



Libra Primary School: A Legacy of Excellence and Unity

Libra Primary School is a shining beacon of educational excellence, community spirit, and achievement in Lenasia. Since its inception on the morning of May 11, 1981, the school has built a legendary history that spans sporting, academic, and cultural achievements. Its emblem, the *SCALE*, symbolizes the balance between the intellectual, social, physical, and spiritual development of every learner, a philosophy that guides the school's mission to LEARN, PERFORM, and SUCCEED. The success of Libra Primary is rooted in the values of inclusivity, hard work, and resilience, and the school continues to make a remarkable impact on the community.

Foundations of the School: A Diverse Community

Libra Primary School opened as the tenth primary school in Lenasia, serving a unique and diverse community. It catered to learners from the affluent business communities of Vrededorp and Fordsburg, as well as learners from the more disadvantaged Tomsville, a low-income area known as “two rooms.” This blend of backgrounds fostered unity, cooperation, and a spirit of inclusivity, which set the tone for the school’s legacy of excellence

The Visionary Leaders: Principals Who Shaped Libra Primary

The first principal, Mr. Hoosain Ayob, was a renowned sporting figure in sports and a driving force behind the school’s early successes. Under his leadership, Libra Primary quickly gained a reputation for sporting excellence alongside academic achievements. Mr. Ayob was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the school's future, emphasizing the importance of balanced development. In 1987, he moved on to become a cricket administrator with the United Cricket Board, playing a pivotal role in developing cricket across Africa.

Following Mr. Ayob, Mr. M. Ranchod became principal in 1989. A revered figure in Lenasia’s sports community, Mr. Ranchod also served as the chairperson of the Lenasia Primary Schools Sports Council. Under his leadership, Libra Primary won the Annual Athletic Inter-Primary Championship three times and claimed the Inter-School Soccer and Netball Championships in 1989, 1990, and 1991. Mr. Ranchod’s tenure solidified Libra Primary as a powerhouse in athletics and team sports.

In 1994, Mr. A.S. Essack, a former professional soccer player for Dynamos Football Club, took the reins as principal. Mr. Essack not only revitalized the school’s table tennis program, leading many students to provincial and national levels, but also oversaw the construction of the multi-purpose court used for tennis, volleyball, and netball. Mr. Essack’s leadership continued to propel Libra

Primary to greater heights, contributing to both its sporting and infrastructural success. He served as principal until 2002.

Mr. D.T. Singaram, who had acted as principal on several occasions, officially became the principal in August 2003. Mr. Singaram's leadership has seen Libra Primary continue to flourish in both academics and sports. Under his guidance, the school won the inaugural Mini-Olympics in Lenasia in 2004, and the first two Relay Challenges in 2005 and 2006. The boys' volleyball team claimed the Gauteng Championship titles in 2004 and 2005, and Lizwe Sithole, a standout player, captained the Gauteng Under-13 volleyball team in 2005. The school's continued success on the sports field is a testament to Mr. Singaram's leadership and commitment to the holistic development of every learner.

Sporting Triumphs: A Legacy of Excellence

Libra Primary's sports achievements have been a cornerstone of its success since its early days. The school clinched its first major victory in 1985, winning the Inter-Primary Athletics Event. This triumph was the beginning of a long-standing tradition of sporting excellence. In 1989, the late Kovilan Pather broke the South African long jump record for his age group, further solidifying the school's reputation for nurturing exceptional talent.

The school's sporting excellence has been carried forward by former learners such as Chantel Desaraj, who represented South Africa at the Olympics in beach volleyball. Raycene Sunker, a former learner, was a member of the South African Women's Volleyball Team, and the late Natasha Richards represented South Africa in netball. Ayesha Moosa, another former learner, now plays for Banyana Banyana, South Africa's national women's soccer team.

These remarkable athletes highlight the school's role in shaping future stars. Through the years a large number of learners from this school has represented Transvaal and the Gauteng Province in a wide range of sporting codes. At Libra Primary we are ready to make the best of the opportunities that our young democracy provides. Presently, the majority of our learners come from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. At Libra Primary, we

celebrate our diversity and strive to ensure that our learners make their mark and take all opportunities in this blossoming and vibrant nation.

Alumni Who Have Excelled Beyond the Field

The impact of Libra Primary extends far beyond the sports field. Many of the school's alumni have gone on to achieve great things in various fields. Mayan Douglas Naidoo, a former student, is now the principal of Progress Primary School and serves as the chairperson of Lenasia School Sports. Khuben Naidoo, another former learner, became the Deputy Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, while Naeema Adam has risen to prominence as an advocate and acting judge of the High Court. Zeenat Adam, another distinguished alumna, serves as the South African Ambassador to Dakar.

Other notable alumni include Deshree Vandeyar, the Executive Commercialisation Officer at Nedbank, and Dr. Shakira Mohamed, a medical doctor. Mr. Mohamed Dawood, an attorney and motivational speaker, Mr. Minesh Bhagaloo, the Director of Communications at Ford South Africa, Ms. Fortune Madlala is a language practitioner specialising in sign language who works at the SABC as a sign language interpreter. She the CEO of Forch Communications. Zaid Zainoodeen is the current PR councilor for Action SA in Ward 8,9,3and120. Naeema Sayed, a local optometrist, Ahmed Mottiar, a local podiatrist

The school has also produced many educators, including Mrs. Bhavika Keshav (nee Luxmidas), Mrs. Fiona Goga (nee Vaughn), and Mr. Mohamed Naeem Lorgat, who all returned to teach at Libra Primary, continuing the cycle of excellence.

Achievements of former staff members:

- **Mr.Y.Essack-Former principal-Impala Crescent Primary**
- **Mrs.Rachael Jiyane- Former Principal-Enkanyezini Primary School and currently Principal at Finetown Primary School**
- **Mr.Richard Baloyi-Principal Kiyasha Park Primary-Lenasia South**
- **Mr. Sandani Isaac Madumi-Principal-Khindlimukani Junior Secondary School**
- **Mr.Patrick Ramano-Principal- Lilydale Primary School**
- **Mrs.Thelma Makubela-(Late)-Principal- Baragwanath Hospital School**
- **Mr.Ram Pather-Former Principal-Parkdale Primary School(Retired)**
- **Mr.A. Morgan-(Late)-Former Principal- Zakkariya Park Secondary School**
- **Mr.Ronnie Naidoo (Late)-Former Principal-Parkdale Secondary**
- **Ms.Tania Khan -DCES -Labour Unit (Johannesburg Central District**
- **Mr.Nagulin Pillay-Former Sports Co-ordinator -Gauteng Department of Education.**
- **Mr.Gregs Peters-Chairperson Lenasia Secondary Schools Sports Council**
- **Mr.Ivan Naidoo- Former coach Swaraj United(South African Soccer Federation)**
- **Mr.Gerald Isaacs- Former South African Featherweight Boxing Champion**

Infrastructure Growth: Building for the Future

Libra Primary School has consistently invested in improving its infrastructure to meet the evolving needs of its learners. The construction of a school hall began in November 2009 and was completed at the end of 2011 with the assistance of Mrs. Shayda Arbee from the Imperial Motus Community Trust. This facility has become central to the school's cultural and community activities. In 2017, the school added two fully-furnished classrooms, which were officially opened in December 2018, thanks to the support of Lesedi Power Projects and Mr. Thigeshen Velen.

In addition, the school completed the construction of an administration block in 2019, with acknowledgments to Mr. Sungie Moodley and Mrs. Nicki Moodley, and Mr. Fabio Francis. The school's library, which began construction in July 2019, was officially opened on September 18, 2019, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Motus and Imperial Community Trust through the assistance of once again, Mrs. Arbee.

In 2025, the school completed the installation of a borehole, providing a reliable source of water, with acknowledgments to anonymous donors and Drill Direct. Furthermore, the school received sponsorship for computers and laptops for the computer room in January 2025, which was made possible by Mr. Seelin Naidoo of Frontline Management Systems and Mr. Kola Naidoo.

Future Goals:

Embracing Sustainability and Innovation

Looking forward, Libra Primary School has outlined ambitious goals for the future. These include transitioning to green energy through the use of solar power, upgrading the multi-purpose courts, expanding Wi-Fi access to all classrooms, improving the computer laboratory, and enhancing security systems. The school is also exploring the use of excess water from its borehole to implement a sprinkler system for the school grounds.

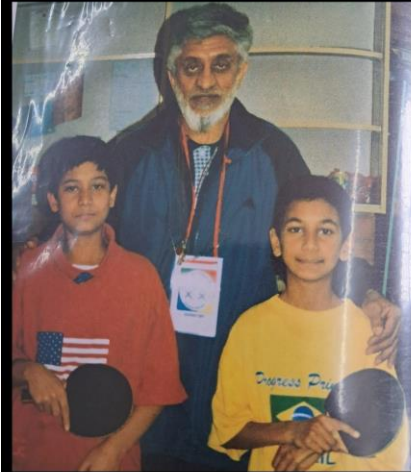
Libra Primary's commitment to holistic education, sustainability, and continuous improvement ensures that it will remain at the forefront of educational excellence in the region.

Conclusion:

A Legacy Built on Ubuntu

Libra Primary School has built a legacy of excellence through the years, driven by a strong sense of community and a commitment to the principles of Ubuntu: *"I am what I am because of who we all are."* The school has nurtured generations of learners who have gone on to make significant contributions to South Africa and the world, proving that with a balanced education, every learner has the potential to achieve greatness. With its rich history and forward-thinking vision, Libra Primary will continue to thrive as a beacon of hope and opportunity for years to come.





Another feather-in-the cap for Libra

By Iqbal Gaffoor

LIBRA Primary School added another feather in their cap when it was announced that Dexter Padiachee is the school's third learner chosen for the Student Sponsorship Programme (SSP).

SSP is a non governmental organization whose vision is to provide academically distinguished but economically disadvantaged - South African youths an opportunity to be educated at some of the country's best high schools.

Dexter will attend St Martins Secondary School next year.

The SSP was officially launched by the Minister of Education, Prof Kader Asmal in June 2000.

Former students Shaakira Valli and Prudence Khanyile were awarded the sponsorship in 2002 and are currently attending Jeppe Girls and St Stithians, respectively.

The SGB, principal, staff and learners salute Dexter on his wonderful achievement.

"Libra's academic and sporting accolades speak for itself. Get the best for your children at Libra," the SGB said in a statement.



Libra girls, winners in the volleyball event. Standing, from left: Indiran Siniyan (convenor), Rehana Bhanjee, Smitha Thulsi, Nonkululeko Gabela, Ethel Malibi and Sabrina Johnson. Kneeling, from left: Aameena Fadi, Nazareen Patel, Sangeta Bhika, Raylene Sunker, Cindy Padiachee and Kgagamatso Ranfao.

Lenasia school flies US flag at Mini Olympics

THE US flag flew high recently when the Libra Primary School represented the Lenasia Schools during the Mini Olympics organized by the Lenasia Primary Schools Sports Council.

Over 15 schools participated in this competition. Libra draws a large percentage of its school enrollment from the Tembambane informal settlement.

A squad of cheer leaders from Libra brought to the Mini Olympics scenes which were typical of any American stadium - US flags and banners included.

The US Consulate was represented at the Mini Olympics by its Public Affairs Officer and Cultural Specialist Ismail Mahomed. The US Consulate sponsored Libra with the team's sports kit and also presented a collection of literature to the school's resource centre.

Jeffries, addressing the learners at the grateful principal D T Singaram said: "We invite teachers to visit our resources centre in Johannesburg. There is so much material there which can be used by teachers to make learning so much more stimulating."

Singaram paid tribute to the US Consulate's support for its school team in the Mini Olympics. He said that the learning materials supplied by the US Consulate for an exhibition at the school, the donation of books and the sponsorship of merchandise for the Mini Olympics resulting in the children and teachers at his school receiving a huge moral booster.

Libra - who gained the first position during the competition - won the following during the Mini Olympics: Athletics (20 gold medals - they were winners); cross country - (4 gold medals - winners) and eight learners will represent Lenasia, volleyball - boys - (10 gold medals - winners), volleyball - girls - (10 gold medals - winners), table tennis - boys - (3 boys - winners), table tennis - girls - (3 girls - winners), soccer - 10 bronze medals (third position - lost in the semi-finals - penalty shoot outs), netball - no position and they did not participate in chess.

Libra volleyball champs again

FOR the second successive year Libra Primary School was crowned Gauteng Champions in volleyball.

Provincial championships was held at the Westridge Secondary School in Roodepoort on 14 May. Trials were held at four different venues in Gauteng. The top eight teams were invited to the Roodepoort tournament.

Libra won all their matches including the semi-finals and the finals - winning the championship.

Lizwi Sithole of Libra was player of the tournament. The team will now represent Gauteng at the national tournament to be held in Bloemfontein or Durban.

At the recent Lenasia Schools Sports Association's relay challenge held at the stadium, Libra were declared winners in the primary school section. 44 learners won 11 gold medals, 3 silver (12 learners) and 1 bronze (4).

Libra's principal D T Singaram said: "All 60 learners received their medals at the school's assembly. This record will be very hard to beat in the years to follow."

"The staff and learners salutes A Sali for his untiring efforts to take our learners sporting talents to new heights. Libra forever."

1-31 July 2005

Libra's Reddy on course to Florida, US

LIBRA Primary's Leonard "Reggie" Reddy has been selected for the Swiss International Teacher's Programme (SITP) to be held in Florida, US.

The programme takes place from 17 July to 14 August. The SITP is designed for a select group of teachers to acquire new skills, exchange information and form an appreciation of diverse nationalities and cultures in a sustainable global environment.

The programme also provides a unique combination of business, ecological and field experience in computer-based simulation called Ecosys.

Reddy has been an educator at Libra for the last 21 years and is presently the Head of department for Languages.

The staff, SGB and learners has wished him well on his trip.

Said a Libra spokesperson: "We believe that this experience of a lifetime is reward for his hard work and dedication to the institution."

"We pray for his safe return. We know that he will be greatly enriched by his experience and that he will contribute to teacher growth and development in our community of teachers through the knowledge and skills that he will acquire."

The school thanks Mr and Mrs Robert Ramabhele, Mr Moodley, Mr Yusuf Ajam, Mr Divesh Madunay, Mr Ahmed Amod of AA Wholesalers, members of staff, parents, friends and learners for their support.

"We are trying to raise R15 000 to cover travel and accommodation costs for Mr Reddy," said the spokesperson. If anyone would like to help Reggie and the school along call 272-272-2727.



October, 2006

Libra School's accomplished learners



The school's learners who will represent the Gauteng table tennis team - Alison Morgan, Aul Labor and Nabeeza Fakir.



Libra learners selected for the Gauteng volleyball team - Anna Motwane, Lizwe Sithole, and Lilly Marwazwa.



The Libra learners who won the Teachers' Society's Book Quiz last month. They are...

LIBRA Primary School has some of the most accomplished learners in the Lenasia area.

This became evident when their learners swept the boards in several areas, including the Book Quiz and volleyball.

Thishan Singaram, Rumanah Jhetam, Rukhsar Sheikh and Halima Saadia Dawood won the English Teachers' Society sponsored Book Quiz in September.

Then, the school's Anna Motwane, Lizwe Sithole, and Lilly Marwazwa were selected for the Gauteng provincial team to participate in the national tournament in Cape Town during the December holidays.

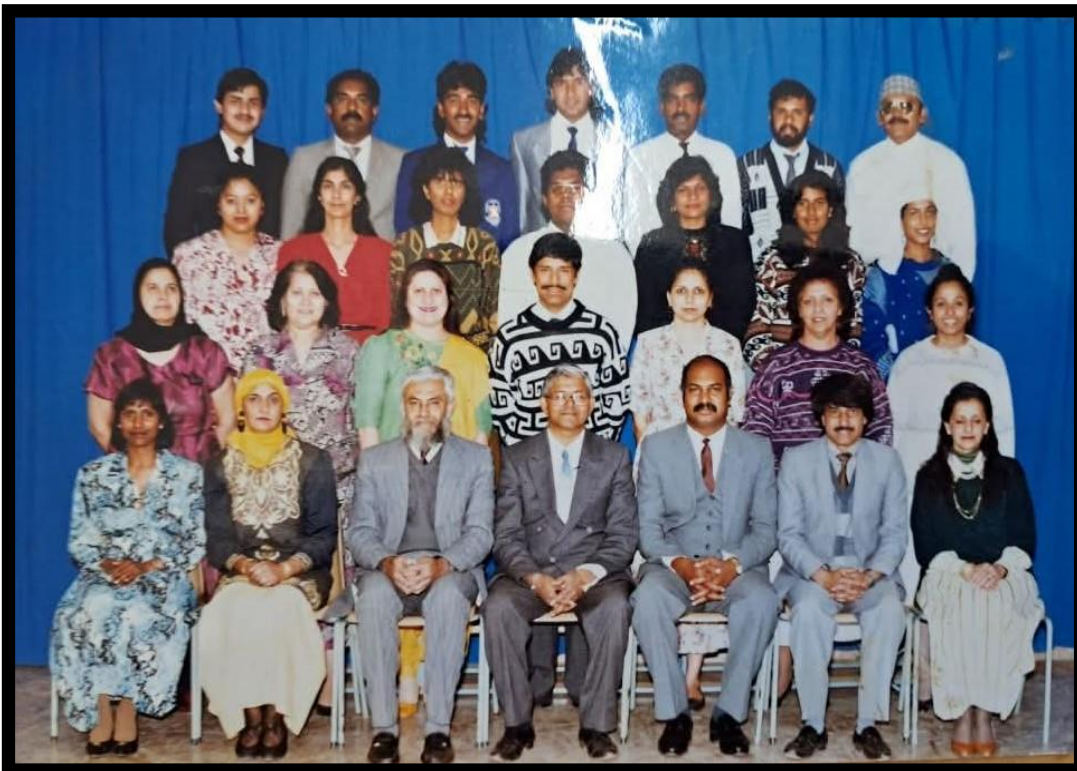
Sithole was also nominated as the Sports Boy of the Year for the second consecutive year.

A further feather in the cap for Libra was the selection of Aul Labor, Alison Morgan and Nabeeza Fakir for Gauteng, also for the December tournament.

The principal, staff, SGB and learners of Libra wished the successful learners well on their outstanding achievements.



1983 – MR H Ayob



1991 – MR MM Ranchod



2000 – MR AS Essack



2024 – MR DT Singaram