



Park Primary School

SCHOOL OF CHOICE 60 YEARS AND BEYOND

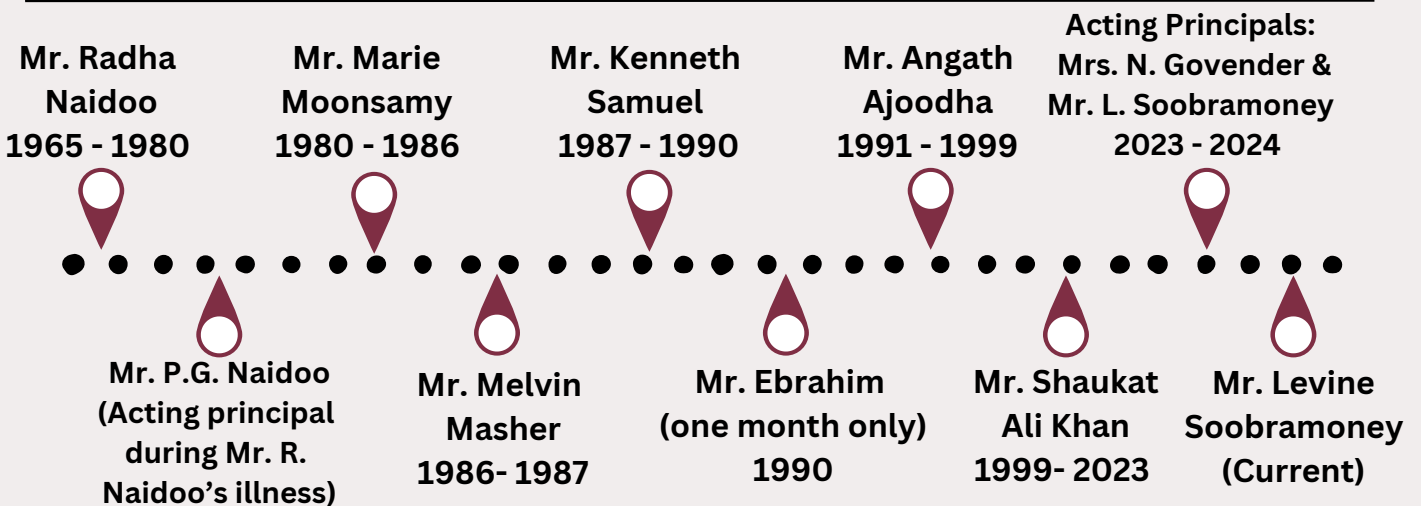
The School's Founding and Growth

- **Founding Date:**
The school was established in 1965, with the first principal being Mr. R. Naidoo.
- **Original Name:**
Initially known as Lenasia School No. 3.
- **Location:** Condor Avenue, Extension 1
- **Vision and Mission:**
At Park Primary School, we believe education goes beyond the classroom. We strive to provide the best possible learning experience, equipping our learners to face future challenges with confidence. Our school is a thriving community where teamwork, innovation and excellence create a foundation for success. By fostering a supportive and dynamic environment, we aim to inspire learners to grow, achieve and contribute positively to society.



Park Primary School in its early days, featuring the iconic bridge and pond that once graced the school

Founders and Key Figures





School Architecture and Facilities



Mr. A. Ajoodha



Mr. S.A. Khan

- Early Structures (1965 - 1975):**
Originally, the school was a prefab building with a fireplace stove in each classroom, used for warmth and cooking by teachers. Facilities were basic, with only a field with goal posts and netball posts. There were no benches or tables for learners.
- Building Upgrades (1989 - 1990):**
The prefab buildings were replaced by a brick building. During this period, Grades 1 - 4 learners were temporarily accommodated at Greyville Primary School, while Grades 5 - 7 learners attended Trinity High School. In 1990, the new school building was inaugurated under Mr. K. Samuel (4th Principal of Park Primary School).
- Further Expansion and Modernization (1990s - 2000s):**
Mr. A. Ajoodha played a key role in extending the school. The tennis courts were formerly part of the adjacent park, but was later incorporated into the school grounds. Brick tables with seating, chess boards and table tennis structures were built outside.
Madam N. Govender introduced a greenhouse to enhance environmental awareness.
Mr. S.A. Khan was instrumental in the construction of the multipurpose centre, which was started in 2008. The Departmental Head offices were part of the development. Under Mr. S.A. Khan and the SGB of that time, a cricket pitch was installed. Additional sports facilities were introduced, including volleyball, netball and cricket. Mr. S.A. Khan was also instrumental in introducing Grade R classes and as these classes expanded, he facilitated the installation of container classrooms to accommodate the growing demand. The school has since expanded its buildings and introduced computer classes and additional sporting facilities to support a holistic education.



Brick tables with seating



Multipurpose Centre



Table Tennis Structures



Progress, Challenges, Triumphs and Innovation in Education



Park Primary School introducing its first computer classes



Celebrating diversity



Park Primary School Hosted the ETS Book Quiz in 2022.



The official opening of the Media Centre

Park Primary’s Transformation: Embracing Change and Innovation
 Since its pre-1994 days, Park Primary has undergone a remarkable transformation. Initially focused on core academics, arts and sports, the school adapted through various curriculum changes. From the flawed Outcomes-Based Education (OBE) system to the introduction of the National Curriculum Statement (NCS) in 2000 - requiring extensive teacher training, the school continuously evolved. The Revised National Curriculum Statement (RNCS) later merged subjects, with Geography and History combined and creative subjects integrated into “Life Skills.” These changes mirrored broader shifts in South Africa’s educational landscape. Beyond academics, Park Primary School played a vital role in social integration in post-apartheid South Africa. The appointments of Madam Gladness Tshabalala and Madam Rebecca Ramakutane as the first ethnic teachers, along with a more diverse student body, fostered a culture of inclusivity. The school actively celebrates diversity, encouraging open dialogue about different religions and cultural backgrounds.

Pioneering Technology in Education

In 2000, Park Primary became the first school to introduce a computer class, led by Mr. F. Karolia. Over time, traditional tools like chalkboards, overhead projectors and mimeograph machines gave way to modern digital tools, culminating in the adoption of SASAMS for streamlined administration. In 2023, the school took a bold step forward by introducing Coding and Robotics. Raspberry Pi devices were purchased to enhance digital teaching, licensed antivirus software was implemented and AI tools were integrated to streamline lesson planning and personalize learning. Technology has also revolutionized communication and workflow. Lesson plans transitioned from handwritten formats to word processing, timetables are now created in Excel and urgent messages are shared via the D6 communication platform instead of printed letters. Emails have replaced paper-based correspondence, flash drives have replaced discs for data storage and staff communicate efficiently via WhatsApp groups for grades, events and teams. The introduction of a Riso machine has further improved worksheet printing.

Adapting to Challenges: The COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic posed a major challenge, shifting learning online despite limited internet access and devices. In-person schooling resumed with strict protocols, requiring teachers to adapt to new methods while parents played a crucial role in supporting learners. Park Primary’s journey reflects not just technological progress but also the dedication of its educators to continuous learning and innovation. From its early days to its present embrace of modern education, the school remains committed to igniting curiosity, inspiring excellence and preparing learners for the future.



Student Life and Traditions

Park Primary School has a rich history of fostering community spirit and learner engagement. Key traditions include the introduction of the school anthem in 1994 by music teacher Ms. S. Garieb, which promotes unity, and the Science Club's "Fun Day" with activities like paper-jet competitions, hula hoop contests, arm wrestling matches, kite flying and bubblegum blowing challenges. The Science Club also organized the "Arbour Day Plant Competition" to promote environmental awareness. Arbour Day was a significant event, notably marked by a visit from Mary Metcalfe, the Gauteng MEC for Education in the late 1990s, who planted a tree that still stands today. Park Primary School also hosted Lenasia's first Scout Group, Lenwood, every Sunday. Led by Scout Master Mr. Jeewa, it included Scouts, Cubs, Girl Guides and Brownies, fostering teamwork and leadership among learners. "Walk-a-Bout" excursions to local services like the police station and the post office provided learners with valuable real-world learning experiences. These traditions have shaped the school's identity and fostered a strong sense of pride and belonging among learners. Mr. Naidoo, Mr. Vythilingam and Mr. Baker introduced overnight excursions for Grade 7 learners, offering adventure and experiential learning to destinations like Durban, Drakensberg and Magaliesberg.



Learners celebrating Arbour Day



Park primary School featuring at LSS Awards evening

Mr. Ajoodah implemented a policy to waive excursion fees, ensuring all learners could participate. Fundraising initiatives, spearheaded by Mr. Khan, were vital in supporting school activities and included events such as the Annual Gala Dinner, the Walk for Literacy, a Circus and Movie Nights. These events not only raised funds for the school but also fostered a strong community spirit and provided learners with memorable experiences. Park Primary School has a successful history in sports, particularly cricket and tennis. The school had four internal cricket teams: Comets, Spitfire, Jets and Bombers. Volleyball and Table Tennis have also become successful sports at the school, supported by dedicated educators and the Volleyball team receiving additional support from the Lenasia Volleyball Association.

Community Impact and Outreach

In today's rapidly changing world, the partnership between schools and communities is vital. When schools and local communities work together, they create a powerful network of support that fosters educational success, strengthens social bonds, and cultivates a sense of shared responsibility. This collaboration not only benefits learners, but also enhances the well-being of the community as a whole. For decades Park Primary School has remained steadfast in its commitment to positively impact the community as well as to partner with the community to impact the school.

Some initiatives include:

- The Annual Walk for Literacy, an initiative which began under the leadership of Mr. S.A. Khan, to raise funds for the School Library and School Literacy Programmes. This event is one that the school is proud of as it 'actively' brings the community together. We would like to extend a heartfelt gratitude to community members and businesses for their generous sponsorship.



The Annual Walk for Literacy held at PPS



The completion of the Borehole at PPS



Regular Blood Drives in conjunction with SANBS held at Park Primary School



Market Days

- Market Days, proudly led by the dynamic EMS department and our spirited Grade 7 learners, have been a game-changer in uplifting our school! Thanks to these buzzing events (Market days and cake sales), we've been able to purchase benches and tables, and even contribute to the grand completion of the S.A. Khan Media Centre - and that's just the beginning!
- The community and local businesses also assisted in sponsoring: sports kits, paving, the inverter, the borehole and prizes at events, etc.

In addition to the community impacting the school, Park Primary School has also left its mark in contributing towards societal progress. This includes:



Anti - Dumping Campaigns

- Partnering with various universities to aid in practical teacher training.
- Collection drives (for families of learners at the school experiencing financial strain, victims of natural disasters, and orphanages).
- Anti-dumping campaigns and Tree planting initiatives both positively contributing to the environment.
- Providing a premises for various organisations, including: LMA (Lenasia Muslim Association), ABET (Adult Basic Education and Training), SANParks Youth Honorary Rangers and Mohan Hira Martial Arts.
- Regular blood drives in conjunction with SANBS.

Our Legacy. Our Future...

As we celebrate 60 years of excellence, we honor our legacy of nurturing generations of leaders, innovators and change-makers. With a proud history of contributing to community projects and producing learners who become professionals in the community, we embark on a bold new chapter. Building on our foundation of academic rigour, social responsibility and community engagement, we envision a future where our students become the architects of a brighter, more sustainable world.

Together, we forge ahead, harnessing the power of technology, creativity and collaboration to create a future where:

- Learners become leaders in their fields.
- Community projects drive positive change.
- Innovation and social responsibility converge.

We remain steadfast on our mission of continuing the next 60 years inspiring young, vibrant minds, transforming lives and building a better, brighter future.



United in purpose, driven by passion - Park Primary's staff, the heart of our school family!



Leading with pride, inspiring with action - Park Primary's 2025 House Leaders, the voices of tomorrow!