



# THEMBELIHLE SCHOOL

2019

## ANNUAL REPORT

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

*Dr Carolyn Hancock*

2019 heralded incredible progress and development at Thembelihle School where we have always believed that education is not just about how well our children perform academically, but more importantly that they learn and grow into accomplished, compassionate and valued members of our society.

Our academic results clearly indicate that our pupils have the motivation and character to succeed. Measurement of the level of achievement of our grade 4 and 7 learners, showed that they performed 15-20% better in English, Mathematics and Science, than students attending comparable State schools. English literacy showed the greatest success with our learners on par, or better than, South African learners who speak English as their first language.

A massive accomplishment during 2019 was the completion of our primary school expansion. The expansion includes the addition of six classrooms, science and technology laboratories, a beautiful and well stocked library and media room, a chapel, additional ablutions for boys and girls and a large multi-purpose hall which can be utilised for school assemblies, sports and the arts. The hall incorporates a kitchen, so that in time we can provide a nutritious meal daily to all pupils. Other renovations included additional office and workspace for our staff. A magnificent addition to the School is a three-dimensional mural of a Coral Tree at our entrance.

The expansion was driven by our aspiration to not only increase the number of children enrolled, but also the quality of education we provide. As such, we continually improve our educational approach with a focus on subject areas and skill sets that promote pupils ability to thrive in the 21st century. We thus have increased focus on Science, Technology, English, Art and Mathematics (STEAM), developing each child's creativity, innovation, communication, collaboration and critical thinking skills.

Building on 2018, four of our grade 7 students were provided with substantial bursaries to Independent High Schools for the entirety of their high school career. Our past pupils already at high school perform best in English, followed by Mathematics, Physical Science, Engineering and Graphic Design, with their results at least 10% higher than their classmates.

In the words of Nelson Mandela, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul, then the way it treats it's children". Thank you to every one of our sponsors, donors, volunteers and staff members for providing the most vulnerable children in our community with unconditional love, dignity, and respect; paving the way for them to receive an all-inclusive education, which is truly meaningful and life changing.

# OUR MISSION

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Thembelihle School aims **“To be a Beacon of Hope in the Pursuit of Excellence”**. It provides a quality education to under-resourced communities in the Howick area.

## What we do:

- Provide a holistic and multicultural education rooted in Christian values for children of all backgrounds.
- Ensure a safe environment to learn and grow academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.
- Equip learners for life through an education that fosters innovation and excellence.
- Partner with families in caring for the needs of the whole child beyond the classroom.

Working as a community, we will give each child the necessary tools to take their next steps and achieve success in every phase of their lives.

## VALUES

**Integrity, Partnership,  
Justice, Discipline, Diversity,  
Excellence, Respect, Growth,  
Courage, Impact**







## OUR CHILDREN

Our children come from poverty stricken, poorly resourced communities surrounding Howick, in the KwaZulu-Natal Province of South Africa.

- Those living in these communities are largely unemployed
- Many of our children are victims of circumstances due to HIV/AIDS and are therefore orphans or members of child headed households, or live with their caregivers, grandparents or relatives, often surviving on minimal state pensions
- In some cases they are immigrants, which means there is no state support
- Living conditions are very harsh and many of our children come from homes with no running water, electricity or sewage systems

**366 children were enrolled in 2019, of which 297 (81%) were sponsored, with their school fees paid either locally or internationally.**

**77%**  
face food security  
issues

**62%**  
live in women  
or child-headed  
households  
with little or no  
income

**30%**  
households have  
NO books

**80%**  
our children can't  
afford even  
government  
school fees

# OUR HISTORY



**1993**

## A Church Hall

The pre-primary school was started in the Howick Methodist Church Hall, with 18 children from desperately poor families.

**2005**

## The Old Parsonage

The Howick Methodist Church offered the Old Parsonage to the school and the pre-primary school moved into its own building.



**2008**

## International Partnership

Brentwood United Methodist Church (USA) provided funding for 90 Main Street to expand into a primary school.



**2010**

## Primary School Beginnings

The school decided to accept 120 desperately needy primary school children from Merit Christian School. Three additional classrooms were built to accommodate these children.



**2011**

## Start grade 1 to grade 4

The primary school opens with classes from grade 1 to grade 4.

**2012**

## Media Centre

The school built a new classroom and a library/ media centre, and renovated the Old Parsonage. Grade 5 began.



**2014**

## A full primary school

The primary school has a grade 6 by 2014, and grade 7 by 2015.

**2017 - 2019**

## School expansion

Expansions to the school began in 2017 and were complete in 2019. There are now two classrooms per grade and facilities to compliment our STEAM curriculum.





# PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPANSION

## OBJECTIVES OF THE EXPANSION

To double the quantity of children served, and improve the quality of education offered, by building additional educational facilities, which will support our holistic approach to teaching and learning. These include:

- A new stand alone Chapel
- Expansion of the school to two classrooms per grade level – grades 1 - 7
- Furnishings for all new classrooms and other facilities
- Addition of boys and girls restrooms
- A fully equipped kitchen in a large multi-purpose hall
- A science / maths / technology building
- An artificial turf outdoor recreation, sporting and performance venue
- Additional and fully renovated administrative facilities and a staff room
- An Arts and music room
- A fully stocked library and media centre
- Landscaped gardens

Thank you to the following donors who contributed to the school expansion: CUSP Foundation, The Concord Trust, Brentwood United Methodist Church, The W. L. Hancock Gifts Trust, the late Mrs. Joan Hancock and other members of the Hancock and Robbins families, Grindrod Bank, the Isaac Sandler Charitable Trust, The Cecil Renaud Educational and Charitable Trust, The Beare Foundation, SPAR Group, Corrobick and Belgatex.

**50% of our funding has been raised in South Africa and 50% in the USA.**

## START OF 2018



## END OF 2019



# OUR EDUCATION

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The school offers an educational curriculum with English as the primary language of instruction. Second language skills are taught in isiZulu (as this is the language of most of our children) in the areas of reading and writing. Other areas of focus include performing arts, visual arts, the sciences, technology and mathematics as well as various sporting programs. Christian values form the foundation of our school culture.

Technology is also utilized in all classroom settings and at an individual level with each child having access to computers and the Internet.

## **We strive for excellence in all areas of education by:**

- Providing for the development of each child's spiritual, academic, cultural, sporting and social skills
- Motivating each child to reach their full potential
- Adopting an ethically acceptable and meaningful academic standard
- Ensuring our teaching principles are based on respect for human dignity, and our actions are based on the achievement of equality, the advancement of human rights and unconditional acceptance
- Compassionate and caring attitude toward all learners and focusing on the needs of the individual learner
- Ensuring the participation, support and full involvement of each family
- Maintaining strong, open communication and good relationships between educators, parents, school management and the community
- We are registered with, and guided by, ISASA and the Department of Education





# STEAM APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

STEAM Education is an approach to teaching and learning that encompasses Science, Technology, English, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. A STEAM based educational model results in students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, participate in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process. These are the innovators, educators, leaders, and learners of the 21st century!

The Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS curriculum) was re-organised into four focus themes: Life & Living, Power & Energy; Sustainability & Enterprise; Earth & Beyond. Each theme permeated into all class subjects, so learners could learn about particular concepts from all different angles. This encourages lateral and vertical thinking in the learners.

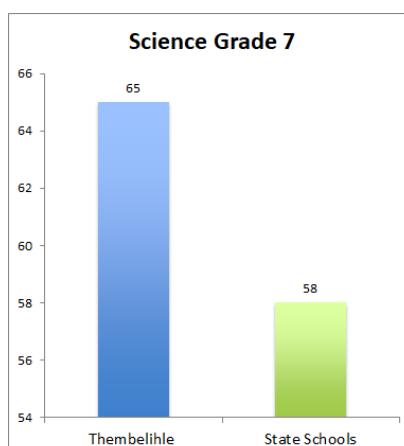
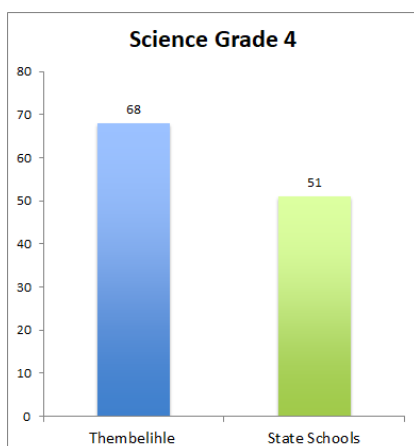
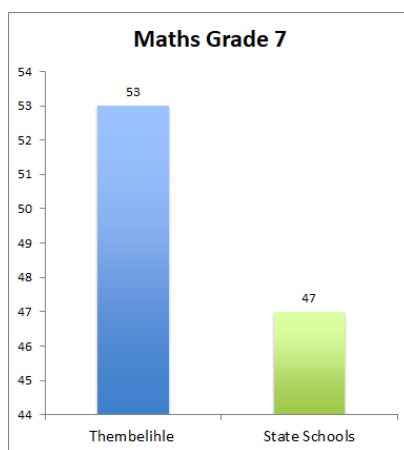
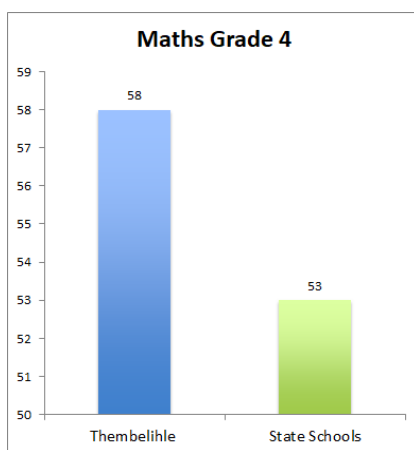
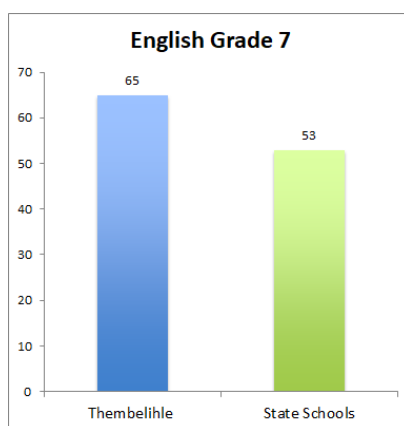
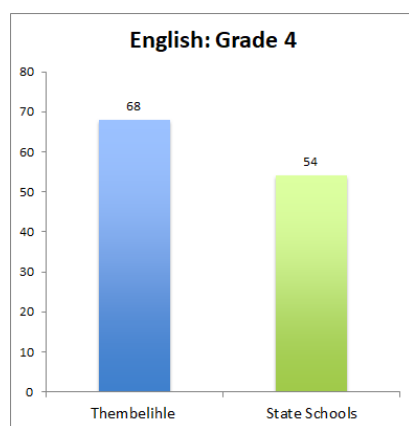
- Life & Living, a STEAM project included attending the Howick TRASHion show, where the learners designed outfits made out of recycled materials.
- Power & Energy, a STEAM project included building cell towers out of reused materials and triangular shapes.
- Sustainability & Enterprise, learners designed and built race cars out of recycled materials.
- Earth & Beyond, learners were tasked with raising awareness of global warming through posters and orals.







# OUR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



## GRADE R ACHIEVEMENTS

97% of the pre-school learners were ready for grade 1, compared to the national average of 78%.

**48%** of the learners were **above** the **grade R average for reading**, compared to 0% in state schools.

**97%** of the learners in grade R had **above average marks in Maths**, compared to 34% in state schools.

**51%** of the learners in grade R had an **above average mark in English**, compared to 49% in state schools.



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

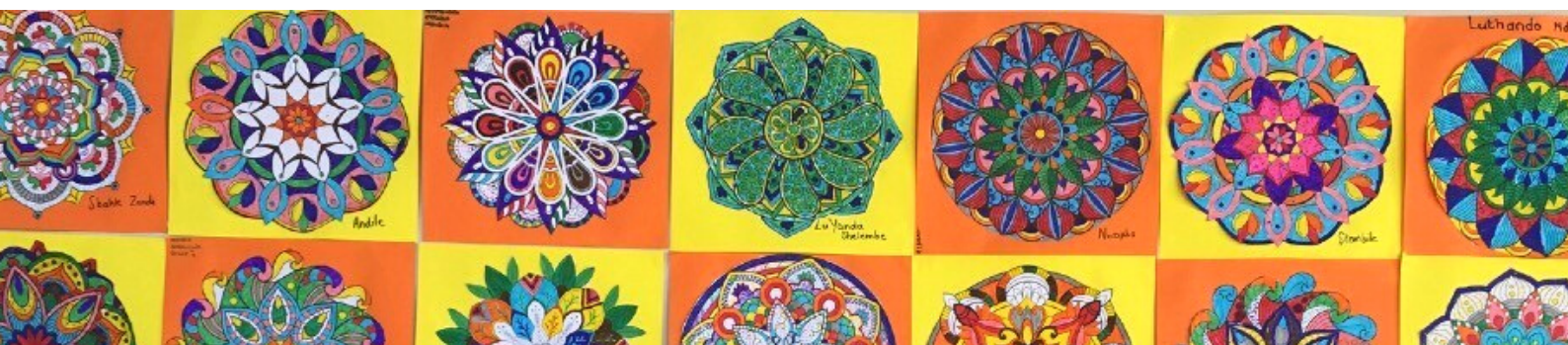
The year's goal: 'develop learners who are curious, disciplined, focused, creative, collaborative, able to perform under pressure, to improvise and apply their critical thinking skills'.

To assist in this, a classroom routine was developed that incorporated mindfulness practices and drama games to develop focus, memory and collaboration, and coordination. Projects were often started with a story, which helps to develop the imagination and the concept of a narrative.

An example of our STEAM approach, was the Grade 5 "Mbube" project. Throughout the year we followed a theme around the song, Mbube, written by Solomon Linda in the 1930s. It is one of the most recognisable and most distinctly South African songs throughout the world, and also gives an opportunity to learn about South African history and apartheid, and how the music industry works. The year started with learning the dance and song, and then drawing the learner's own imaginary lions, followed by creating a collage for the lion's environment. This was followed by a school trip to world renowned ceramic studios; Ardmore and then to the Nelson Mandela Capture site. At Ardmore they were exposed to ceramic and sculpture techniques, that inspired them to then go on to make their own animal sculptures out of clay, that they then fired and painted. The Mandela capture site helped the learners understand better the apartheid history that is touched upon in the Mbube song.

Other projects included painting fiery sunsets and winter trees, learning about colour blending with acrylics, and drawing trees from observation. In terms of music, we developed coordination and movement skills with our song titled Mama Paquita which has a Caribbean theme.

Another STEAM project was making dried food mandalas. Mandala means "from the circle" in Sanskrit, and it symbolises harmony, balance and symmetry. These elements are also mathematical and require skills in design, planning and problem-solving. It is also a useful exercise in calm and focus. The finished product had a 3D like textured relief type effect.







## SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

With the purchase of the new science room equipment, Thembelihle boasts the most resourced Primary School Science laboratory in our area. Our modern design layout ensures that all children can actively participate in classroom discussions and group scientific experiments.

Custom made science stools permit children freedom to move around to do experiments and to gather at the front workstation to view investigations and connect with the subject material.

All models and biology replicas are constantly on display and can be viewed and investigated when needed.

2019 saw children create various projects, including homesteads, electromagnets and wind turbines. All learners from Grade 1 to Grade 7 had to manufacture cars from recycling materials and were given the opportunity to race these cars in a controlled environment against each other. Hands on learning ensured that fine and gross motor skills were developed and enhanced.

- Class average in Science in grade 4 was 68% compared to 35% in other state schools.
- Class average in science in grade 7 was 65% compared to 48% in other state schools.

During 2019 we were grateful to receive corporate sponsorship to employ a head of Science and Technology and Head of Art and Drama. Both teachers have been invaluable additions to the school. They have been instrumental in helping us with the school expansion, as they have ensured that all equipment needed in their departments has been acquired and have introduced innovative teaching strategies, allowing our children to flourish academically.

*Thembelihle Primary School Annual Report 2019*

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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## SPORTS

Sport is an essential part of the holistic educational programme offered at the School. We encourage our children to play sports and learn the importance of teamwork, but at the same time have a lot of fun! Of particular importance to us is our annual sports day that includes all children, their families and our staff.

In 2019 we were extremely proud of the achievements of all our teams, as their level of sportsmanship is exceptional. In terms of results our boys excelled in field hockey and cricket with our girls more than holding their own in soccer and netball games.

**The girls won 60% of their soccer matches and 63% of their netball matches. The boys won 37% of their soccer matches, 69% of their hockey matches, and 83% of their cricket matches.**

Five of our athletes won district school races (80, 100 and 150 meters). Another five athletes came in 2nd or 3rd place. This is the highest number of athletes we have ever had compete at this level (against local schools in the KZN Midlands).

## GRADE EXCURSIONS

Grade R thoroughly enjoyed their annual beach trip to Durban when they saw the beach and sea for the very first time.

Our Grade 5 class was lucky enough to go on an excursion to Ardmore Ceramics and the Nelson Mandela capture site where they in line with our STEAM philosophy learned much of South African History through ART, music and historical studies.

The Grade 7 class went on an overnight excursion to reflect on 2019 and what 2020 may have in store for them. They had a fun filled day at Mountain View Entertainment Centre, completing all sorts of fun tasks. As the day drew to an end they had a braai, dance and camp at the school.





## CULTURAL DAY

Our Cultural Day was filled with heritage, culture, a myriad of colour and pride. Many parents attended the day to see what their children are doing at the school and to see what they have achieved.

Cultural exploration continued in the Grade 6s first art project, where they designed a poster that demonstrated their cultural and personal values. In collaboration with the English department, they prepared an oral presentation, and were encouraged to include a cultural practice in this. This project was an excellent catalyst for not only developing creativity, problem solving, researching and design skills, but also developed confident presentation skills.

## THEMBELIHLE ARTS FESTIVAL

A vital aspect of arts education is opportunity to perform and exhibit work. This not only creates a greater awareness within the school community of what is being produced within the school, it also encourages excellence and discipline in order to reach a high standard of performance. This year, Thembelihle held its first arts festival. This was essentially a culmination of the year's work in the classroom and rehearsals. Apart from the exhibition of the year's visual art work, each grade from 4 - 7 performed at least one piece which incorporated voice, rhythm and movement. Every child in the senior primary was part of these performances. The choir and the marimba band also performed at this festival. It was well received, and will hopefully become part of the tradition of the school.

## HILTON ARTS FESTIVAL

The Grade 6's were given the opportunity to audition for the chance to work in collaboration with Hilton College Drama at the Hilton Arts Festival. The selected group rehearsed weekly to prepare for performance which included mime, dance, singing and acting. An excellent collaborative opportunity.

## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Our Eco Club helped clean up Symmonds stream in Howick. It was done with big smiles and appreciation for the environment. We will continue to encourage our children to be out and about making a difference.

Thembelihle also recycles trash and participated in the Howick TRASHion, show where learners made outfits out of recycled material.



# OUR NUTRITION

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We currently provide all our pre-school learners with both porridge in the morning and a cooked nutritious lunch. In the primary school our learners receive porridge sandwiches and fruit daily.

With the expansion of our primary school we now have space to grow some of our own vegetables for use in our nutritional programme and for the children to take home to their families. Our ventures were so successful that some of the cabbages harvested were as large as our small little grade ones! This enables the children to not only benefit from the added nutrition, but also the learning experience of how to effectively grow vegetables, an important component of our life sciences and STEAM curriculum.

Our nutritional objectives for the entire school with the addition of our new kitchen facilities are the following:

- To fully equip and staff a kitchen at the school, which can provide meals to all children attending Thembelihle School, both during their early childhood years (pre-school) but also through their primary school education (ages 4 -14).
- Utilise a menu developed by a recognised and well-respected chef and dietitian, Jackie Cameron, to ensure all children receive a well balanced diet.
- Ensure the optimal growth and development of every child through our nutritional offering.
- Improve our children's ability to fight chronic diseases such as TB and HIV, which plague the communities in which they reside. This is greatly assisted by a strong partnership with Angels Care Centre.
- Increase children's ability to learn and achieve their full potential in the classroom by ensuring they are able to concentrate on their studies and not be preoccupied by hunger.







## SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

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The enrichment of our children, whether academic or spiritual, is the very reason why Thembelihle School exists. The spiritual enrichment is a daily occurrence, through prayer and song. Bible stories are part of the weekly curriculum.

All grade R learners received an appropriate religious work book at the end of 2019 and all grade 7 learners who leave Thembelihle School receive a Bible which is kindly donated via the Methodist Church in Howick.

The Howick Methodist Church has created prayer groups which includes every Grade 1 and 2 learner. Rev John Stack, the school Chaplin, holds assemblies where all learners are in attendance. Rev Stack is available to all staff and learners and often counsels staff and learners when there is a need.

Our chapel is a restful and peaceful place where children are encouraged to visit. There is a teacher who plays piano and a school choir. We have many Christian volunteers who assist our younger children with reading. Often this time is also used to connect with them in a spiritual manner.

**We are very grateful for Brentwood United Methodist Church and the Joyful Noise Class, who provided funding for the building and furnishings.**

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# OUR HIGH SCHOOL READINESS

## SPOTLIGHT ON LEPOLESA MOHLAKOANA

Lepolesa began attending Thembelihle in grade 4. His incredible improvement over time is showcased below:

Subject	Grade 4	Grade 7
English	11%	68%
isiZulu	21%	82%
Mathematics	13%	57%
Life Skills	54%	80%
Natural Science	35%	78%
Social Science	27%	59%



Other achievements by the end of Grade 7 include:

- The Sue Howard **Trophy for Excellence in Character**, for showing the greatest progress in character in 2019.
- Full attendance in 2018 and 2019
- Progress Certificate and Academic Book Prize 2019
- School Ambassador 2019
- Peace Club Member

## SPOTLIGHT ON BURSARY STUDENTS

- Celenhle Makhayathini and Sisanda Snezelo Madlala were awarded bursaries to Durban Girls College and had an exceptional overall average of 83% for grade 7. Celenhle was the Thembelihle dux, with an overall mark of 83% for grade 7.
- Alwande Aneliswa Ndlovu, a young lady with exceptional academic achievements is also a wonderfully "all round student" who loves to be involved with EVERYTHING! She was awarded a bursary to Treverton College.
- Thulasande Mnikathi was awarded a bursary to Grace College. His academic achievements and dedication are notable and he has a great passion for the music industry and promises to become a great entrepreneur!



**Our "star"  
graduates of  
2019!**



# OUR ALUMNI

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## SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI AT LOCAL HIGHSCHOOLS

Many of our learners attend a local State school, Howick Secondary.

Results of these students indicate that our school leavers:

- Perform above grade average in all subject areas 87,5% of the time.
- Achieve, on average, 15% higher than their classmates in English.
- Achieve, on average, 11% higher than their classmates in Mathematics.
- Outperform their peers by 8% in physical science.
- Enjoy and excel in graphic design with results 28% above grade average.

## SPOTLIGHT ON EXCEPTIONAL PAST STUDENTS

Our 2016 DUX, Andiswa Mnguni, continues to excel at Howick High, achieving constant high academic results.

Last year, in grade 10, she achieved highly at a prestigious local high school obtaining:

- 77% for Accountancy
- 75% for English

Our 2015 DUX, Nolwazi Sibisi is one of the top performers at Mconjwana High School in Pietermaritzburg, achieving results far above Grade Average. She is currently in grade 11.

Notable achievements for 2019:

- 81 for isiZulu
- 84% for Life Orientation
- 50% for Mathematics, which far exceeds the Grade average of 33%.

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Of the 28 Gr 7 learners who left Thembelihle in 2014, we have received the following concerning their matric results:

- 93% of our alumni matriculated in 2019 (compared to the national average of 81.3%)
- 18% of learners passed with a “B” academic average.

We are proud that some of our high school graduates are currently studying at Universities and other tertiary institutions countrywide in 2020.



## SPOTLIGHT ON JOSEPH KAYEMBE

Joseph was awarded a part bursary and part scholarship to Maritzburg College in 2019. Joseph is an exceptional athlete. Some of his more recent achievements include breaking the school records for:

U15 100m at 10.90 seconds (the previous record was 11.30 seconds)

U15 200m at 22.50 seconds (the previous record was 23.40 seconds)

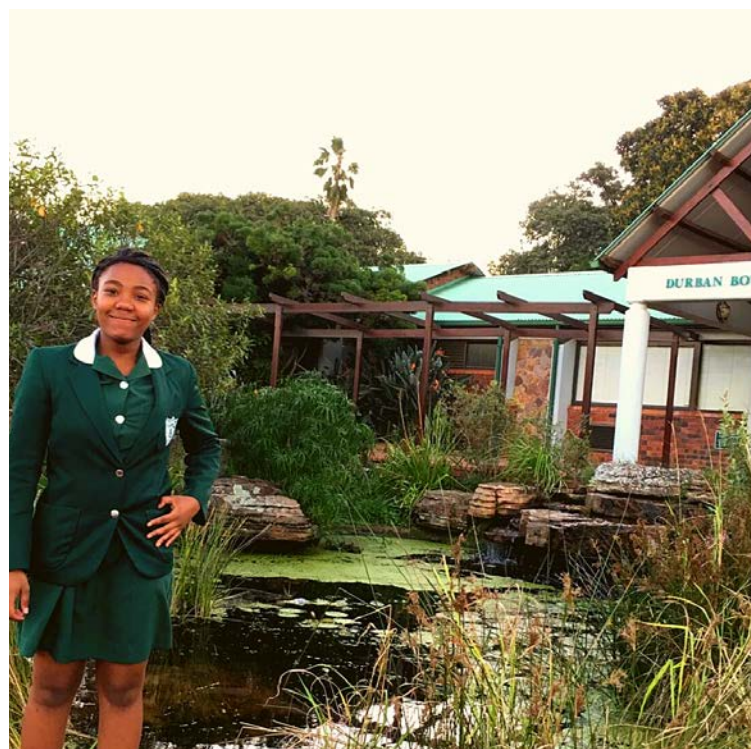
Joseph awarded the John Geekie Cup for the U15 Champion, and he was also awarded the Mike Viljoen Trophy for the best individual performance, for his 100m race.

## SPOTLIGHT ON NOXOLO ZULU

In 2019 Noxolo was awarded a full bursary at Durban's Girls College.

Notable achievements include an "A" symbol on average for effort, for all her learning areas. Her class teacher says:

*"Noxolo is truly an exceptional young lady who exhibits grace and determination daily. She has greeted me with a cheerful smile every day this year, and I have been honoured to watch her growth in her studies, as well as the cementing of friendship relationships throughout the year. If grit and perseverance were personified, it is Noxolo, and I look forward to watching her journey through school. Noxolo you are an extraordinary young lady."*







## CONTACT US:

Audited financial statements available on request.

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## HOW TO HELP

**We are a non profit public benefit organisation**

- Public Benefit Organisation
- Non Profit Organisation NPO

BANK DETAILS:

Thembelihle School  
First National Bank: Business Cheque  
Howick Branch: 220725  
Account: 6201 447 4225  
Swift code : FIRNZAJJ

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