled at the recent Innovate It Awards organised by the Pick and Pay School Club. The school entered four categories in the contest in which 1600 schools participated and won a total of R21 400 in three categories. At the judging event recently, the Principal showed some of the entires, while educationist Bashir Bagas tested some of the exhibits with a Miss Earth finalist.

## IMPALA PRIMARY BANQUET

Impala Crescent Primary School hosted a gala banquet at the Trade Route Mall Convention Centre, where two veterans were also honoured for their long service to the school. Principal Nazeem Adam is flanked by award recipients Alauddin Osmany (left) and Kavi Naidoo. With them is little Lurhan Maraba, who charmed his way into the eharts of the audience with his dynamic voice as he sang with the school choir.

INTERCULTURAL exchanges by their very nature promote global dialogue, international understanding and a comprehensive tolerance. It is in this context that ten Grade 11 learners and three teachers from the SBSM School embarked on a 15-day study tour of Denmark and Norway.

Their hosts in Denmark, Kingoskolen, presented an interesting programme which saw a mix of school visits and interaction with learners and teachers, sightseeing in Copenhagen and spending time with their host families.

The contrasts in the school systems of Scandinavia and South Africa soon became apparent as the SBSM learners attended English classes, observed then engaged in discussions with their Danish counterparts on a range of educational issues.

The initial culture shock soon waned as they realised that young people, ir-

## SBSM learners share common issues with Scandinavian hosts



respective of culture, have similar challenges facing them and this made for easier dialogue. An aspect of the Danish education system that impressed the entire SBSM contingent was the concept of the "Efterskole".

Students can choose to go to this type of institution as a "gap year" between Grade 9 and Grade

10. The Efterskole visited by the SBSM group had a prime location close to the beach and offered Academic subjects as well as music, horseriding, environment study and sport. The level of commitment and responsibility shown by these students impressed all, from the preparation of the food and cleaning up of the dormitories to singing in the choir and agreeing to have no television on the premises.

## Honours for greater Lenasia matrics



From left to right are the top students of the various schools in the Greater Lenasia region, with their schools, number of distinctions and what they are studying now - Lesley Lavange (Virity Secondary, 4 A's, B.Coern Accounting at Wits); Justin Brady Nriensany (Lenasia South Secondary, 7 A's, CA at Wits); Lalara Majola (Mk Jossab High, 5 A's, Industrial Engineering at University of Johannesburg); Claude Mashinin (Lanz Public School, 5 A's, Chemical Engineering at Wits); Amit Daya (SBSM, 8A's, Electrical Engineering at Wits); Nononwale Moko (Acara Secondary, 2 A's, Chemical Engineering at Wits); Smore Pongorawan (Gibson Pitay Learning Academy, 2 A's, Education at Wits); Shavone Honey (Milewood Secondary, one A, B.A. Tourism Development at Wits); Saajida Rabie (Lenasia Muslim School, 3 A's, Medicine at Wits); Melissa Sibole (Zakariya Park Secondary, 2 A's, B.A. Accounting Sciences at Wits); Humaira Bulbulia (Al-Aqsa School, 7 A's, Medicine at Wits); Gizelle Simons (Lenasia Secondary 6 A's, Medicine at Wits); Sivan Moody (Topaz Secondary, 5 A's, CA at Wits).

The tradition of honouring all the top-achieving matriculants of 2010 from all the schools in the Greater Lenasia area was continued on Friday evening when the Shree Bharat Sharda Mandir (SBSM) School gave 13 of them special awards to mark their achievements.

Between them, the students notched up an impressive 63 distinctions. SBSM's own Amit Daya led the pack with a whopping nine distinctions achieved despite great odds, especially losing his mum when he was only nine, as Principal Raj Maharaj pointed out in his introductory address.

Two guest speakers at the awards evening made a plea to parents to support their children in studying what they have a passion for rather than just getting them into the fields of medicine, law or accounting, as most parents preferred to do.



Veteran educationalist and mathematician Dr. Kartal Naik of Azadville and his wife Ranjan are flanked by SBSM Board members Rakesh Daya and Hasmoor Patel on the left and Shashibhai Daya on the right.



From left to right: Tshipa Mandla of the Gauteng Education Department, Fakir Hassen, Ahmed Kathrada and Principal Naazim Adam. Photo: Virag Patel

## Special World Literacy Day at Impala Crescent

Waseem Camroodeen

Impala Crescent Primary School in Lenasia had not just one but two special guests during a programme at the adjacent Gandhi Hall to mark World Literacy Day earlier this month. Veteran activist Ahmed Kathrada held the audience of mainly learners from the school and some parents enthralled as he explained how many of today's political leaders

and write or acquired degrees and other qualifications while being held in prison on Robben Island.

Even President Jacob Zuma came to the prison with only a standard five education, Kathrada said, adding that Deputy Chief Justice Dikganag Mosenke had finished Matric and his first law degree while in prison as well.

"Today you young people have so much opportunity that those of our generation did not have because of apartheid, so make the most of it and study hard so that you can make your mark for your country as well," Kathrada urged the students.

Lenasia Times Senior Writer Fakir Hassen said he felt privileged to share the same platform as Kathrada as he related his own experience of poring over books in every possible moment that he had while growing up in Marabastad in Pretoria.

## Model Primary School celebrated it's 45th

anniversary with an entertaining variety day

By Iqbal Gaffoor

THE school grounds and buildings came alive when Model Primary School celebrated its 45th anniversary.

The fun day on April 17 went beyond everybody's expectations and the venues where activities were held were packed with parents, school children and other members of the community.

Acting principal, Essop M Tagari, and his staff were initially concerned whether this fun day would really work. As it turned out, their fears



## Provincial honours for Al-Aqsa School

On Saturday, 22 October 2011, two learners from Al-Aqsa School Extension 5 participated in the Provincial Natural Science Olympiad. This event was a culmination of the District Olympiad held



From left to right: Mohammed Ismail, Mohammed Yaseen Alli and Mrs. F. Bapoo.

## MC Kharbai graduates do community proud



Akbar Ismail

The MC Kharbai and Merseta and Sheetch SA partnership Awards Ceremony took place on the 2nd of June 2011, at the Greyville Primary School in

Lenasia, extension 2. The awards saw all 18 graduates from the pilot year of the boiler making course undertaken jointly by Merseta and MC Kharbai to assist disabled persons to find credible employment

in the workplace.

Leader of the project Krisen Vitec said that the student are all grade nine level, pre-matric with special learning disabilities. Some of the learners are hearing impaired whilst others have come from learning difficulty classes.

To that end, the two organizations, MC Kharbai and Merseta, partnered with Sheetch SA, which deals with sheet metal and develops items from sheet metal. The company developed a course to empower learners from MC Kharbai and Merseta to teach them sheet metal work and boiler making

## MH Joosub's spectacular first ever Miss MHJ Beauty Pageant

On 22nd September 2012, MH Joosub School hosted their first ever Miss MHJ Beauty Pageant at the school grounds.

The initiative was spearheaded by Madam Naseema Moolla, an educator at the school. The aim of the show was to provide the learners with an opportunity to participate in an event that would give them confidence and exposure to showcase their talents, as well as for aspiring models to display their beauty.

The talented Nazma Rasool, who was the designated MC for the event, entertained the crowds while the models displayed their talents on the stage. With her charming on-stage presence, Nazma captivated the audience as the excitement built up to the final. Nazma said that "it was indeed a fantastic, fun-filled experience for everyone who attended the event".

Indian Cultural Dancers, Sheetal and Stephanie from Grade 11, also took to the stage between the casual wear and evening wear events of the contest until the judges for the pageant eventually settled on Grade 11 student Zaheda Pandor as the winner. While the event took place on Saturday from 2pm to 5pm, the circus and the stalls kept the two day spring festival at the school buzzing with activity, especially with the many stalls offering a number of items for sale, including the mouthwatering tandoori chicken. As usual, and in line with their commitment to helping showcase new talent, the Lenz FM 93.6 mobile unit was on hand to provide the explosive musical entertainment.



OCTOBER

success. All in all, the Miss MHJ Beauty Pageant showed what can be achieved when one brings together a talented MC, a visionary teacher, and a

## Many schools participated in Harmony Primary's Fun Day



Harmony Primary School hosted its 6th Annual Grade R Fun Day on the 5th of May 2012. Seven schools participated in the sporting activities where each school represented cartoon characters, Harmony Primary – Smurfs, Pentarosa – Tweety, Park – Mickey Mouse, Alpha – Spongebob, Progress – Barney, Libra – Spiderman, and Greyville – Rugrats.

The day's proceedings began with a prayer and the national anthem by the Grade R's of Harmony Primary School. Once the events got underway, it became quite difficult to determine whether the parents or learners had more fun with many parents participating in novelty races

where the winners were presented with gifts. The Fun Day had a real carnival-like atmosphere to it.

At the end of the day's events, Alpha Primary School was awarded the beautiful floating trophy for the second year in a row. All participating schools expressed enthusiasm and an eagerness to participate again next year.

The Grade R practitioners of Harmony Primary School Ms. Z. Babamia and Ms. F.W. Mohamed, the Principal and the Fun Day Committee expressed thanks to Mrs. J. Bhana and all the teachers who helped make this event a success.



APRIL

## English Teachers Society's Newspaper Quiz 2013 was a success

The English Teachers Society held their popular Annual Newspaper Quiz recently at Lenasia's Alpha Primary School. 24 primary schools competed on the 5th March 2013, whilst 13 high schools competed the next day on 6th March 2013 in an event open to Grade 7's (Primary Division), 8's, 9's and 10's (Secondary Division). Three learners per school participated where each would specialize in International News, Local News and Sports News. The Quiz Panel for the Primary Division were former teachers who graciously volunteered their services whilst the Quiz Panel for the Secondary Division were educators from Zodiac Primary School.

"For 2013, we increased the number of awards to encourage participation," said Mr. E. M. Tgari, Deputy Chairperson of the English Teachers Society and Principal of Lenasia Model Primary School. "Our objective is to encourage learners to read newspapers daily. This is the cheapest and most up to date resource one can access easily. Reading improves vocabulary, spelling, sentence construction and general knowledge," Mr. Tgari added.

The frequently successful Al-Aqsa School Extension 5 won the Primary Division. Their team consisted of

learners Humayrah Mohamed, Khaideejah Mohamed and Uzayr Doctar with Races Abed as reserve. They were coached and prepared by Ms. Ruwaida Peer, Mrs. Aysba Cassim and Mr. Zunaid Sayed. Humayrah Mohamed was further recognised with a certificate for having attained the highest score in International News.

"The educators and management of Al-Aqsa Extension 5 do indeed feel proud of our team's efforts and co-operation," said Ismail Mahomed, spokesperson for Al-Aqsa School. "This was another feather in our school's cap." Johannesburg Muslim School for Girls (JMS Girls) won the Secondary Division with an amazing score of 60 points.



Al-Aqsa Extension 5's winning team (Primary Division) (from left to right): Humayrah Mohamed, Khaideejah Mohamed, Uzayr Doctar and Races Abed (reserve).



Participants from SAMA School.



The three participants from Lenasia Muslim School (left) and their counterparts from Model Primary School.

## Highlighting a great legacy to the community – Harmony Primary's 30th Anniversary Banquet

Akbar Ismail

For those in the know, it is a well known fact that determination and courage are aptly described as the foundation of success. It is also this definite purpose of dogged optimism which defies the foundation of teaching in one of Lenasia's oldest schools today, and still remains its key ingredient in developing young minds. However the success of Harmony



Harmony Primary's most famous former student, Dr. Ridwan Mia, who was the Guest of Honour at the event.



From left to right: Habeeba Dawood, Bibi Aysha Laher (teacher), Muhammed Bismilla and Bontle Lelese.

## Alpha Primary trio comes first in provincial speech contest

## mystar donates textbooks to Trinity Secondary

Representatives of mystar Education & Business Solutions visited Trinity Secondary School in Lenasia on 24th June 2014 to donate textbooks in English First Additional Language, Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting to Grade 10, 11 and 12 learners.

"The books were originally developed for the old Department of Education curriculum and as such are not aligned to the national CAPS (Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement) document," explained mystar CEO Atul Patel. "That doesn't mean they are unusable, however, as only one or two chapters are not relevant, and the rest of the content remains integral to the learners' education."

A variety of other textbooks and past examination papers covering a range of subjects was also donated, although these were not developed by mystar.



Photo: Assad Mirza

## Reunions for Nirvana's '68 and '77 classes



Nirvana Secondary's Class of 1977.

The Nirvana Secondary Class of 1968 held a reunion lunch in March at the Taste of India Restaurant. The Class of 1977 (10C) followed suit and held its reunion at Ageda Northcliff on 12th April 2014 where 25 of the 33 matriculants were in attendance. The cherry on top for this class was the presence of class teacher Mr. A Ajoodha. Using a Skype link, two other classmates – one in the United States and the other in New Zealand – were also able to be part of the evening's proceedings. The highlight of this reunion however was the presentation of the "coffee table book" which contained in detail the life and times of the classmates.

"In 1977, 116 matriculants sat for the school-leaving examination. A family day was organised for Sunday, 13th April 2014, at Zoo Lake. We were able with great excitement to share memories of years gone by," said Agsie

Pillay from the Class of '77.

He added: "Some of the educators present (at the Zoo Lake event) were Mr. Ahmed Sujee, Mr. Aziz Adam, Mr. Sunda Moodley and Mrs. Bhana. Mr. Sunda Moodley vividly traced the important history of Nirvana Secondary. The last reunion was held in July 1997 at the Lenasia South Civic Centre.

"The class of 1977, wish to congratulate our school Nirvana Secondary, which turns 50 this year. Our school has a proud history, as it has produced outstanding leaders in all fields of society, over the decades. We are aware that the school has planned a series of events to commemorate this historic milestone. The school's celebrations, also coincides with the country's celebrations of 20 years of freedom and democracy."

## English Teachers Society 2014 Speech Contest

The results from the Finals were: Division 1 (Grade 1) - 1st Laaiqah Suliman (LMS), 2nd Ammarah Goga (Al-Aqsa 5), 3rd Malcha Mayet (Park); Division 2 (Grades 2 + 3) - 1st Muthammed Ismail (SAMA), 2nd Siyaam Jada (LMS), 3rd Daniel Jackson (Daxina); Division 3 (Grades 4+5) - 1st Nawaal Suliman (Progress), 2nd Nabeela Valli (Park), 3rd Nosopho Kunene (Model); Division 4 (Grades 6+7) - 1st Rayhaan Desai (LMS), 2nd Thandokazi Nbehele (Flamingo), 3rd Isha Bhoola (SBSM); Division 5 (Grade 8) - 1st Humairah Ismail (Al-Aqsa 10), 2nd Sufyan Mohammed (Nizamya Boys), 3rd Muneetah Laier (JMS); Division 6 (Grades 9-10) - 1st Naailah Ebrahim (Al-Aqsa 10), 2nd Fatima Moolla (JMS), 3rd Raesa Dawood (Lenz High); Division 7 (Grades 11+12) - 1st Uroosa Alam Khan (LMS), 2nd Khatija Zimu (Nurul-Islam), 3rd Anees Kathrada (JMS).

The English Teachers Society for the last 41 years have remained committed to the enhancement of proficiency in the usage of the English language by pupils within our community. Every year they host several events aimed at this purpose with the most recent being the 2014 English Teachers Society Speech Contest. The Finals took place on 17th May 2014 at the Alpha Primary School Hall in Lenasia and was subdivided into a contest for the Primary schools and another for the Secondary schools. These two categories were further subdivided into seven divisions (Primary School – Divisions 1 to 4; Secondary School – Divisions 5 to 7) based on the age/grade of the participating pupils. Prior to the finals, an Elimination Contest (involving 25 Primary schools in 4 divisions and 12 Secondary schools in 3 divisions with some coming from as far away as Midrand) occurred on the 22nd and 23rd April 2014 at the Apex Primary School, Lenasia coinciding with the school's 30th Anniversary celebrations.

## Tribute to retired educator Mr. Tagari

In December 2014, Mr. Essop Tagari retired from an illustrious 42-year long career in education. He spent the last 20 years at Model Primary School and was its Principal at the time of his retirement. Mr. Tagari is one of the founding members of the English Teachers Society and continues to serve as its Deputy Chairperson.

A statement by his family read: "There are many people who are proud of you but none more so than us, your family. We are grateful that we were blessed with a man of your character and integrity. Here's to more quality time and a well deserved break with your loved ones. "This comes with lots of love from your wife,



Mr. Essop Tagari

four daughters, son-in-laws and your nine grandchildren."

## Lenasia Secondary celebrates 60 years of existence

LENASIA Secondary School, this past weekend, celebrated its historic achievement of being the first school in Lenasia to turn 60. A spectacular event hosted by the school was attended by esteemed Alumni of the school.

Lenasia Secondary is revered for hosting glamorous functions. However, it must be said this event was second to none - from the guest list of past educators and famous alumni to the décor and the scrumptious food that was served.

The Deputy Minister of Education Enver Surty as well as Minister Valli Moosa, alumni of the school, were most impressed with the high standard and quality of the school.

The two spoke of their humble beginnings at Lenz High and how exceptionally proud they are to see what the school has achieved today.

They, and all that attended, shared and supported the vision and the mission of the current principal, Hawa Munshi, to make the school a world class one and hopefully, in the near future, a paperless school.

Asif Laher the MC and also an alumnus of the school kept the crowd entertained with the tales and stories of past educators and learners and all left feeling extremely nostalgic and thoroughly fulfilled and entertained at this world class reunion.

Happy Birthday to Lenz High and may your vision and mission become a reality.

## Impala Crescent

“Impala Crescent Library is g

**Lenasia, 29 July 2016.** Impala Crescent Primary re-opened their school library to their learners and the community and announced its vision to be a leading public institution in South Africa.

Thanks to a generous donation from School Aid and The Bookery, Impala School has been able to restore its library and employ a full-time librarian.

In a deliberate leap into the technological classroom, the SGB added to the initiative by fitting two new interactive 'smart

## Emotional Lenasia Secondary Class of 1986 reunion



On Saturday, 16th April 2016, Lenz High's school hall was transformed into a space of deep connection and sharing of memories as the class of 1986 hosted a reunion 30 years after having matriculated.

Held under a proudly African theme, 200 former pupils and teachers gathered in an event that saw guests experience a range of emotions. Memories of fun times together were tempered by the reality that many have passed on since. The rendition of the long lost school anthem that was penned by Zerina Hassen Kathrada, a member of the Class of 1986, was particularly emotional.

The highlight of the event was a multimedia production produced by Arishad Satter of Fantasi Advertizing.

The event was interspersed with sharing, lots of laughs and spontaneous interaction between teachers and learners.

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## LMS encourages young entrepreneurship



## Park's enjoyable literacy walk

A much-loved Lenasian annual spring event is Park Primary's Walk for Literacy where participants traverse in a race through the school's surrounding neighbourhoods as was

done on Sunday, 10th September where Abdullah Lorgat (pictured) won the men's seniors race for the second successive year, whilst many others enjoyed subsequent festivities at the school such as the ladies in the photo alongside.



## New hall for Harmony



# HITTING THE HEADLINES 2018 - 2019 ( FAKIR HASSEN )

## M C Kharbhai gets computer centre

M C Kharbhai School, which caters for learners with hearing disabilities, received a boost with the donation of a computer centre as the new academic year took off.

Deputy Minister of Basic Education Enver Surtee, who also schooled in Lenasia, officially opened the Centre together with officials from sponsors MTN Foundation.

“These learners will learn very quickly what



would take us a month, because of the special content that has been developed for them,” Surtee

## Tenacious! Courageous! Educationalist! Reunion

Article submitted

Over 300 graduates of the former Transvaal College of Education (TCE) came together in a historic and

memorable reunion of alumni held in Lenasia on 10 August 2018. The event served to relive the 44 years history of an institution that produced 3500 graduates. The story of TCE is deeply interwoven with significant periods in South Africa's history. Keynote speaker, Dr Ismail Vadi, dissected the political, social and historical eras that saw TCE established in 1954 as the Nationalist Party grappled with the 'Indian Question'. The second era was marked by the establishment of the House of Delegates and the attempt to co-opt the Indian community into separate development policies. The third and final era of the institution saw the move of the Friedberg campus to Lansdown in 1982 and its closure by 1998 as the new government sadly, shut down teacher training colleges across the

country. Dr Vadi paid tribute to many graduates and students of TCE who played a significant role in the political struggle for equal education. Most notably he paid tribute to TCE graduate, Ahmed Timol who was murdered in detention by security police in October 1971.



SEPTEMBER



MCS for the evening, Genta Royjee (left) and Bashir Bages (centre) welcomes keynote speaker Dr Ismail Vadi (right) to the podium.

Warren teachers Judy Maynt and Koki Singh had the honor of cutting the celebration cake.



The Local Organising Committee (Back Row L-R) Rabia Covovra, Fazla Karim, Nazreen Moll, Noorain Moll, Kuda Moosa, Yanaa Chavira, Genta Royjee, Anisha Vira, Vanya Agni, Dawa Mollie, Susha Moodley (Front Row L-R) Colin Francis, Trevor Masher, Bashir Bages, Naguin' Agnie' Pillay. On point duty and not available for the photo was Alwera Khan.



The SRC of TCE in 1982. Back Row (L-R)

## Nirvana did many good deeds on Mandela Day



Fakir Hassen

Lenasia Secondary's alumni have helped transform the school into a role model for all other schools not only in Lenasia, but in the entire country. SA Human Rights Commissioner Shale Amernina said at the official launch of the school's heritage project on Saturday, 13th October. Amernina, a former student of the school, said the provision of safe and clean water as any school brought life and dignity to the learners attending it and to the community around the school. Explaining how he had been in many schools where there was no proper water or sanitation, and even some deaths of small children because of gut bacteria still being used as toilets, Amernina lauded the alumni who had made the heritage project possible. The alumni, many of them now seasoned professionals in diverse fields, have banded together in the Power of 1 000 group, each contributing R200 per year as a way to give back to the school where they completed their Matric. "This is a powerful reminder of how we can take hands and leave a reminder for future

## 'Lenasia Secondary is a role model for all schools'



Amernina, a former student of the school, said the provision of safe and clean water as any school brought life and dignity to the learners attending it and to the community around the school. Explaining how he had been in many schools where there was no proper water or sanitation, and even some deaths of small children because of gut bacteria still being used as toilets, Amernina lauded the alumni who had made the heritage project possible.



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## Development

Fakir Hassen

The Media Centre at the Greyville Primary School was officially opened by Fatima Vawda, founder of 27Four; Muntaz Khan from the Power of a Thousand; and Shamima Vada on August 15. The project was sponsored by the Rabia Khan Foundation, named after the Vawdas's late mother

# RK Foundation sponsors Media Centre at Greyville Primary



AUGUST



## Flamingo Primary host annual Book Quiz

Priya Ranchod

Flamingo Primary School hosted the annual primary school Grade 4 to 7 Book Quiz on 28th August 2019. 22 schools participated in the quiz which is run by the English Teachers Society.



SEPTEMBER

Flamingo Deputy Principal, Sadiya Ebrahim, expressed her appreciation to the schools and their sponsors: "On behalf of the school, I would like to thank the contestants for their efforts in learning the required material, the educators who put in the time to prepare the learners, the English

Teachers Society for giving us the opportunity to host the event, the support staff and the parents. In any event, sponsors play an important part."

The following schools participated: Al-Aqsa Ext 1, Al-Aqsa Ext 5, Al-Huda Academy, Flamingo Primary School, Greyville Primary School, Harmony Primary School, Johannesburg Muslim School, Lenasia Model Primary School, Lenasia Muslim School, Liben Primary School, Lotus School of Excellence, Nizamiy Primary School (Midrand), Nizamiy Primary School (Mayfair), Nur Islam School of Excellence, Park Primary School, Pentara Primary School, Progress Primary School, Redwood Academy, Ridgeway Muslim School, Shantree Primary School, Sierra Nevada Primary School and Zofiac Primary School.

All schools were victorious but there were few schools who came out in the top, in both junior and senior primary sections. Senior Primary section 1st - Park Primary School,

# HITTING THE HEADLINES 2020 – 2021 ( FAKIR HASSEN )

## Hat-trick for Lenasia Muslim School at Johannesburg South District Awards

The Department of Education districts - JHB Central and JHB South - both held celebratory events for their respective 2019 matric achievers.

JHB Central, of which many Lenasia schools are affiliated to, held its awards evening on 31st January at the Nurul Islam Hall whilst the JHB South ceremony was on 7th February at the Jasmine Hills Country Venue, Ekurhuleni.

Notable Lenasia accomplishments for JHB Central saw four SBSM learners and two teachers awarded, an accolade for a Nurul Islam educator and two for the school itself - Top Achieving School and Top Independent School with a 100% pass rate; Lenz Public Secondary received a prize for significant improvement in pass rate; Lenasia Secondary School were placed 4th in Top Achieving Schools winning two Top Educator awards for Geography and Life Sciences; Park Primary also received a Top Educator 2019 Natural Science Technology Award.

The Lenasia schools affiliated to JHB South were stellar as well. Al Aqsa School came 1st, for overall performance, highest bachelor pass in the district and another 100% pass rate. Al Aqsa were also awarded 1st place in January at the Gauteng Awards, top for Independent Schools - JHB South.

Their neighbours and friendly rivals, Lenasia Muslim School (LMS), also received a 100% pass rate award whilst a teacher and three learners received specialised honours. LMS matriculants bagged 3 of the top 5 positions for top performing learners in the Independent Schools Category. Their Zahra Cassim attained 4th, whilst her classmate Inam Jetham won the Life Orientation subject award. LMS educator Apsa Saheera Khan won the Subject Educator Award for Business Studies in the District.

The highlight though for LMS at the glittery Jasmine Hills venue was, when for the third successive year, their student won the prestigious Dux Award for the JHB South District. This time it went to Aarifah Loonat, who narrowly beat her LMS classmate Inam Jetham to it.

Willowmoat Secondary won the most improved SSIP honour, with a learner and teacher from it also awarded. Redwood Academy pupil Ali-Muhammad The-Mahomed scooped two accolades. Awards were also won by learners from Azara Secondary, Qalafotja Secondary and Vlakfontein.



Top left group photo of SBSM award winners and staff. Top right group photo of SBSM award winners and staff. Middle group photo of SBSM award winners and staff. Bottom group photo of SBSM award winners and staff.

LENASIA HITTING THE HEADLINES 2020

## Principal's Lunch at Lenz High awarded its teachers



Annually Principal Hawa Mushi hosts a Principal's Lunch for her staff at Lenasia Secondary School. Each year educators are given a theme and the excitement leading up to the event surpasses no other. This year was no different.

It was the 11th Annual Principal's Lunch and the theme given to educators was Durbun July. This well-known event is known to take place at the Greyville Racecourse but this year Principal Hawa Mushi brought it to Lenasia Secondary. The event called for the celebrities of the day - "The educators" to show off their elite outfits and dancing, singing skills and to just sit back, relax and enjoy the day.

there feeling motivated, uplifted and inspired to be better and greater in the classroom.

Principal Hawa Mushi then hosted her annual teacher awards, this year the categories were slightly different to previous years. The award that stood out the most was The Adam and Eve award - for the male and female educator who served longest on the staff. This was awarded to Mr Gwenzani and Madam Chinyani who has served on the staff since 1993.

In the morning, Principal, together with the staff members was joined by guest speaker Arvin Govender. His talk was filled with laughter but mainly encouragement and we are certain that educators left

## Greyville's school hall takes on immaculate appearance with new tiling donated by heroic philanthropist Sayed Mia

### Abdullah Visage

18th February was one of the most heartwarming for Lenasia's Greyville Primary School that took a huge step towards completion of its school hall when philanthropist and former educator Sayed Mia donated tiling to the institute.

Principal Colin Francis who's been 39 years at Greyville Primary expressed how it's based amidst a community filled with challenges and many social ills.

Mr. Francis said: "Funds are not always easy to come by. We help our parents quite a bit, like, we run a feeding scheme here at the school, and assist with hampers etc. But despite all the challenges, it's a wonderful and blessed community here."

"One of our ambitions was to build a (school) hall that will become a



legacy for this community. It has been built for 9 years and taken that amount of time for lots of fundraising. Sadly, not many donors came forward but today I feel very proud that after appealing to Mr. Mia's good heart, he came through for us and said he secured the tiles for the hall. If we put a figure to it, it's a substantial amount of well over R200 000 worth. To Mr. Mia, I really want to say thank you so much, it will go a long way to beautifying this hall and will be a legacy to the Greyville community and this hall will hopefully serve its multiple purposes.



This month the Shree Bharat Sharda Mandir Private School in Lenasia donated 150 books to the "Our Reading Tree Project" led by former Gauteng MEC for Roads & Transport, Ismail Vadi.

All the books were collected and donated by primary school learners at SBSM, who felt that they should support the project aimed at encouraging young people to read.

Vadi said that the SBSM partnership yielded positive results as all books were handed out to the Zodiac Primary School in Extension 9, the Kopano Odyssey Reading Club based in Pretoria, the Little His and Hers Day Care Centre and Mothers Moving Mountains Crèche in Greyville, Lenasia.

Vadi was joined in this project by City of Johannesburg PR Councillor Zarina Motala, who helped with the distribution of books locally.

The Kopano Odyssey Reading Club's Thato Mofokeng thanked the SBSM School and Our Reading Tree Project for a worthy donation.

"We will be able to use the books to launch a reading programme at an orphanage in Olivenhoutbosch near Laudium in Pretoria," said Ms Mofokeng.

Vadi also thanked Miss Melissa Pillay from SBSM for co-ordinating the book campaign at school saying it was a wonderful gesture that is promoting reading and helping others in the community.

## SBSM School donates books for Lenasia's Reading Project

# HITTING THE HEADLINES 2022 – 2023 ( FAKIR HASSEN )

## Brilliance again by Al Aqsa

Although Lenasia's Al Aqsa Muslim School is not part of AMS, it nevertheless produced matric achievements in 2021 that were on a par with their AMS counterparts.

The school's 99 students produced 218 Distinctions, 25 pupils had A aggregates and 9 attained 'full houses' (7 A's). These top 9 were: Ahmad Cassim, Shauziah Fakir, Zahra Goolam, Saifiyah Hassan, Ammarah Mahomed, Tasmiyah Ismail, Fatima Soljee, Raees Taroband Yazid Larwana.

Aasma Hassan and Maerida Kathrada got 6 A's each. Obtaining 5 A's each were: Yazeeda Adams, Ahmad Gulboe, Fahemah Ismat, Huzaimah Labar, Ubhama Mahomed, Tasmiyah Noorhata and Tasmiyah Soedat.

Two learners, Tasmiyah Ismail and Aasma Hassan were awarded by the MEC for Education for obtaining full marks in Business Studies. Tasmiyah was also ranked 3rd provincially amongst independent schools. Al Aqsa School was for the fifth consecutive year awarded as one of the top 3 independent schools in Gauteng. For 2021 they finished just behind Jeppe Education Centre (JEC) Secord and Adamsonburg Polytech Institute.

School Principal Ms. H Moosa said: "Our gratitude goes out to the parents, well-wishers, school board and management for their support and donations. Ultimately though, we have to commend the teachers from pre-



Al Aqsa's Aasma Hassan (left) was the top student for Business Studies with her peer Tasmiyah Ismail was the 3rd top student provincially for the subject.

Lenasia was buzzing over the Heritage weekend as Impala Crescent Primary School hosted an unforgettable Film Festival and Heritage Pop-Up Market. The fundraiser was a vibrant celebration of our mixed cultures and community unity. The highlight of the weekend was undoubtedly the Film Festival, where families and friends gathered in the Gandhi Hall to enjoy a selection of classic films. Laughter, cheers, and applause filled the air

## Impala School trends with Film Festival & Heritage Market

as the audience enjoyed the cinematic journey. A stroll through the Heritage Market was a treat for the senses, filled with unique crafts, delicious treats, and a thrilling kiddies' corner. From handmade crafts to delectable cuisines, there was something for everyone. This provided a unique opportunity for local businesses to thrive and share their products with the community.



## Al Aqsa & Redwood excel at Newspaper Quiz

The ETS (English Teachers' Society) held its first event for 2023 - The Newspaper Quiz - on 1st March at Redwood Academy. From the eight institutes that participated in the High School Category, Redwood Academy emerged victorious with 70 points, Al Aqsa Ext.10 in 2nd position with 63 points and JMS in 3rd position with 50 points.

school with their dedication, sacrifice and discipline. Special gratitude goes to the educators in the English department for their assistance and rigorous training of the learners. Thank you to all the learners who participated in the elimination round," said Al Aqsa Principal Ms. H Moosa, adding: "A sincere appreciation to the ETS for their professionalism, dedication and creativity in promoting literacy and encouraging learners to read. Thank you to Redwood Academy for being such excellent hosts. Hats off to the ETS for an overall successful event."



## Gold Award for Lenasia teacher Educating pupils for 50 years!



Farouk Mohamed with some of his proud family members celebrating his award.



## Lenasia Secondary Class of 1972's Reunion



The Lenasia Secondary School matric class of 1972 transported themselves half a century back in time at a picnic function held on Sunday, 20th November 2022 at the Rietvlei Zoo Farm.

Two good friends - Chucks Bhika and

Jivananthan, Aruna Bawa, Anusuya Daya and Kamla Bhana.

Chucks added: "The lovely ladies that graced the event brought awesome savoury snacks, tea, coffee, samoosas and cakes and as is tradition, Bryani was served for lunch. Our event or picnic was a huge success. It was a

## MHJ's Class of 1990 reunion

The MH Joosub Secondary School's Class of 1990 held its reunion on Sunday, 3rd December at the Lido Hotel. The luncheon was attended by several students that were part of that year's matric class of the school based in Lenasia, Extension 4.

It included Head Boy Azim and Head Girl Jenine, along with several educators from that era such as Ms. F Essop, Mr. Hamid and Mr. Ismail Vadi. Jenine was the reunion's project manager.

One of the students from this 1990 class, Neelesh Daya, said: "Dear all, it was great to catch up with all of you in attendance. Special thanks to Azim and Jenine and their team for execution of this event."

"I look forward to next year's 50th anniversary of MH Joosub School as highlighted by Mr. Vadi."

## Park Primary School's Mathematics Whizz Kids



From Left to Right: Mr S. A. Khan (Principal), Mrs N. Goverder (Deputy principal) Daanyaal Sulman, Hamza Fakir, Goolam Nabi Hussain, Mr I. Suliman (Head Of Department), Mr S. Sumar (Educator).

The Gauteng Provincial Mathematics Olympiad Ceremony was held at Laerskool Die Ruiters on Saturday, 17th September 2022 where the winners across 15 districts received awards for their outstanding achievements. Guests who attended the ceremony included the Mathematics facilitators from the various districts as well as provincial directors.

The online Maths Olympiad was initially conducted at school level where the top two learners progressed to the district competition which was hosted at Park Primary School. The top two winners of the district competition then qualified for the Provincial Olympiad held at Delmondeur. Three learners from Park Primary School Goolam Nabi Hussain (Grade 4), Hamza Fakir (Grade 5) and Daanyaal Sulman (Grade 6) were among the district winners and progressed to compete at Provincial level.



## Lenasia Secondary scooped many accolades at District awards

At the recently-held Johannesburg Central District Academic Excellence Awards, Lenasia Secondary School once more came away with many awards.

School principal Ms. Hawa Munshi said: "Our remarkable achievements are a testament to the dedication, hard work, and perseverance of the amazing educators on this staff who have truly excelled. Thank you for your passion, dedication, and belief in the potential of every learner and the vision of this school to be world class."

The school received the following awards: Geography best results in the District (7 years on the trot); Life Sciences best results in the District (3 years on the trot); English (Best results in the District 3 years on the trot); Math

Literacy best results in the District; Business Studies best results in the District; Lenasia Secondary School best performing public school in the District and in the circuit; Lenasia Secondary in top 5 of schools with highest Bachelor passes; Romana Suliman top learner in the District; Romana Suliman best results in the District in: Accounting, Physical Science and Life Sciences.

"As Principal, I couldn't be prouder of all our educators and Romana for this remarkable achievement. Let's celebrate this momentous occasion and continue to strive for excellence in everything we do.

"Congratulations once again to all the awardees and everyone who contributed to this phenomenal success," concluded Ms. Munshi.



Principal Hawa Munshi (second from left) with the school's numerous awards.

LENASIA Times

FEBRUARY

## LMS scoops numerous accolades at AMS 2023 matric awards



Seen here with the school's Mr. Ebrahim Mia, the six LMS pupils honoured at the event (from left to right): Zaynab Makda, Amat-ullah Mohamed, Zahraa Sonvadi, Humaydah Ismail Hafejee, Zaynab Bismillah, Zafirah Bray.

Photo: Waseem Camroodeen

## MH Joosub Technical High School celebrates 50 Years

MH Joosub Technical Secondary School, a cornerstone of educational development in Lenasia Extension 4, will mark its Jubilee Year on Sunday, 14th September with a day-long set of sporting and cultural activities involving the wider community.

The special 50-year celebration aims to honour the remarkable history of men and women from diverse communities of the 'Tech' school community, recognising their achievements and contributions in different walks of life over the past five decades.

The principal, Ms Amelia Mogotsi, expressed her pride in the school's accomplishments and its impact on the community saying: "Our 50th anniversary is not just a celebration of our past, but also a commitment to our future. We remain dedicated to providing high-quality education and preparing our students for the challenges of tomorrow." "Tech school", as it is popularly known, was founded in 1974 under the apartheid system catering for "Indian" learners only. Over the



years it has emerged as a non-racial educational institution offering a wide range of subjects in technical and academic education.

Anthony Moonsamy, speaking on behalf of the Tech School Jubilee Committee, said that the Committee is planning a range of activities for a fun-filled celebration on 14 September at the school.

He said that the celebrations would start with a 5km Fun Walk followed by a curtain-raiser match between two local legendary soccer clubs. There will be 5-a-side exhibition games of soccer and netball involving veteran sportsmen and women and food stalls. In addition, the Committee will host legacy games, top spinning, marbles and kite flying and a walk-through photographic exhibition of the school.

"The Jubilee celebrations will highlight the school's rich history and its evolution over the years," emphasised Moonsamy.

"It will be a testament to its enduring legacy and its pivotal role in shaping the futures of countless students," he added.

Persons wishing to support this initiative may contact Anthony Moonsamy on 082 334 9324.

LENASIA Times

AUGUST

## Lenasia Secondary's fantastic send-off for Madam Mbentse

Waseem Camroodeen

An exquisite banquet was held at Lenasia Secondary School on Sunday, 2nd November 2023 in honour of long-serving educator and LMS Science HOD Madam Mbentse who will be retiring after 25 years at the school.

At the 'Dinner & Dinnamoo' themed function, numerous staff and students got to say their goodbyes to the beloved educator.

Proceedings commenced with the 'Oration of Gratitude' segment where Principal Ms. Hawa Munshi said Madam Mbentse had a teaching career of 37 years.

Ms. Munshi added "We must acknowledge Madam Mbentse for her kindness and the way she



interacted with all staff members, always smiling, always polite, honest and sincere, with a calm demeanour that made our school a better place.

"Madam Mbentse, your ability to connect with all students is a lasting impression. Your legacy will live on in the hearts of those you touched at this school."

Madam Mbentse, who spoke, noted, touched on the light-hearted and memorable moments of Madam Mbentse's time at Lenasia Secondary, stating: "Organisational skills was Madam Mbentse's super power!"

She also heartily thanked her for all the sacrifices she made for the learners.

Madam Mbentse thanked her for all the sacrifices she made for the learners. She said: "I have missed the learners I've touched at this school. I have missed the joy of teaching, the joy of seeing them grow and our well-being. I don't think we could have had anyone better to have mentored us in Life Sciences than you Madam Mbentse."

There was also tributes delivered by Ms. Mbentse's students and her daughter who mentioned the popular educator began her tenure at Lenasia Secondary while pregnant with a younger child of hers who would eventually be school there.

Accompanied by her husband, Madam Mbentse spoke during her segment called 'Diamond Insights'.

She thanked all school staff, saying: "I have missed the joy of teaching, the joy of seeing them grow and our well-being. I don't think we could have had anyone better to have mentored us in Life Sciences than you Madam Mbentse."

"No words can describe the goodness we experienced here as an environment of teaching that was both harmonious and conducive (to learning). To my Life Sciences department, without you our future would be unclear. You supported me, believed in me and appreciated me. I don't know how to thank you."

"I will miss the school, learners, co-workers and so

The 7th Annual Wits Integrated Experience (WIE) was held this year, with the aim of immersing Grade 11 learners in real-world challenges to stimulate their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

The grand awards ceremony marked the finale of a month of hard work and sacrifice. Al Aqsa High School achieved first place for their presentation, earning them a plaque among other rewards, including certificates, medals and baseball jackets. The school's team showcased a

## Al Aqsa High School victorious at Wits competition



From left to right: Naadhira Loonat, Salwa Doocra, Mr Baderdien, Mr Shaikh, Talha Fakir, Musaz Kholvadia & Raees Kathrada.

