



S P I R I T

EDUCATION FOUNDATION

DONORS' NEWSLETTER TERM 2 2019

After a good two-week holiday, our schools in South Africa reopened for the new school term on Tuesday 2 April 2019. After our action-packed Spirit camp during the holidays, our Spirit scholars all returned to school inspired and ready to make the most of the second term. With mid-year exams looming towards the end of May it was important to get going with school visits and performance reviews so that first term results could be analysed, and realistic goals set for mid-year exams. Scholars completed a form with their first term results and a second term goal for each subject and more importantly, a comment on actions to take in order to achieve their goals. This form is then used at third term performance reviews. As always, improvements and achievements are recognised and praised and any difficulties or disappointments a scholar may have had are dealt with sensitively and with appropriate intervention.



OLD MUTUAL TWO OCEANS MARATHON

On Easter **Saturday 20 April** the Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon took place and, much to our delight, the Spirit Education Foundation was awarded 35 charity entries for the 21km half-marathon this year. The entries were snapped up and much to our amazement and delight, our runners managed to raise over R135 000 towards the education and support of our Spirit Education Foundation scholars – just incredible! As always, it was a festive and fun morning as Spirit supporters got an early start (in puffer jackets and Spirit beanies!) and held banners, waved flags and cheered on our intrepid runners. One of our Spirit Education Foundation champions, Mike Ortlepp, who had previously cycled for Spirit in the Bloemfontein to Cape Town Karoo Dash as well as the 1000 Miler Johannesburg to Cape Town cycle race, ran for us pushing another runner all the way in a wheel chair! With grateful thanks to all the runners and those that so generously sponsored them.



RAIN JACKETS

We are at last having a real Cape wet winter (after a few somewhat dry winters with poor rainfall) and want to say a special thank you to **Alessandra Callow** from the UK and **Leonie Malherbe** from Stellenbosch Golf Club for their donations which enabled us to provide 28 of our Spirit scholars with rain jackets to combat the wet and cold on their journeys to and from school – you helped to make many scholars warm, snug and happy!



SPIRIT HIKE

On **Saturday 4 May** over 40 eager-beaver Spirit hikers took to the Table Mountain slopes once again to enjoy a hike along the pipe track above Camps Bay. We were grateful as always to the Network Hiking Club who not only very expertly led the hike and ensured our safety, but also shared with us knowledge of the unique flora and fauna on Table Mountain. Another enjoyable morning of good exercise and great fellowship was had by all and we continue to treasure this special time with our Spirit scholars and their families and friends.



TRAILS 2 TAPS

A fabulous fundraising event was held in Johannesburg to raise funds for the Lynne Munnik Spirit Scholarship, which was established by Lynne's family in her memory, to honour her legacy and her years of service to the Spirit Education Foundation. It was held on **Saturday 4 May** to commemorate Lynne's birthday and raised the wonderful amount of R36 000 which will go towards the education and support of the first recipient of the Lynne Munnik Spirit Scholarship, a Grade 8 scholar at Pinelands High School.

Trails2Taps was a 20 km trail run relay event, ending with some craft beers and a delicious breakfast. The 60 participating runners made donations or requested sponsorship towards their race, either before the event or on the day via the Spirit Education Foundation's recently initiated mobile payment app, Zapper.

The event was a great success and by all accounts the runners enjoyed it so much that they would like to make it an annual event. Huge thanks to **Ally Black** as well as Lynne's daughters **Alexandra Tasker** and **Julia Munnik** for the initiation and organisation of this fabulous event, as well as the Trotters Running Club runners and their sponsors for their fantastic support!



ELEVATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Spirit Education Foundation is always looking for ways to enrich the lives of our Spirit scholars and to inspire and motivate them to succeed. On **Friday 7 June** Spirit Education Foundation trustees Paula and Tess attended an information session held by Elevate Education (www.elevateeducation.com), an organisation that seeks to help scholars and students maximise their education with an innovative approach. It was a thrilling morning and we are delighted to be planning workshops with Elevate for all Spirit scholars in 2020.

“Elevate is an international organisation working with more than 1500 schools across South Africa, Australia, the UK, the US & Singapore. Over the last 15 years Elevate’s quest has been to unlock the secret to the final years of school: why do the top learners get the top marks? Having carried out an exhaustive process of benchmarking, we have identified a number of areas where the practices of the top learners differ to average or lower performing students. It is our belief and experience that any learner can improve their marks by replicating these study skills and techniques. Elevate’s high impact seminars and workshops help students to improve their study techniques, increase motivation, improve organisational skills, increase student confidence and raise exam performance.”

SCHOLAR SELECTION 2020

Recruitment of scholars for Grade 8 in 2020 began in November 2018 where nearly 350 Grade 6 applicants wrote our first round of testing in English and Mathematics. 145 of those scholars progressed to the second round which took place in February this year, with assessments in Natural Science, Creative Problem Solving and Grittiness. 55 final candidates attended interviews at the Spirit Education Foundation office in May for us to get to know the applicants a bit better and to gain insight into their motivation and will to succeed. Parents and guardians were also required to attend and to complete a financial means test. Scholarships were awarded based upon financial need of families, the sound academic performance of the scholars, motivation for the scholarship, acceptance at Spirit Education Foundation partner high schools as well as available donor funding to support scholars at the particular high school from Grade 8 to matric. Grade 8 scholarships for 2020 have been awarded to 25 worthy scholars. It remains the greatest privilege to inform parents that their child has been awarded a Spirit scholarship and to experience their unbridled joy, gratitude and appreciation, continues to be one of the most rewarding aspects of being part of the Spirit Education Foundation.

SPIRIT OUTING TO THE CAPE TOWN SCIENCE CENTRE

As part of our continual process to enrich our Spirit scholars’ lives and learning, on **Tuesday 18 June** we enjoyed a stimulating and exciting outing to the Cape Town Science Centre in Observatory, Cape Town. It was a morning of learning through fun, experimentation, exploration and problem-solving, the latter providing much hilarity as our scholars tried to create a soft landing for a raw egg shot out of a giant catapult (no one quite managed to insulate the egg against damage as parachutes and cotton wool failed and the sulphuric aroma of old broken eggs prevailed!) Being the winter school holidays when our Spirit scholars were probably needing a well-deserved break, we were delighted that more than half of them were there as well as Ian Kilbride, our chairman, who came along to enjoy this happy morning with our Spirit scholars.



NEW SPIRIT EDUCATION FOUNDATION STAFF MEMBERS!

We are pleased to report that we have employed two new Spirit Team members, **Saskia Wiese** and **Nzele Omari**, who will work full time for the Spirit Education Foundation from the beginning of the third term. The Spirit team is now headed by **Paula Wallace-Pickering** who joined us in April 2015 as **Tessa Smit**, co-founder of Spirit with Ian Kilbride in 1994, will be retiring at the end of this year after 25 years of full-time service. Tess will remain as a trustee and will be available to assist with projects etc. if and when necessary but she is handing over the baton to new young energetic team members who are already passionate about all things Spirit!



Saskia is a former Learning Support Educator. She studied at the University of Stellenbosch, completed an Honours in Education Support and is currently busy with her Masters in Education with a focus on community partnerships in schools. She has worked in education for the past 5 years and previously worked in the corporate world as a Marketing Manager in the agricultural field. Her greatest personal achievement has been to climb Mt Kilimanjaro in 2015. She is an enthusiastic, dedicated, energetic young woman who has a passion for youth and education in South Africa. We are glad to welcome her as an asset with her experience in education to the Spirit Education Foundation.

Nzele was enrolled as a Spirit scholar in Grade 8 in 2010, matriculated in 2014 and went on to study Human Resources at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in 2015. She was an exemplary Spirit scholar and always stood out as one with excellent qualities of leadership, courage and strength of character. She graduated in 2018 and offered to volunteer in the Spirit office while job-seeking. What a blessing she was to us as she pitched in with enthusiasm and efficiency to do any job she was assigned to do. Nzele has a deep love for the Spirit Education Foundation which she says made a huge difference to her life and she is overjoyed to now have permanent employment as a member of the Spirit Team. Welcome, Saskia and Nzele! May you have many happy, rewarding, exciting and fulfilling years as part of the Spirit Education Foundation team!

And lastly, as always, we extend our warmest and heartfelt thanks to all our loyal and generous donors who make it possible for us to impact the lives of our scholars in this meaningful way as we continue to seek to *'build our nation through education, one scholar at a time.'* We could not do it without you and we are forever grateful for your belief in our mission and vision.