



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



THEMBELIHLE SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

2023 was a challenging yet successful year for Thembelihle School. A major focus of the Board over the past year has been addressing the “financial fallout” caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. Our priority throughout the pandemic was to take care of our children and staff, in accordance with our vision and mission. This however came at a financial cost and our resources and reserves were reduced. Therefore, apart from ensuring that all the programs at the School continued in accordance with our strategy, we focused our efforts on ensuring our financial reserves were replenished. This was a team effort and in the space of six months we achieved our goal.



It has been a pleasure working with Board members, staff, sponsors and donors who all contributed to this success. Special thanks must go to the continued support, both financially and spiritually, that the School continues to receive from Brentwood Methodist Church (BUMC) and CUSP (Mr Hugh Queener), in Nashville, Tennessee, USA. These organisations continue to provide much to the School and working with them has been an inspiration. Our collaborative partnership culminated in a visit in April by representatives from both BUMC and CUSP to engage in our 30 year celebrations which enabled them and many others who contributed to our School Expansion, to view the completed campus. Dr Carolyn Hancock travelled to the USA in October 2023 to provide feedback to stakeholders of both Thembelihle School and Angels Care Centre. We are also greatly appreciative for the ongoing assistance we receive from other International Trusts, South African Corporate Companies and Charitable Trusts.

A highlight for us as a School was the appointment of Rev Sandile Vilakazi as our own School Chaplain. My thanks are extended to the Howick Methodist Church and BUMC who were instrumental in all aspects of this key staff appointment. We look forward to working with Sandile to achieve our vision whilst adhering to our mission of providing quality, holistic education to the most vulnerable children in our community.

Our principal, Matthew Cocks, sadly left us at the end of 2023 to pursue his teaching career in Thailand. The Board are extremely grateful to our excellent, dynamic senior management team who have ensured the continued successful operations and implementation of all programs at the School. I look forward to welcoming and working with, our new principal, Mr. Dave Cato who joins our School on 1 July 2024.

Despite the challenging nature of my first year as Chairman, I have found it most fulfilling. Carolyn left huge shoes for me to fill and luckily for me she still is the driving force behind the School. For this I am forever grateful.

Andrew Blades

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



Our Vision

"To be a Beacon of Hope in the Pursuit of Excellence".

Our Mission

Thembelihle School brings hope to our community through service to disadvantaged children and families. We provide a holistic and multicultural education rooted in Christian values for children of all backgrounds. We ensure a safe environment to learn and grow academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. We remove barriers to education and equip learners for life through an education that fosters innovation and excellence, this is achieved through our STEAM approach to education. We Partner with families in caring for the needs of the whole child beyond the classroom. Working as a community, we will give each individual child the tools they need to take their next steps and achieve success in every phase of life. Our collective impact will shape the future of our children and South Africa.

OUR VALUES

Integrity
Partnership
Justice
Discipline
Diversity

Excellence
Respect
Growth
Courage
Impact



AREAS OF FOCUS



Educate Enrich Empower

Spiritual Wellness



Access to a school chaplain, who focuses on spiritual development, counselling and mentoring.



STEAM Academics

We focus on STEAM Education in the core subjects:

Science
Technology
English
Creative Arts
Mathematics

Ensuring critical, lateral, logical and creative thinking skills.



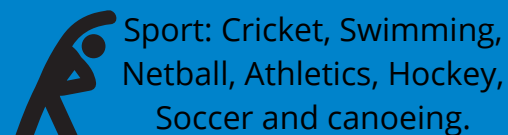
Emotional Wellness



is supported through our partnership with Angels' Care Centre with access to a school nurse, as well as a social worker at any time. Life Skills are also a major focus of the curriculum.



Physical Wellness



Sport: Cricket, Swimming, Netball, Athletics, Hockey, Soccer and canoeing.

Nutrition

Creating a school environment where hunger does not exist, allowing the children to develop, learn and thrive. This is done through the provision of a hot daily meal and snack.



Extracurricular Activities

Allowing our children to thrive and learn new skills.



Chess
Art & Music
Eco Club & Sustainable Schools
Choir
Marimba & Djembe Drum Club
Science Club
School Outings



OUR CHILDREN

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

- People 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. Some live with their caregivers, grandparents or relatives, often surviving on minimal state pensions.
- Living conditions are very harsh and many of our children come from homes with no running water, electricity or sewage systems.

Thembelihle's enrolment has increased by 93,5% since 2012

2023 enrolment: 442 children

77%

Face food insecurity

62%

Live in women or child-headed households with little to no income

90%

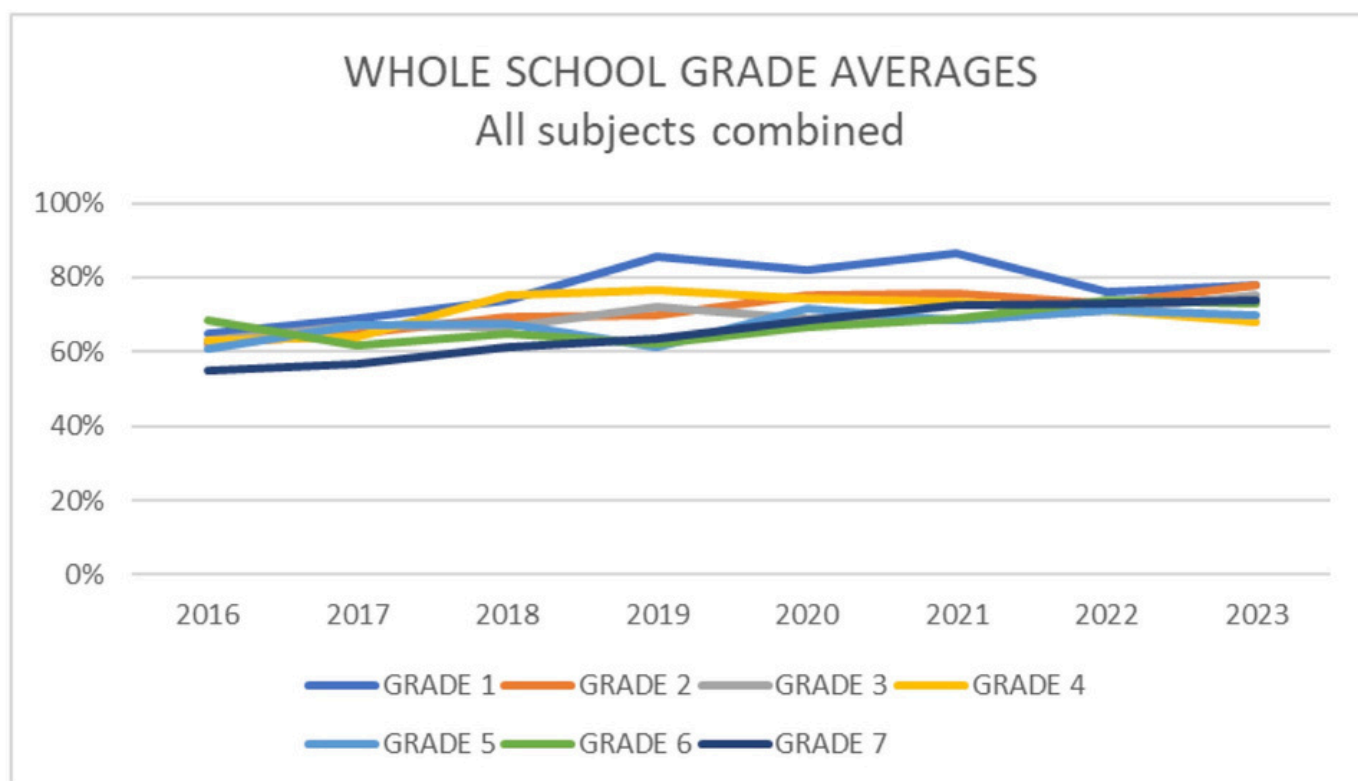
of our past pupils complete high school compared to approximately 37,6% nationally - Stats S.A.

80%

of our children cannot afford school fees

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SUMMARY 2023

WHOLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



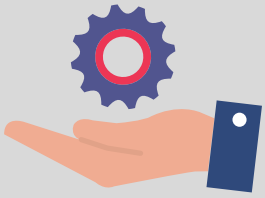
The above graph shows a steady improvement in the academic performance of all learners from grade 1 to grade 7 over the past several years.

The grade 7 trend in particular, indicates a gradual positive increase in students academic achievements with most learners showing a great sense of maturity, zeal, and willingness to succeed academically in this senior grade.

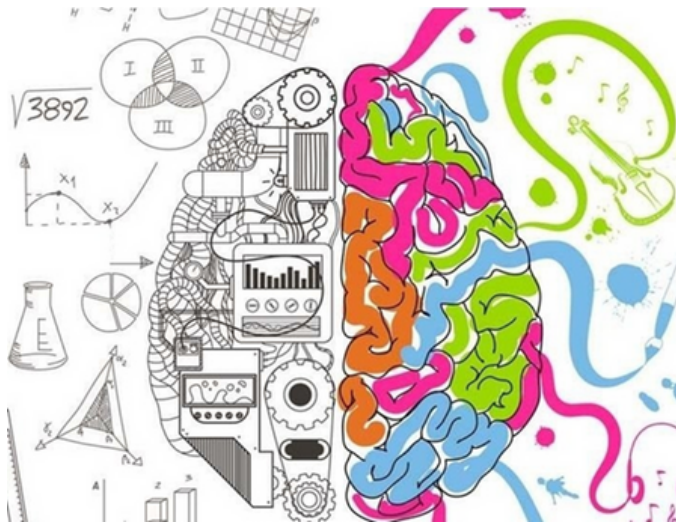
2023: KEY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

2023 ended with extremely pleasing results in both the Foundation and Senior phases of the School in all key subject areas.

Subject	Foundation Phase	Intermediate & Senior Phase	Entire School
Mathematics	81%	68%	74%
English	73%	71%	72%
IsiZulu	76%	73%	75%
All Subjects	77%	71%	74%



STEAM EDUCATION



S	• Science - natural science, physics, chemistry, biology, ecology
T	• Technology -computers & tablets, data-loggers, renewable energy resources, coding
E	• English - literacy, comprehension, speaking • Engineering - robotics, design & technology
A	• Creative Arts - dance, drama and theatre arts, music, and visual arts.
M	• Mathematics

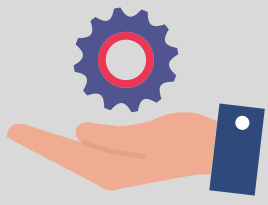
STEAM Education is an approach to learning that focuses on Science, Technology, English the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking.

Using the STEAM educational approach results in students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process.

STEAM Education encourages students to think logically, laterally, critically and creatively so that they achieve academic success.

The STEAM Philosophy is based upon the concept of Skills-Based (SBL) and Project-Based Learning (PBL) approaches to specific themes or concepts. By approaching the curriculum from a 'design-thinking' and 'ideation' point of view, the students are able to link real life problems to practical solutions using Science, Technology, English , Arts and Mathematics through an integrated approach across all subjects.





STEAM EDUCATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



2023: STEAM Focus areas

- Life and Living
- Matter and Material
- Electrical, Energy and Change
- Planet Earth
- Sustainability through waste management

Life and Living

Learners were out and about, eradicating alien invasive plants around the school. They created a compost heap with the purpose of allowing nutrient recycling as the plants decomposed into the soil. They took precautions not to disperse any seeds during their invasive clearing exercise. They learned how to handle workman tools and how to practically apply their technical skills.

Matter and Material

The grade 4 learners used different materials to construct prototype structures necessary in the transportation sector. Various skills were learned during this lesson, including measurements to scale, engineering techniques, data handling, and the handling of tools.

***Nurturing tomorrow's leaders,
thinkers and innovators!***



Electrical, Energy and Change

The entire school learnt about sustainable ways to utilise energy in the third quarter of the year. The different types of energies that exist in nature were practically demonstrated at all age levels across the School.

A multigrade global activity of the 2023 STEAM program was participation in the international Designathon. Thembelihle School participated in sustainability activities alongside a number of schools across the globe. These were timed activities, showcasing the magnificent talent that our learners have when compared to their peers in interactive learning spaces across the world. We connected via Zoom to see what other schools were designing in real time!

The primary theme was designing prototypes that would allow for biodiversity protection to ensure sustainable development.



Planet Earth

Different areas within planet earth sustain various life forms. Learners had to practically find the types of rocks that sustain life. They were given different types of rocks and had to research the rock forming minerals that are found in each rock type. Additionally they learned of where each rock type is found on earth. Thereafter they brainstormed and researched which species, igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic, would be the most prolific rock form on planet earth. We loved putting ecology into practical terms!



Sustainability through waste management

We collected litter that would have otherwise been causing an environmental nuisance and made clothing and accessories for a fashion (Trashion Show) where a number of schools visited Thembelihle to compete on the best “trash” outfits. It was a fun learning experience and served as a good waste control lesson to our learners. We hope to make is our school’s waste management tradition.



STEAM Professional Development

All teachers at our School are professionally trained to deliver lessons following the STEAM curriculum. We periodically train and remind ourselves of the importance of learner engagement during the teaching and learning process.

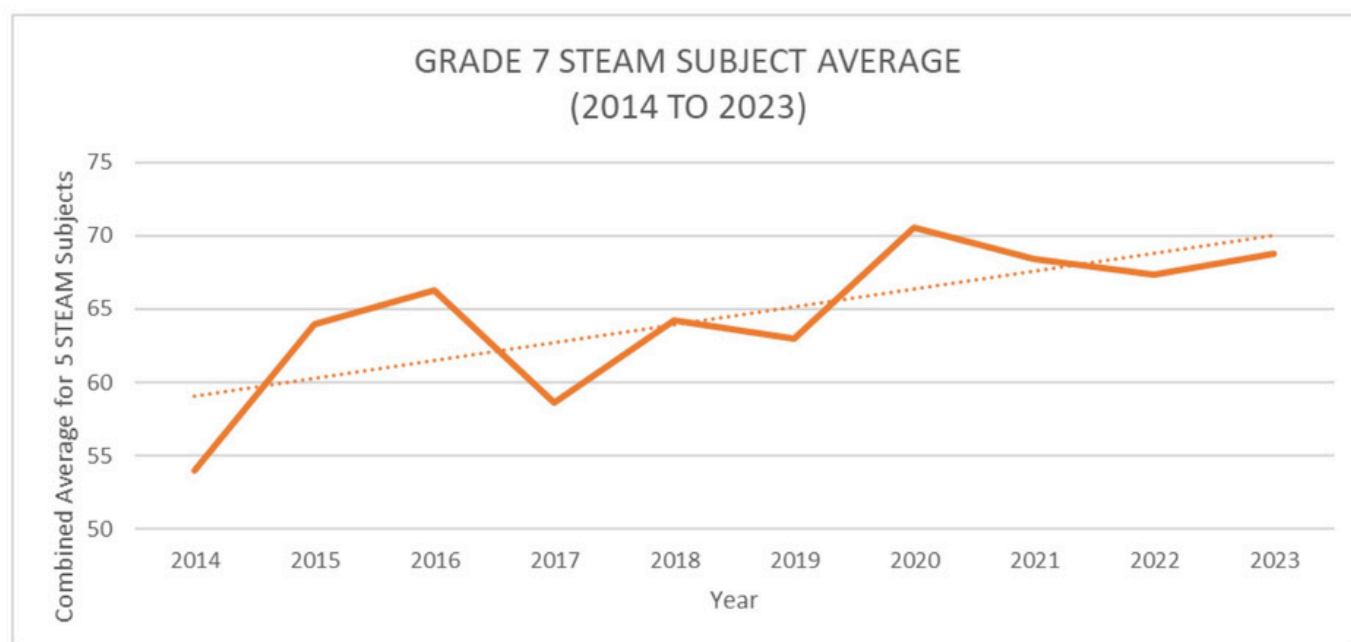
Training teachers on this forward thinking educational approach helps them “put themselves into the learners’ shoes”. It opens their minds to being more creative enabling them to make learning a fun, practical and meaningful experience that highlights the unique talents of individual children.

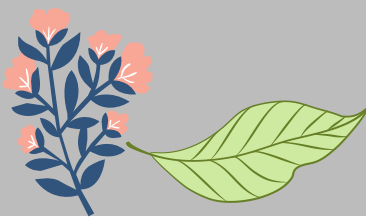


Impact of STEAM Education

The below graph shows how the STEAM curriculum and our interactive and hands-on approach towards the teaching of these critical subjects has proven to yield positive results. A general improvement is clearly seen from the senior children’s academic performances, particularly in Science, Technology, English, Art, and Mathematics. The outcomes are impressive.

Academic trends in throughout the School will be monitored to measure the ongoing impact of the STEAM approach to teaching and learning in 2024 and beyond.





ENGLISH LITERACY



Current Status of English Literacy in South African Schools

- 8 in 10 South African children struggle to read by the age of 10.
- Illiteracy among South African children rose from 78% in 2016 to 81% currently.
- Illiteracy levels are amongst the highest in the country in KwaZulu-Natal.
- Grade 4 learners in South Africa have the weakest reading ability, with 81% incapable of reading for meaning.

Current Standing of English Literacy at Thembelihle School

The reading ages of all children from grade 1-7 at Thembelihle School is determined using a globally accepted standardised test. Our aim is to ensure all children reach their appropriate reading age level and can fully read for comprehension. We are proud of how well our children cope with being taught in English (as a first language) as this is not their home language. Additionally many learners do not have access to reading books at home and may be in the care of elders who are illiterate.

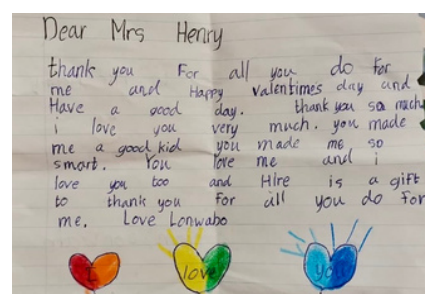
Outstanding Literacy Achievements (Reading age scores)

- Lisakhanya Molefe. Reading age in grade 2: **12.1** (expected 7-8)
- Zelihle Ngcobo. Reading age in grade 2: **9.7** (expected 7-8)
- Mpumelelo Mlothshwa. Reading age in grade 3: **11.5** (expected 9- 10)
- Abongwe Ndaba. Reading age in grade 4: **14.9** (expected 10-11)



Incredible progress made by individual learners reading ages from grade 1 2022 to grade 3 at the end of 2023

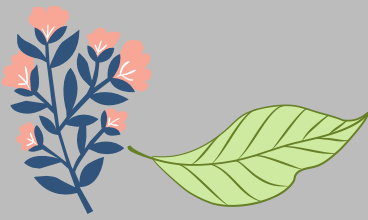
- Nokubonga Mabida: Below 5.6 - 8.4
- Simikahle Ndlovu: Below 5.6 - 9.0
- Amahle Nziweni: Below 5.6 - 8.1



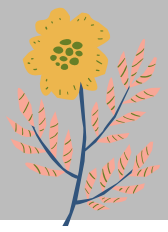
What we do....

- Incorporate English as a core subject in the STEAM Curriculum. with a dedicated English Portfolio team of staff.
- Provide individual and small group reading sessions with Howick Methodist Church volunteers and employment of a learning support educator.
- Ongoing professional development of staff; including all foundation phase completing the Time2Read programme.
- A fully resourced library with a dedicated librarian.
- Participation in Spelling Bee, Readathon, inter-school events and International Book Day.
- Working with Angels Paws therapy dogs who encourage reading.





MATHEMATICS



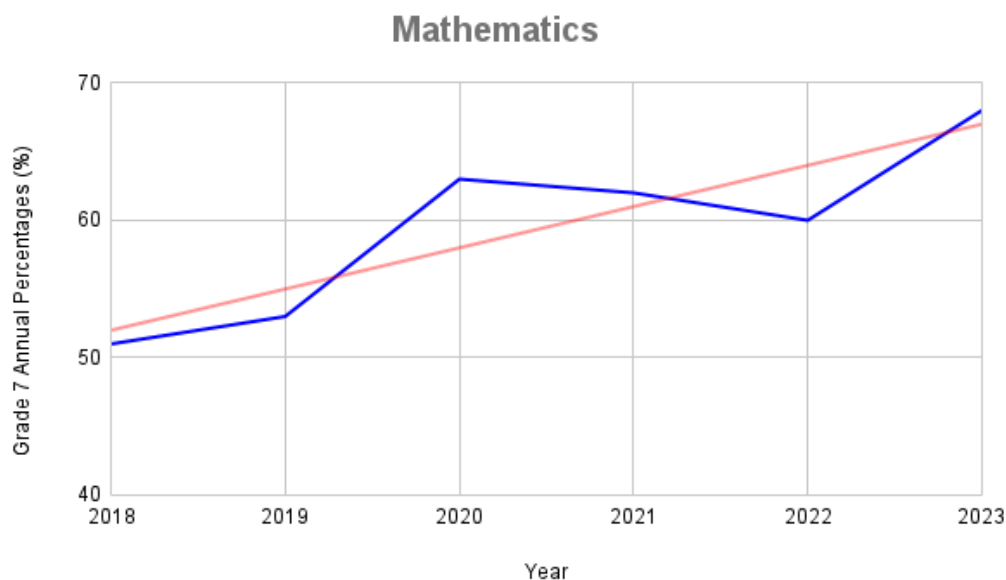
Current Status of Mathematics in South African Schools

According to a study conducted by UNESCO, "South African schools' Mathematics results are alarming". In 2019, South Africa mathematics pass rate in primary schools ranked in the bottom three out of 64 countries. The trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) also showed that the percentage of learners in Grade 5 who reached national benchmarks in 2019 was only 32%; with 63% of learners being below the benchmark and only 5% achieving high results.

Current Standing of Mathematics at Thembelihle School

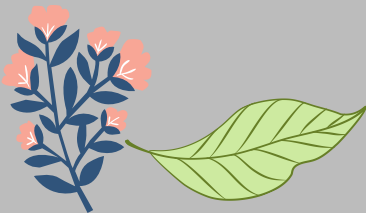
Between 2018 and 2023, our mathematics results show ongoing progress at a high school readiness level (grade 7), which can be attributed to the following key interventions:

- Incorporating Mathematics as a core subject in the STEAM Curriculum with a dedicated Mathematics Portfolio team of staff.
- Employment of a Head of Mathematics with relevant skills and qualifications.
- Ongoing professional staff development.
- Investment into excellent resources and the Maths Fundi Learning programme.
- Participation in mathematics competitions and inter-school events.



What we aim to do in 2024....

- Continue with expansion of Maths Fundi programme across all grades.
- Continue with focused and targeted professional staff development programmes for all mathematics educators.
- Expand or mathematics remedial and afterschool extra lesson programme.
- Continue investing in mathematics resources.



THE CREATIVE ARTS



2023 saw an increased number of distinctions achieved in the Creative Arts and an associated higher academic average across all grades. Our learners demonstrated exceptional dedication and enthusiasm in the visual arts, music performance, and music theory classes. This was achieved through their embracing our STEAM based educational model of integrated learning where learners construct, draw, paint, and sculpt what they learn in other subject areas such as English, Mathematics, Science, and Technology.

Focus areas included the concepts of sustainability and energy.

Learners showcased South African dance forms by incorporating music, history, and culture into their choreography. Our Gumboot dance project was a particular highlight of 2023 with their performance illustrating meticulous attention to detail that highlighted their technical skills.

All senior grades thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with spray painting on canvases during creative arts lessons. By using spray bottles, they learned about colours and how they can be combined to create new and different shades. This activity has also helped them develop and strengthen the muscles in their fingers and hands. The learners also demonstrated a strong understanding of colour theory and have successfully mastered the skill of mixing colours to create a galaxy-like effect using different hues and tones. We love the beautiful and mesmerizing, unique and captivating art pieces they created! Our choral music class took part in group performances where they demonstrated a strong analytical and technical understanding of musical concepts. A highlight of the year was our collaboration with Hilton College, which afforded the opportunity to utilize their state-of-the-art recording studio and performing for a diverse audience. 2023 saw learners showing great improvement in their vocal technique. The children's commitment to their craft is evident and 2024 will provide them with the opportunity to continue to excel in their musical journey.

Our investment of time and resources into the Creative Arts, made possible through our partnership with the Ardmore Community Fund, has allowed the School to invest in excellent educational resources for the Creative Arts and Music and allowed for wonderful hands on interactions with artists at Ardmore Ceramics.

Arts education helps children in need to turn imagination into empowerment by allowing our children to express their uniqueness as well as improve their confidence and self-esteem."



LIFE SKILLS, SOCIAL AWARENESS, CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating culture and diversity

At Thembelihle we believe in Ubuntu - "We are because of others". With this in mind, we celebrate diversity amongst us and remember the importance of each and every South African culture. We believe that Thembelihle is unique in the ways in which we approach and focus on the incredible diversity of backgrounds, cultures and family dynamics of our children.

Our children are very self aware and believe in and live by the values of our School.

Through the many life skills programmes that we offer, our children's hearts and minds are opened to a range of new experiences. Some examples include working with Angels Paws, baking, environmental clubs and theme days. One of the many highlights of 2023, was celebrating "Bok Friday" and of course getting caught up in the excitement and pride of our Spingbok rugby team winning the World Cup.

Thembelihle School turned 30!

Thembelihle celebrated 30 years since it's inception as a preschool at Howick Methodist Church 30 years ago. Board members, staff, volunteers, sponsors, donors and of course the children, took time to reflect on the many years of successful growth that has to date positively impacted the lives of thousands of children. Inspiring and touching speeches told personal stories about the growth of the school and how Thembelihle has changed their lives for the better. It all happened on a magnificent Autumn day when the school looked incredible and everyone could marvel at the amazing journey so many have undertaken to bring us to the point when between Angels Care Preschool and Thembelihle School, 650 children from impoverished backgrounds are all given access to the very best education imaginable. To enhance the day, our pre-school children and choir sang songs that touched everyones souls. Thank you to every single person that is part of our Thembelihle family. We are so proud of our school and cannot wait to continue on our quest to be a "Beacon of Hope in the Pursuit of Excellence".



SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMMES

2023 was a year full of both individual and team accomplishments. We ran a complete calendar of athletic practices and competitions for swimming, cricket, netball, soccer and athletics. In the latter part of the year, we also added canoeing to our sports offering with our top swimmers attending a canoeing course and subsequently watching their coach participate in the Duzi Canoe Marathon.

Regular games were played against Howick Preparatory, Laddsworth, Mount Carmel, Oasis and Clifton Nottingham Road. We also participated in a number of uMgungundlovu District Municipality competitions for various age groups and sports codes.

Hilton College have, as part of their community outreach initiative, started assisting Thembelihle in all aspects of our sporting programme. In the afternoons, Hilton boys help coach all our teams across all sporting codes. Since the inception of this partnership there has been tremendous progress in the learners performances.

Thembelihle School Annual Sports Day and Awards Ceremony

Our annual sports day was a huge success, and children were encouraged to take part in as many sports as possible.

At year end we hosted our 5th Annual Sports Awards. The sports department gave special recognition to Buhlebenkosi Coka, the Captain for the 1st Netball Team, for her outstanding leadership and personal accomplishment of representing the KZN Provincial Netball Team for two consecutive years.

Chess Club

Our chess club, consisting of children of all ages and under the able direction of Mrs. Manyoni, was able to participate in fixtures against Mount Carmel and Howick Preparatory. Thembelihle won four games resulting in a win rate of 92%.



SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMMES

2023 Sporting Highlights: **Netball**

- Buhlebenkosi Coka was chosen for the 2023 U13 KZN Provincial Netball Team.
- Ziyanda Zuma was chosen for the 2023 U12 uMgungundlovu District Municipality Netball Team.
- The Girls first team were crowned uMngeni Local Municipality Circuit Champions for the third consecutive year.
- The Netball Open Team capped up their season by winning the inaugural U13 Netball Build It Tournament. It was a brilliant performance from the girls as they beat all teams in their group, and Howick Preparatory School in the finals.

2023 Sporting Highlights: **Cricket**

- Our boys first team were the first ever Thembelihle cricket team to play in the uMgungundlovu District Municipality Mini Cricket Tournament at the Pietermaritzburg Cricket Oval. They represented the uMngeni Local Municipality Circuit. In one match, Alondwe Khumalo had figures of 5/6 including taking 4 consecutive wickets.
- The 2023 cricket season was very successful with our boys teams recording a 95% win rate, across all age groups, in matches played against other school teams from the uMgungundlovu District Municipality.

2023 Sporting Highlights: **Soccer**

- Girls Soccer: It was a brilliant season where girls across all age groups recorded a 97% win rate in matches played against other schools in the uMngeni Local Municipality Circuit. This included an impressive win over arch rivals Howick Preparatory School with Siziphiwe Malinga scoring an impressive winning goal.
- Boys Soccer: In a season where the boys did not play as many matches as in previous years, they nevertheless ended the season by reaching the quarter finals of the U13 Build It Soccer tournament.





OUR CULTURE OF HOLISTIC CARE



At Thembelihle we have always focused on providing for all our children's needs; body, mind and spirit. During times of crisis this becomes increasingly crucial and we are thankful and proud that we are not only continually able to ensure the academic progress of all our learners, but also ensure that their general health and wellbeing including access to nutrition is never compromised.

We are proud and thankful that we have the opportunity to greatly impact each child's growth and development during their 10 year journey with us which starts with our little 3-4-year-old children entering Grade RRR and is completed when they move onto high school after Grade 7.

We continually focus on the following areas of each child's development:

- **Emotional wellness**
- **Physical wellness**
- **Spiritual wellness**
- **Occupational wellness**
- **Social wellness**
- **Environmental wellness**
- **Intellectual wellness**

Our immense impact on every child is achieved through:

- Pastoral care provided by our School Chaplain.
- Medical care and counselling which is available to all our children through our association with Angels Care Centre's General Health and Crisis Care Division.
- The school's sporting programmes encourage physical development and teamwork.
- Access to quality nutrition through the provision of two meals daily.

These interventions allow every child to focus on their studies so that they achieve academic success. With every programme that is put into place to support our children, we are mindful of their home environment, ensuring that we offer relevant support.





SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT



Thembelihle is a school that is deeply rooted in Christian values that conform with the Methodist ethos. As it is a School that accommodates children of different backgrounds, it is imperative that these values are taught not only to the children, but to the entire community of Thembelihle, including teachers, learners and service staff. Many students who are struggling at home or in life, have benefited greatly from the spiritual program by knowing that they have a safe haven in the Chapel. They also feel that this is a place where they will receive support and consolation.

During 2023 Thembelihle was blessed with the opportunity to welcome Rev. Sandile Vilakazi as our School Chaplain. This has enabled the School to greatly enhance its Spiritual Development program. The program aims to ensure that Christian values become central to the functioning of the School and the lens through which all lessons are taught. The program ensures that religious education is taught to all the classes in the school from Foundation phase to Senior phase. This is achieved by having each class attend a lesson in the Chapel once a week.

Different methods of instruction are utilised in the Foundation and Senior Phases. Godly Play has been introduced for the Foundation Phase learners. This method is well suited for younger children as it is taught using visual materials to ensure that the learners grasp the content of bible stories easily and can identify with the message they contain. The Senior Phase teaching methods are more informative and are designed to be relevant to the every day challenges children have to deal with as they become teenagers. In both phases of the School there is evidence that a good biblical foundation is being laid for all learners at the School as they realize the need, and the importance of living a Christian life believing in, and truly devoted to Christ. The spiritual curriculum fosters a spiritual bond between students and teachers. It has the potential to improve relationships in the classroom by bringing Christ into the space and ensuring that everyone shares a common understanding of spirituality and faith.

The teachers have also welcomed the time they spend in the Chapel. Every Tuesday morning they attend a short Chapel Service which they greatly appreciate. Our Chaplain also conducts a Holy Communion service for staff and senior students twice a term. During these services we hope to improve interpersonal relationships within the School. Additionally this time is used to invite Ministers from other Christian schools who are affiliated with the Methodist Church. At the end of the first term, we were blessed with the Chaplain from Hilton College Rev Sean McGuigan, who ministered to the staff and gave Holy Communion.

The Chapel is well established as an important part, and has become, the centre of the School as a place of hope and comfort.



NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMME



As part of ensuring the general health and wellbeing of our children at the school we aim to ensure that every child at the school receives a nutritious meal daily. The need for food security has been exacerbated both by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the increase in unemployment within the uMngeni Municipality. Added to the above is the fact that the cost of food in South Africa has increased by 30 % in the last two years, and is now becoming more and more unaffordable for our parents and care-givers, thus directly affecting the children that we serve.

We are for most children the only meal that they will receive.

With their home lives in mind, we recognise that as a School, it is necessary to supply our children with a hot lunch as well as a nutritional morning snack.

"Hunger affects learning by curbing a child's physical development, inhibiting their ability to focus and perform, and limiting their future achievements." - Alyssa Cogan.

Our nutritional offering

- The provision of a daily mid morning snack and a hot lunch to all our children by our dedicated support staff. Meals are prepared in our fully equipped kitchen.
- Utilisation of a menu that ensures all children receive a well-balanced diet.
- Improving 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 our strong partnership with Angels Care Centre and their team of healthcare professionals.
- Increasing children's ability to learn and achieve by ensuring they are able to concentrate on their studies and not be preoccupied by hunger.



166 842 meals were served at Themeblihle School in 2023



STORIES OF HOPE OUR ALUMNI



High School Success

Nolwazi Xaba - Grade 9 at St Anne's Diocesan College (2023) - "Nolwazi is a cheerful, respectful and conscientious young lady, and I am delighted that her results have begun to be of an exceptional standard. She has participated actively in class and her contributions are always valuable".

Lwandisa Mkize - Grade 9 at St Anne's. "Lwandisa has wholeheartedly embraced the opportunities that have come her way and she has settled into school life with ease. It has been amazing to witness her growing independence and maturity. She has achieved outstanding academic results and has been an integral member of her netball team". Lwandise finished in the top 10 academically in her grade in 2023.

Luyanda Shelembe - Grade 8 at Treverton College. "Luyanda engages fully in activities at school, soaking up all the experiences and building wonderful memories for himself. He navigates social settings with ease". "His room is always neat, which reflects his excellent character and disciplined approach. I appreciate his positivity and unwavering smile when I engage with him".

Andiswa Dlamini - Grade 8 at Mconjwana High School came first in her grade of approximately 300 students with a 83% aggregate.

Zanenkosi Ngobese - Grade 10 at Howick High School. Zenekosi is in the Cricket first team and flourishing at school.

Owethu Nzimande - Grade 12 at Mconjwana High School. She has always been a top achiever in her grade she is doing Physical Science, Life Science and Mathematics we hope she will produce outstanding results.

Angela Bennie - Grade 12 at North Burry Park in Northdale. She has represented KZN (provincial) Netball team and she is hoping to represent South Africa in 2024.

University Success

Lebotsa Letjeloane - Currently studying 4th year medicine at Wits University, after achieving 6 distinctions from Asibemunya High School in Mpophomeni.

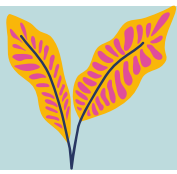
Langelihle Ndlovu - Currently studying Civil Engineering at UKZN.

Akhona Luthuli - Currently in her first year in Bachelor of Education, Foundation Phase with UNISA.

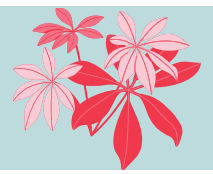
Tawa Hwata - Currently doing his 2nd year in Town Planning at Durban university of Technology (DUT).

Sibongile Msiya Finished at Thembelihle in 2017. She went to Injoloba High School and completed grade 12 in 2022. Currently Sibongile is doing her second year in Information Science at the University of Zululand.

Fezeka Mlaba - Completed Grade 7 at Thembelihle in 2014. In 2019, she was accepted to Durban University of Technology (DUT) where in 2023 she completed her Diploma in Management Science: Operations Management.



STORIES OF HOPE OUR ALUMNI



Ndabenhle Zuma finished at Thembelihle in 2014 and went to Injoloba High school . Following successfully completing Grade 12, he then went to Durban University of Technology (DUT), where he obtained a Diploma in Management Science: Public Relations and communications.

Qualified and Working

Sinethemba Nzimande is a pure reflection that hard work and access to quality education can begin to break the cycle of poverty in one's family. Her schooling started at Merit School in a shack in Shiyabazali. She then moved to Thembelihle School obtaining her primary education before moving to Mnconjwana High School. She received 9 distinctions at Durban University of Technology in her Diploma in Internal Auditing (NQF 6). She was recently employed at Angels' Care to assist with finances and bookkeeping. She is the epitome of "treat people the way you would like them to treat you."

Nomfanelo Mnikathi graduated from Thembelihle School in 2007, and Silver Heights Secondary in 2012, where she obtained her matric. After completing matric she received a B-tech degree at Durban University of Technology in Management Science: Public Relations and Communication. She is now EMPLOYED at Thembelihle as the Sponsorship Administrator and assistant. She is one of our most valued employees. Both her son and daughter are now at Thembelihle. A reflection of a family that has been transformed by access to quality education and dedication to reach one's dreams and goals.

"At the end, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back"

Noxy: Grade12 at Durban Girls College

"My goal for the future is to study and pursue my athletics dream. My long term goal is to one day compete at the Olympics."

Jojo: Grade 12 at Maritzburg Boys College



ALIGNMENT TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Thembelihle School is a supporter and believer in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, and we continue to align our offerings and programmes to the 17 goals and their impacts. The graphic below shows the specific goals that we believe our school contributes towards through our various offerings.



Goal #1 – No Poverty: Our school focuses on the most marginalized and poorest communities within the uMngeni Municipality, where we sponsor 80 % of our children to attend our school, and support their families through our holistic and psychosocial support programme.

Goal #2 – Zero Hunger: Our school feeds all of our 430 children two nutritional meals every school day.

Goal #3 – Good Health & Well-Being: Our school includes sports, extramurals, and access to both medical care and regular check-ups to ensure our children remain healthy and happy.

Goal #4 – Quality Education: Our teaching and learning programmes are benchmarked against other independent schools, and our children excel in their learning. Our teachers and our facilities are of a very high standard.

Goal #5 – Gender Equality: We are a co-ed school, that promotes gender equality, and we run regular workshops and programmes on GBV, girlchild and boychild health and well-being, and counselling programmes.

Goal #6 – Clean Water and Sanitation: Our school has installed water harvesting systems, and we are working in our local Symmonds Stream, to clean up the wetland and to remove aliens and pollution from the waterway. We also pride ourselves on the quality of our own facilities, when compared to where our children live at home.

ALIGNMENT TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Goal #7 – Affordable and Clean Energy: Our school has installed a solar array, and is using this to teach our children about renewable energy resources and their importance in combatting climate change.

Goal #9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Our STEAM programme promotes creative and design thinking, ideation, and also teaches our children about technologies, thinking outside the box, and building prototypes for 21st century solutions.

Goal #10 – Reduced Inequalities: Our school focuses on uplifting marginalized families through educating children who can eventually be successful in lifting their families out of poverty.

Goal #11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities: Our school contributes to creating sustainable development for the informal settlements in the uMngeni Municipalities.

Goal #13 – Climate Action: Our school is both a registered Eco-School and Sustainable School, and we teach our children about climate action and protecting our environment.

Goal #14 – Life Below Water: Our school teaches our children about the importance of protecting our local streams, and teaches the mini-SASS and bioindicators in the form of invertebrates.

Goal #15 – Life on Land: Our school teaches our children to protect nature, including both terrestrial and aquatic animals. We also plant a sustainable garden and run regular nature walks.

Goal #17 – Partnerships for the Goals: Our school works with multiple local and international partners, and we pride ourselves in the way we contribute to the larger community upliftment programme within our town and municipality.





CONTACT US:

Audited financial statements available on request.

We are a non profit, public benefit organisation

- Public Benefit Organisation - 930042047
- Non Profit Organisation NPO - 064-090

BANK DETAILS:

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

Follow us at: facebook.com/ThembelihlePrimarySchool

Website: <http://www.thembelihleschool.co.za/>

Contact:

chairperson@thembelihleschoolschoo.co.za or sponsors@thembelihleschool.co.za

