

WINTERBERG SCHOOL TRUST

Annual Report 2020



Grade 1 “visited” the USA at our annual prize giving!

“At the foot of the Winterberg Mountains, nestled amongst the grasslands, you will find a quaint village school called Winterberg School Trust.

The grounds are neatly kept, which gives an indication of the kind of values the school community adheres to...”

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Tel: +27 848 0004

winterbergschooltrust@gmail.com

<http://winterbergschool.org>

Facebook: [@winterbergschooltrust](https://www.facebook.com/winterbergschooltrust)



ABOUT US

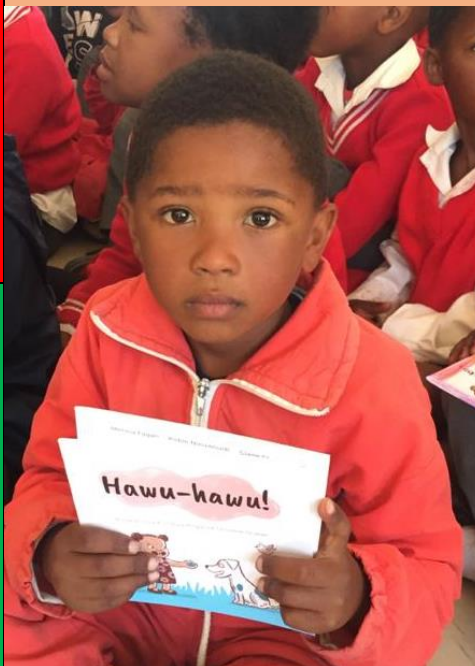
The Winterberg School Trust (WST) is a deep rural, non-profit and community-based organization in the Eastern Cape providing access to quality education since 1990 whilst allowing children to remain living at home with their families. The approximately 140 children that the trust supports are largely the children of isiXhosa farmworkers living in isolated rural areas.

The Trust provides

- Early Childhood Development, Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase
- Parental interventions and support
 - Development and employment opportunities focused on women
- Daily transport to schools in Tarkastad for high school learners

Our Vision

The WST strives for the sustainable growth of the Winterberg community through education and the creation of opportunities for social and economic upliftment.



Mission

We are committed to the sustainable empowerment and development of children, parents and educators in the Winterberg community. We support a holistic approach to education where learners' academic and skills-based needs are equally developed to meet their emerging social and economic needs.

Our Values

- The cultural and language diversity within the community
- The contribution of individuals within the team
 - Standards of excellence, honesty and integrity
 - Opportunities for lifelong learning
- Effective communication and transparency
- Affirmation, support and encouragement

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

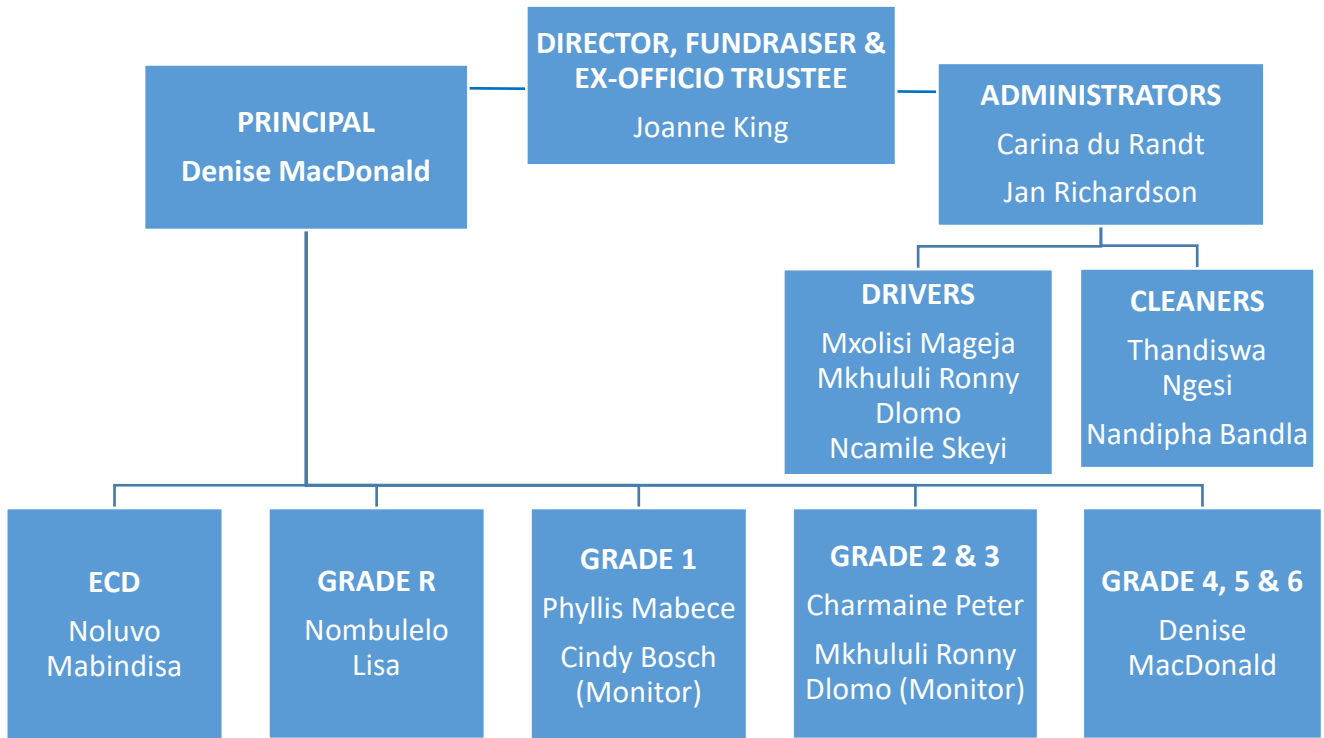
Chairperson:	Amy Bryant
Representatives:	William Pringle, Philippa King, Phakama Mzileni, Andrew Scott, David Millar, Johan Pretorius
Ex-Officio:	Joanne King, Carina du Randt

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Joanne King, Stacey de Jager, Carina du Randt, Denise MacDonald

WST STAFF

Project Director & Fundraiser:	Joanne King (HDE)
Administrator:	Carina du Randt (B-Tech.) / Janet Richardson
Pre-School:	Zandile Femele
Grade R & ECD Manager:	Nombulelo Lisa (N3, NDECD, Level 5, ACE Supervisor)
Grade 1 Supervisor:	Phyllis Mabece-Siyu (NPDE, ACE Supervisor)
Grade 1 Monitor:	Cindy Bosch (Matric, ACE Monitor)
Grade 2 & 3 Supervisor:	Charmaine Peter (NPDE, ACE Supervisor)
Grade 2 & 3 Monitor & Librarian:	Noluvo Mabindisa (Matric, ACE Monitor)
Grade 4, 5 & 6 Educator & Principal:	Denise MacDonald (B. Ed Hons)
Grade 4, 5 & 6 Monitor & Gross motor:	Mkhululi Ronny Dlomo (ACE Monitor)
Computer Educator:	Stacey de Jager (B.Sc., PGCE, B. Ed Hons)
Drivers:	Mxolisi Mageja (Code 10), James Skeyi (Code 10) Mkhululi Ronny Dlomo (Code 10)
Cleaners:	Nandipha Bandla, Thandiswa Ngesi



FUNDERS

Thank you to all our donors for generously supporting us, sharing our vision, and making our school possible. Through you, we are able to provide quality early learning experiences and a solid basic educational foundation for our most precious children.

 <p>ALLAN GRAY Allan and Gill Gray philanthropy</p>		<p>Beth Curl</p>
		<p>Department of Social Development</p> <p>East Cape Education Trust</p>
 <p>Graeme Alexander</p>		
		
<p>Robert Niven Trust</p>		
<p>PAY PAL friends * USA Friends * Winterberg Farmers * Winterberg Ladies</p>		

DONATIONS, VISITORS AND FUNDING INITIATIVES

A week before the school closed for lockdown, we had a visit from the Allan Gray team accompanied by a technical team. The visit resulted in an excellent audio-visual portrayal of Winterberg School Trust.

Visit us on Facebook to view the video!

<https://www.facebook.com/winterbergschooltrust/videos/769079283618346>



Thanks to the donation from Graeme Alexander (Rotary Club) all learners now receive a bowl of nutritious EPAP when they arrive at school, some from as early as 5:30am.

The support received from corporate funders and charitable trusts is supplemented by the following:

- **WST cattle project:** EACH FARMER in the Winterberg Conservancy donated a cow in calf as part of the future sustainability of the WST in August 2017. This is incredible support as the value of a cow in calf is currently R13 000. In April 2018, the Trust made a net profit of R230 000 from the weaner sale. In 2019 the weaner prices were regrettably down, and therefore only R126 000 profit was made. 2020 fortunately saw an increase and a profit of approximately R152 000 was made. The herd is rapidly growing, and the proceeds go directly to the Winterberg School Trust. One of the Trustees manages the herd on his property. A greater profit is expected in 2021 with the continued increase in weaner prices.
- **Winterberg Winners Recipe Book** – There are still copies available of the 3rd edition of our recipe book; let us know if you would like one! 😊
- **School Fees** – Learners are charged a minimal R100 per month to supplement private funding.

The Winterberg Ladies also donated money for learners in need.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

Preschool to Grade R

Unfortunately, the preschool project was largely put on hold during lockdown. No work was sent home as the little ones cannot work without a teacher. Parents are also not able to supervise at home. We resumed the preschool in the fourth term.

The Grade R year follows the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) principals and is supplemented with extra activities such as weekly computer classes. Ms Nombulelo Lisa was instrumental in identifying a number of serious learning issues which the WST addressed, and will continue to address in 2021.



Grade R learn about milking a cow!



Although ECD learners stayed at home, we encouraged stimulation with the help of our famers' wives.

Ms Lisa found it difficult not being able to liaise directly with the parents of her group this year as parental involvement with our young learners is vitally important. Due to COVID, parents were not permitted onto the property for group meetings.

Story telling was a focus for the Grade R's. This is a rich component of the isiXhosa culture and combines mother tongue, with an introduction to English, using both oral and written books for fiction, non-fiction and folklore stories.

FOUNDATION AND INTERMEDIATE PHASE

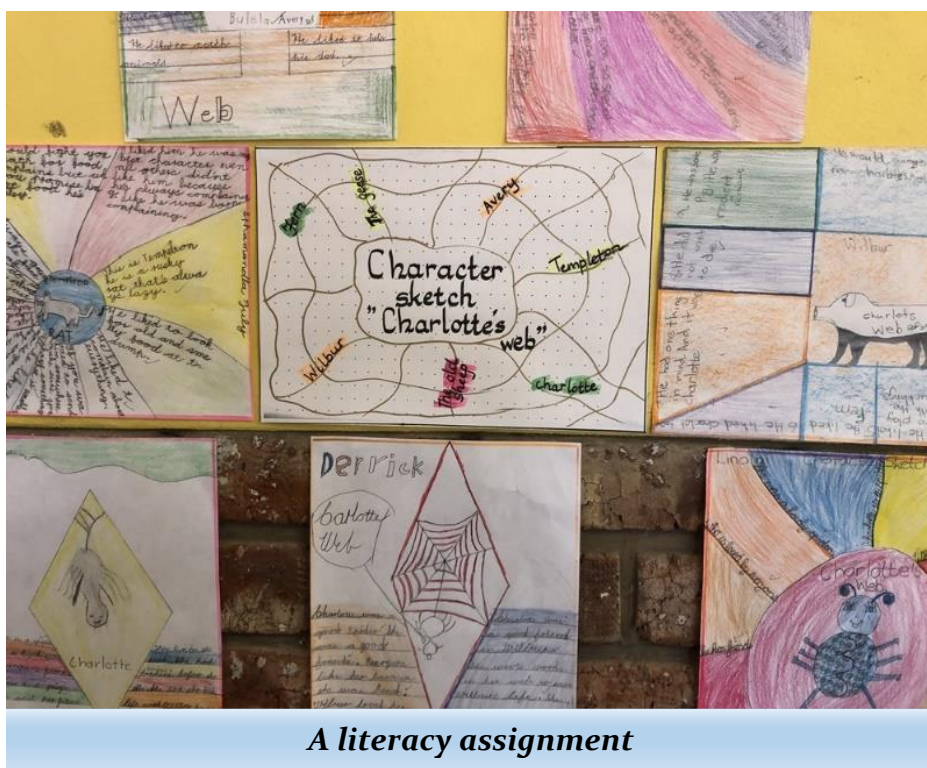
Grade 1 to 3

Grade 1 to 3 also follow the ACE curriculum. The large Grade 1 class was separated out this year with Ms Phyllis Mabece as teacher. She was assisted by Ms Cindy Bosch, a former student of the WST herself, as monitor. Grades 2 and 3 were again combined in a multi-Grade class, closely following the ACE paces. Ms Charmaine Peter continues to teach these grades, with Mr Ronny Dlomo, another WST ex-student, as monitor.

Grade 4 to 6

We extended the intermediate phase to Grade 6 this year, with our principal, Ms Denise MacDonald, teaching this multi-grade class. In 2021 this will further be extended to Grade 7, allowing our students to finish their primary school education with us.

The school year started with great expectations and in high spirit. Baseline tests were written, with 2019 as a benchmark reference. This has proved a useful tool to track academic progress.



A literacy assignment

Although the results were slightly lower than 2019, we attribute this to COVID as the learners were not physically at school for a great part of the school year. Many of the parents are illiterate or barely have a Grade 5 themselves; therefore, assisting learners at home with the extra work sent out was not easy.



New desks

After lockdown, the students came back in phases, to keep them socially distanced. We then ordered new desks, through our generous donors which allowed us to bring back the full class, sufficiently spaced out.

The fourth term required hard work and effort to make it a successful one. As per request from the management team, Ms MacDonald started coaching Ms Peter on aspects pertaining to

academic matters. Workbooks, covering the whole curriculum per grade, were completed by the teachers as a resource for future use.

Baseline tests were written in the first week of November and general exam papers during the second week of November. We unfortunately had our first serious disciplinary challenge, but staff acted swiftly followed by the necessary and appropriate sanctions.

The Grade 6 class were given the assignment “What would you do if you find a magic eraser and pencil?”

“I would rub out all abusive men!”

“I would rub out the gravel road”

**“ I would rub out trash
in Tarkastad!”**

**“I would draw myself a
car!”**

FOCUS AREAS

LITERACY

Book day was celebrated in the third term as part of the international book week. Learners had a dress-up day, in an effort to encourage them to become active readers which will in turn enrich their vocabulary, broaden their knowledge and improve their writing and speaking skills. We encouraged parents to create opportunities at home for their children to read as well as reading themselves, thereby acting as role models. “READERS ARE LEADERS”.



Jess Gallow (who grew up on a Tarkastad farm), a teacher at a school in Gauteng, sent a request for our senior learners to become pen pals. They were ecstatic to receive their first letters! Hopefully, this will continue into the New Year.

Reading their new books in a socially distanced setting



Book Bonanza - Once again, WST was fortunate to receive a collection of beautiful children's books from the Solon Foundation through the Bookdash project. Each child was given TEN books to take home and keep! The goal of this donation is to instil and nurture a love for books and reading amongst children and their families.



Homemade crafts and objects relating to their books



Funny dress-ups inspired by their books!



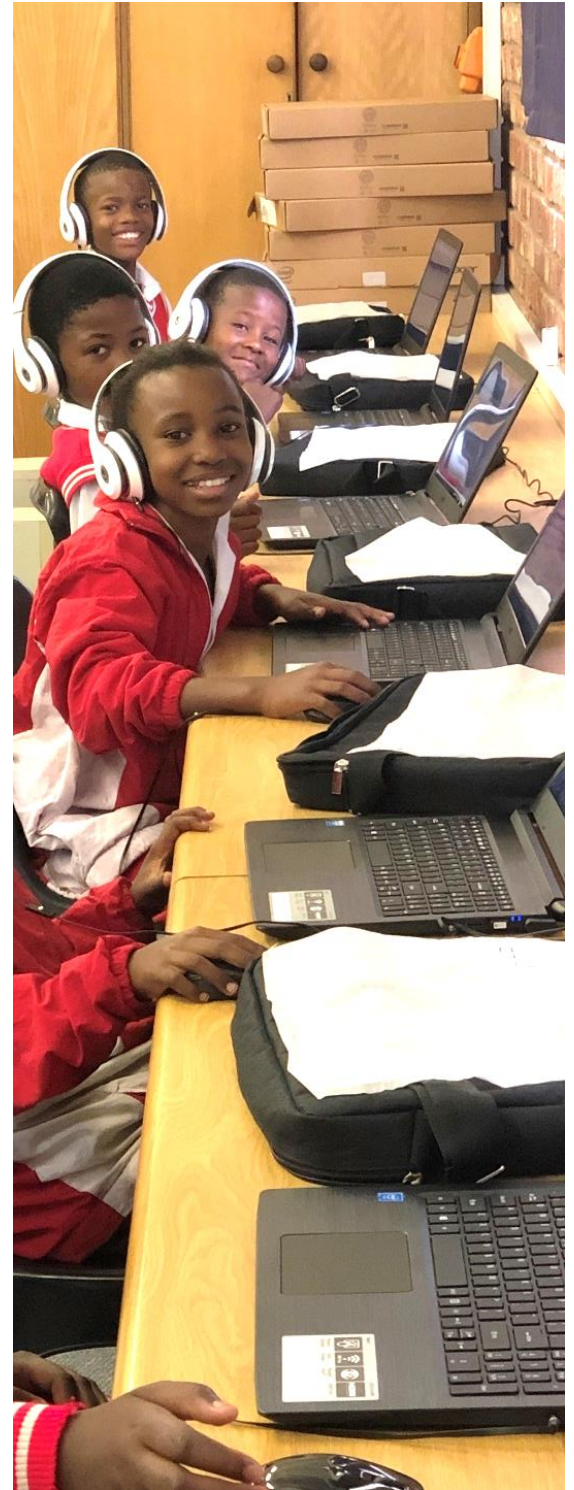
With the books they took home to their families

COMPUTERS

In 2020, we received the most fantastic donations for our computer lab! At the start of the year, Bidvest donated money which was used to purchase laptops. Two of these were allocated for staff use, and the rest for the learners. Having laptops proved an unexpected bonus as several farmers signed out the machines, allowing students to continue working on the Reading Eggs programme from home during lockdown.

All students from Grade 2 were again enrolled in Reading Eggs, which along with teaching computer usage, greatly enhances their receptive and expressive use of English.

The next donation was second-hand desktops from Norton Lambrianos. They brought a whole team to install these machines, and, most beneficially for us, set up a wired network, allowing us to run Reading Eggs on more machines simultaneously, and at a much greater speed. They also brought us 50 sets of headphones, allowing each student to have their own set, which is more hygienic, helping us adhere to COVID policies. Headphones are an ongoing expense as they must be replaced yearly.



The Norton Lambrianos team with the newly installed network!



We then received a THIRD donation of brand-new flat screens, second-hand desktops and laptops and a data-projector from Michael Blechinger, the Managing Director of Voestalpine Automotive Components East London (Pty) Ltd. This meant that we now have enough PC's to set up in some of the classrooms as well as the lab. This will allow students to do extra research, project work and work on Reading Eggs when they are ahead of their class schedules.



LOCKDOWN

After the sudden end of term 1, staff and learners started their first school break of the year. Then amidst the COVID 19 pandemic, the national lockdown was announced. Amongst the confusion and schools being closed, teachers tried to organise learning activities for our learners. After the announcement of teachers to report for duty, we tried to organise ourselves better by putting contingency plans in action.

Numerous staff meetings were held via Zoom, where we discussed ways to engage learners meaningfully while being cognisant of the fact that online learning was not an option. We agreed that the best option would be a system whereby workbooks were sent out weekly to each farm for each child.



Glen Etive kids making puppets!

The community was incredibly supportive of the situation with many farmers assisting by offering workspace, computers, and their time in setting up make-shift classrooms in their homes to help both their own children, and their farm labourers' children with their schoolwork. We now have a FULL set of workbooks prepared in the library, which is a fantastic resource, should we ever find ourselves in this situation again. The workbooks covered the topics that were according to the timeframe as proposed in the curriculum. They were delivered on Mondays and collected on Fridays.



Swallow Krantz school – making a bird house and having a tea break!

On 8 June, the Grade 6 learners were the first to return to school, while the other grades followed as per governmental directive. Masks, regular sanitising and social distance became part of school routine. Teachers and learners were visibly stressed. Much appreciation to the Trust and Management team for the willingness to spend additional money on the purchase of sanitiser, thermometers, masks etc to keep us safe. It was quite an adjustment learning how to speak clearly while wearing a mask as well as how to recognise each other! We closed on the 6 August for a much needed, one week break BUT not before we flaunted our JERUSALEMA dance moves.

<https://www.facebook.com/winterbergschooltrust/videos/659369998011343>

Although learners and teachers were growing weary of wearing the mask, we continued to wear them, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, as an important way of keeping ourselves and others safe. The WST continued to work hard to provide the best education to learners and were able to open our school earlier than government stipulation as we felt we could provide a safe and conducive learning space for our learners.

Very disconcerting and discouraging was that some parents kept their children at home, with no response to our efforts in gaining insight into their plans with regards to their children's education.



Derrick and Zac help out at Glen Etive in peony season



The Rocklyn dining room / classroom

PRIZE GIVING and YEAR END CONCERT



Grade 1 from India

Despite the challenges of the year, it was decided to hold a prize giving ceremony and concert, although no parents or other spectators were allowed. The theme was International, with each class representing a country.



Linathi won top student for the second year running



Cindy, with help from Tracy Frost, made cupcakes in the shape of the SA flag!

Thanks to Greg King for filming the prize-giving and putting together a fantastic video which can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeHzU37gE5c>



Grade R from China

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

VALENTINE'S AND HERITAGE DAY



Staff in traditional clothing

We decided to celebrate Valentine's Day in a slightly different format. The teachers came dressed in school uniforms while the learners were dressed in civvies (plain clothes). After a fun-filled program of song and dance items, learners were treated with fruit kebabs.

SPRING DAY

By October everyone was tired of the gloomy weather and atmosphere and decided to invite Spring formally by dressing up in our floral best. It was just what Mother Nature ordered as sunshine and laughter were in abundance.



.. and in uniform for a reverse civvies day!

We also spoiled the learners with a movie, popcorn, sweets and drinks.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

TOY LIBRARY

Due to COVID regulations, the Toy Library was not used to its full potential. However, this allowed our educators to do a full inventory and to assess the toys that needed to be replaced or fixed. Having completed the tiring job of counting puzzle pieces etc we have identified the urgent need to replace several puzzles that have faded or no pictures at all on them. Some games also need replacing as some are as old as 17 years!

LIBRARY

COVID also restricted the maximum use of the book library. However, it also gave our staff the opportunity to do a full inventory. It highlighted the urgent need for upskilling of our librarian and the updating of the LIBWIN system used in our book library. This will be addressed in 2021.

SPORT

Due to COVID, no sport was allowed in 2020.



An anonymous donation of toys for our library!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PARENT WORKSHOPS

We were only able to have one successful parent meeting before Lockdown. We have made good progress with gaining the trust of the parents as well as them adhering to strict time frames. It is imperative to find a way to continue with parents' meetings in 2021 as that is a missing link in our parent-teacher-child partnership!

SGB

We had a great start with the SGB in 2019 who have definitely been more active than in the past. The SGB are elected by the community to represent the parents of our school. They are essential to success of the school as they know exactly what the concerns and obstacles are within the community and have the obligation to address these to the appropriate platforms.

LUNCEDO

Luncedo is run by otherwise unemployed parents and grandparents of the WST learners who earn an income through making and selling crafts such as placemats.

They also assisted us by making the school tracksuits and masks for each child before they returned to school.



The Luncedo ladies with a tracksuit made in their sewing room at the WST

STAFF NEWS and DEVELOPMENT

- Denise McDonald continued as principal and teacher for Grade 4-6, but unfortunately resigned at the end of the year. She spent the fourth term training Ms Charmaine Peter to take over the role of principal in 2021. We are sad to say goodbye to Ms MacDonald who has been a tremendous inspiration to all.
- Charmaine Peter has shown great promise, especially during lockdown. We trust that under her leadership, and due to her fluency in both English and isiXhosa, we will have increased parent support and interaction.
- We welcome Linda de Jager who will be teaching the senior class in 2021.
- We bid farewell to Zandile Femele and Nandipha Bandla.
- Carina du Randt welcomed a baby girl, and her maternity leave was ably covered by Jan Richardson.



Outgoing principal, Denise MacDonald (right) and incoming principal, Charmaine Peter (left)

The staff celebrated the end of the year with a Christmas luncheon at Blanco Guest Farm.

Message from our principal:

“It has been a wonderful journey, getting to know the learners and their families. Thank you for trusting me with the education of your children. My wish is that the COVID 19 pandemic will be conquered so that the relationship between staff and community can once again be fostered and strengthened.

I shall leave Winterberg School Trust with very fond memories. Apart from the squirrels and Foxy, the one thing that I am definitely going to miss, is the SPECTACULAR NIGHT SKY. May the blessings of God be upon every learner, staff and board member, as well as every family represented at WST.

“I come into your life for a reason and a season”, and for WST my season (although sincerely blessed) is over.”

Denise MacDonald (Principal, WST)

TRANSPORT

Transport is fundamental to the success of the Winterberg School Trust. Without it, the learners and the Luncedo Craft ladies would not be able to access the opportunities offered by the WST. There is no public or other transport available for learners other than the transport offered by the WST.

The school is in a rural farming community, 40km from Tarkastad. Our learners mostly live on farms, some of which are up to 50km from the school. Transport is therefore a vital factor in considering the education of the children in our district.

The total number of children at the WST is 82 in addition to the 42 older learners who are transported by the WST to schools in Tarkastad. The Luncedo Craft ladies are also transported daily.



Celebrating the new bus

The three WST buses drive an average of 700km a day, starting at 5am. They take learners to Tarkastad for school at 7:30am, before repeating the routes to collect the WST learners. At 13:00, the routes are reversed, with the last learners getting home by 5pm.

We had to replace two of our Quantums this year; a huge thank you to Allan Gray for funding one of the replacements!

Visit our website to learn more or to contribute to these initiatives!
www.winterbergschool.org

EXPENSE STATEMENT (JAN – DEC 2020)

ECD and FOUNDATION

PHASE

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Implementation	1,388,797	1,366,182
Equipment	13,792	69,146
Stationery and materials	144,422	123,577
Workshops	16,866	5,084
Field Trips & Sport	4,052	0
Staff Development	14,585	1,865
Toy Library	2,500	2,000

NETWORKING

Accommodation, Travel & Communication	22,520	16,015
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ADMINISTRATION

Audit fees	25,388	24,626
Bank Charges	10,790	8,948
Electricity	52,144	73,828
Insurance	133,860	122,443
Telephone and fax	27,697	19,521
Building Maintenance	66,836	21,647
COVID Expenses	0	29,208

TRANSPORT

Fuel	253,850	148,298
Maintenance	116,857	85,376
Vehicle Replacement	70,000	70,000
New Bus Allan Gray Philanthropy initiative		462,658
New Bus replacement less sale of bus		226,500

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

SUPPORT

	2,000	0
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CATTLE MANAGEMENT

	25,577	40,000
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TOTAL

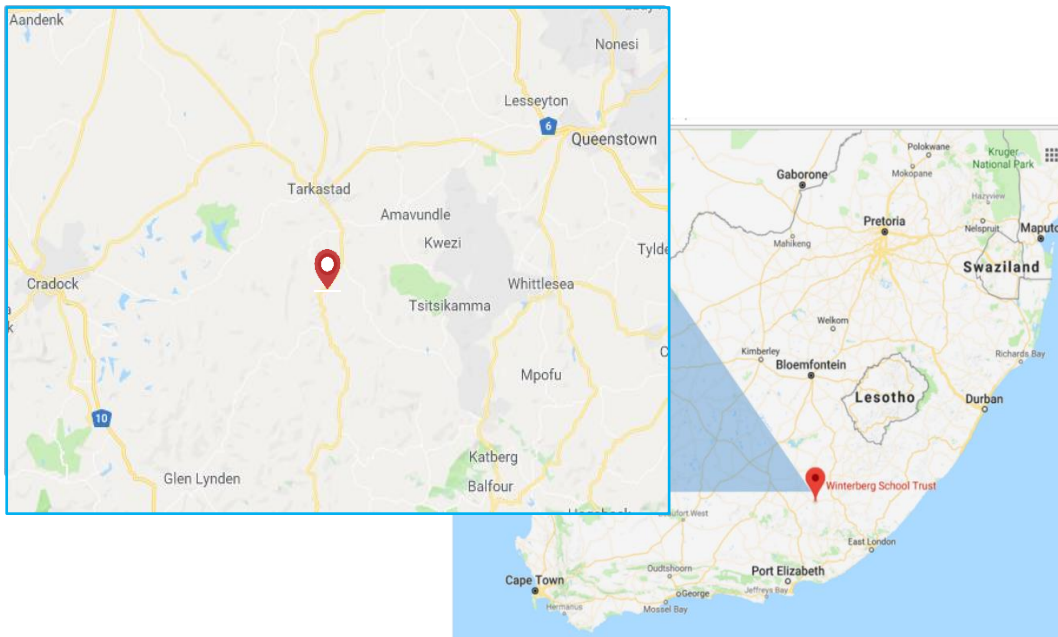
2,392,534

2,916,922

Expense Addendum

- **Transport** is fundamental to the success of the Winterberg School Trust – without it, 150 learners and Luncedo ladies would sadly not benefit from the good quality Education and various other opportunities that are offered by the WST. There is no other transport available to the community other than the transport offered by the WST.
- **Vehicle maintenance** costs are unavoidable due to the shocking conditions of our roads. The replacement of one Quantum was inevitably due to high milage and the rise in maintenance costs. We are extremely grateful to Allan Gray Philanthropy Initiative who generously sponsored yet another Quantum. There is therefore a decrease in maintenance costs for 2020, which was also due to the fact that our buses did not do as many kilometres due to COVID restrictions. It is hopeful that the maintenance costs will remain low in 2021 with the running of 2 new Quantums and a third one fairly new.
- The Government do not pay WST **salaries** or **stationery**, thus the expense for salaries and materials.
- Due to COVID restrictions there was very little **Staff Development** – we hope to address this important need in 2021.
- The **equipment** expense is due to the purchase of the laptops, generously sponsored by Bidvest. There was no further IT expense due to the donated PC's, headphones and network.

Please drop in or contact us to arrange a visit!



Location: Eastern Cape, South Africa,
32°17'988" South; 26°30'115" East
25km on R 344 from Tarkastad to Bedford/Adelaide

WINTERBERG SCHOOL TRUST

“Regardless of the buildings, structures or resources, it is the human factor that makes or breaks, adds to or spoils the flavour of any institution. I applaud the project leaders and members of the Trust for their vision, passion and effort towards this worthy cause of providing quality education to the learners within the farming community.”

“A child without education is like a bird without wings”

“Excellence is rooted in consistently doing small things well over time”.

“It doesn’t matter what others are doing, it matters what YOU are doing”

“Intelligence and character; that is the true goal of education”



Winterberg School Trust
Registration: TM 1272,
Legal Status: 18A Tax Status
NPO Registration: 020 729 NPO
PBO Registration: 18/11/13/1688