

WINTERBERG SCHOOL TRUST

Annual Report 2022



ISASA

Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa

Quality Values Diversity

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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 for children living at home with their families. The approximately 140 children that the trust supports are largely the children of isiXhosa farmworkers living in isolated areas.

<p>Vision</p> <p>To create opportunities through Education</p>	<p>Values</p> <p>Honesty, Kindness, Inclusiveness, Respect, Resilience</p> <p>We abide by Christian Values</p>
<p>Mission</p> <p>To be a progressive country school offering a holistic approach to education and empowering the Winterberg Community</p>	
	<p>The Trust provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Childhood Development, Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase education;• parental interventions and support;• development and employment opportunities focused on women;• daily transport to schools in Tarkastad for high school learners.
	

CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION

2022 saw life return to 'normal' after the COVID-19 lockdowns. Staff and learners embraced this and made the most of the full academic year and all that the Winterberg School has to offer. Having students back in the classroom has energized us all and helped to re-focus our commitment to taking the school from strength to strength. Early in the year we held a strategy session that helped refine our vision and set practical projects in motion to make improvements and achieve our ambitions. It was fantastic to see our teachers, staff and Parent Governing Body take the lead in shaping this. Our impact on the community continues to increase, with higher student numbers and a series of initiatives such as the set up of a soccer field, which has been a big success with parents and children alike.

We are grateful for the support from our sponsors, from the individuals who share our passion, to the organizations, charities and corporates who make such an impact. Without your support we would not be able to operate and grow. As we head towards our 30th anniversary in 2024, we continue to seek further funding channels so that we can continue to uplift the children and families of the Winterberg, shaping brighter futures for all.

Amy Bryant (Chairperson, WST)

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The year started well, with learners and staff excited for the new year!

Highlights of the year included:

- Two in-service workshops which were very fruitful:
 - **Jean Schafer** introduced us to learning and moving; and
 - **Merit Watson** and her team introduced us to "doing differently".
- We also did very well in **sports**. We hosted our first netball tournament and we even won some of the matches. Our learners earned us a couple of medals during a cross-country event held at Orange Grove, Tarkastad.
- We also did well **academically** as can be seen in our standardised test results.
- Our three **new teachers**, Gcobisa Tyutu, Prince Edem and Thabisile Ndhlovu have fitted in well. We all make a great team!
- Four of our staff members visited Hantam community education trust which is a project similar to ours. It is important for us to see how similar projects do things! We shared our successes and came back motivated.

Charmaine Peter (Principal, WST)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Amy Bryant
Trustees: Philippa King, David Millar, Phakama Mzileni, Johan Pretorius, William Pringle, Jean Schafer
Ex-Officio: Joanne King, Carina du Randt

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Joanne King
Carina du Randt
Stacey de Jager
Nompucuko Charmaine Ngangelizwe Peter
Janet Richardson
Prince Edem

WST STAFF

Project Director & Fundraiser: Joanne King
Administrator: Carina du Randt
Pre-School: Nombulelo Lisa
Grade R: Thabisile Choicewoth Ndhlovu
Grade 1 Educator: Phyllis Mabece-Siyo
Grade 1 Monitor & Librarian: Sindisiwe (Cindy) Bosch
Principal, Grade 2 & 3 Educator: Nompucuko Charmaine Ngangelizwe Peter
Grade 2 & 3 Monitor: Mkhululi Ronny Dlomo
Grade 4 & 5 Educator: Gcobisa Tyutu
Grade 6 & 7 Educator: Prince Edem
Computer Educator: Stacey de Jager
Drivers: Mxolisi Mageja, James Skeyi, Mkhululi Ronny Dlomo
Cleaner: Thandiswa Ngesi



FUNDERS

We cannot deliver on our vision for each child to reach their full potential alone. Working and networking with likeminded people helps us to achieve our goals.

We are sincerely grateful for every person, company and business who has contributed financially, in time, in gifts or encouragement, to support us in 2022 so that we can continue to change the future of our rural children in the Winterberg farming community.

 <p>Allan & Gill Gray FOUNDATION</p>	<p>Beth Curl * Joan and Gordon Levy</p>	 <p>BK ADMINISTRATORS <small>(Incorporated Association not for gain) Reg No 00374300</small></p>
	<p>Department of Social Development * East Cape Education Trust</p>	
		<p>One World</p>
		
	<p>Robert Niven Trust * Mike and Jill Stein</p>	
		<p>USA Friends and Families</p>
<p>PayPal friends * Winterberg Farmers' Cow Project * Winterberg Ladies</p>		

DONATIONS, VISITORS AND FUNDING INITIATIVES

The WST has a crucial role to play in uplifting the standard of education in the Winterberg and neighbouring rural communities. The financial contributions of parents in the Winterberg Community cannot, however, sustain the operation of this project and, if the WST is to continue to guarantee the rights of Winterberg children, then the Trust will remain dependent on the generous funding provided by individual and corporate donors.

As a Level 1 **B-BBEE Service Provider**, we assist companies with their Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment goals and help them achieve points on their B-BEE scorecard.

Donations to the WST are tax deductible as we are a registered **NPO** and can issue a **Section 18A Tax Certificate**.

We were privileged to have **Mike and Jill Stein** from the USA visit us during their hunting vacation with Ben Pringle Safaris. Once again, they very generously gave an incredible gift to the school – a whole set of **SPHERICAL ROBOTIC BALLS!!** A first for ALL of us to see and learn to use!! WOW what an incredible gift this has been. Our learners **AND** staff have absolutely loved the challenge. They have certainly helped with learners struggling with directionality and laterality. We love them – thank you Mike and Jill, your support has been greatly appreciated over the years.



Annual Report 2022

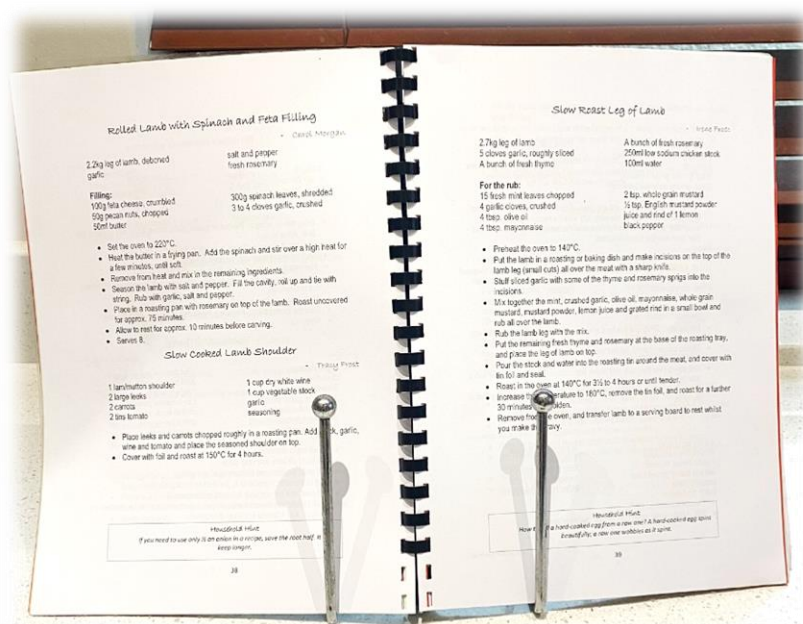
Thank you also to Johan and Sarona Pretorius for their donation of two TV's, which are greatly enjoyed by all!

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

WST cattle project: Our cattle herd continues to flourish, with the weaners being sold every year through the Winterberg Farmers' Association.

Cattle Herd 2022	
73	6 x Old cows
	13 x Cows
	17 x 30 mnth old Heifers
	5 x 18 mnth old Heifers
	32 x Calves
HERD TOTAL = 73	

Winners Recipe Book: There are still copies of the 3rd edition of our recipe book available. Let us know if you would like one!



School Fees: Learners are charged a minimal R100 per month. This has remained stable for several years, but will be increased to R150 in 2023.

Should you wish to help us and support the future of our children, please visit our website www.winterbergschool.org and contribute via our **PayPal** account. .

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

PRESCHOOL TO GRADE R

The much-loved puzzle time is a favourite part of every day. It is impressive to see how well our youngest learners tackle puzzles. We recently had a Grade R learner complete a 120 piece puzzle! Others tried to challenge her, but they could only go as far as 72 pieces.



During free play, learners built a tower using boxes of various sizes. They were trying to see how far they could stack the boxes before they fell!

We briefly spoke about 3D shapes during Maths, and this girl was so excited to build her first 3D object using blocks.



We did a lesson on the importance of **teamwork**.

This picture captures a learner helping a classmate with their project. We learnt the letter “S” for Sandy Sunfish. Learners had to figure out how to make semi-circle scales for Sandy Sunfish using orange paper. Orange was also the colour of the week.



We went on a **nature walk** to collect leaves. The theme was Autumn. We then used the leaves to count and build graphs for data handling. We created our masterpieces with the collected leaves. Learners enjoyed this activity a lot and it led to us going out more often to collect things we could count and use for art. Sometimes we go outside to do reading if the weather permits.

FOUNDATION PHASE

After an in-depth assessment of our curriculum, we finally decided to change all grades from the Accelerated Christian Education curriculum to the CAPS curriculum. The ACE curriculum has been fantastic in helping learners learn to read, but we have found that other areas have deficiencies and therefore felt the need to revert to the CAPS curriculum in 2023.



Gr 2&3 role playing , and art with Jean Schafer

We again kept Grade 1 on its own. This vital year is singled out and not combined with other classes as it is the most important year in learning to read. Grade 2 and 3 were combined in a multigrade class. In addition to the PACE system of the ACE curriculum, up until now learners have had a five hours weekly Maths and English lesson to supplement the curriculum. It will be a big adjustment saying goodbye to ACE, but we trust that this change will benefit our learners.



INTERMEDIATE PHASE

Grade 4 and 5 were again combined in one class, but as the numbers were low, this was not a problem. The senior class flourished, with a huge **improvement** in mathematics. All the assessed Grade 7 learners will be going on to schools in Tarkastad in 2023.



Classwork and Easter poetry recitals

GRADE 7 FAREWELL

Each year, we organize a farewell for our Grade 7 learners. The 2022 celebration was held at **TAM SAFARIS**, who also generously sponsored hampers. The excursion was a tour around TAM game reserve. Learners were fascinated at the sight of the big game, such as a pride of lions, buffaloes and other wild animals.



PAST STUDENTS

We continued to monitor **Siphamandla July**, who was awarded a Scholarship to study at Queens College in Queenstown in 2021. Although not without challenges, Siphamandla has thrived on the athletics field, particularly in pole vaulting!



Siphamandla was asked to receive the interhouse trophy on behalf of his sports house, a great honour!

The WST will continue to support the Grade 8 to 12 learners by transporting them daily, and offering after-school academic support. They will also have access to our well-equipped library.



Zoe Bennett and **Linathi Femele** completed Grade 7 at the WST in 2021, and moved to Tarka High for Grade 8. They are transported daily and given support in the form of extra lessons and stationery by the WST.

Zoe and Linathi proudly wearing their Tarka High uniform

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

HERITAGE DAY

We again celebrated with traditional clothes and food. Learners enjoy the opportunity to dress up.



FATHERS' DAY

The Foundation Phase made hand prints with special messages on them, and the Intermediate Phase learners wrote cards for their fathers or other significant men in their lives.



SPRING DAY

Spring Day was enjoyed by both parents and their kids. Carina and Thabisile came up with a project to bond parents and learners. The PARENTS and the CHILD were given a PROJECT TOGETHER to complete at HOME!! They had to make a sun hat from recycled material and the results were amazing! The parents loved the challenge and were actually quite competitive. A great idea!



Phyllis with the Grade 1's on Spring Day!



The day culminated in a Spring Spelling Bee which was great fun for all.

NUMERACY DAY

We instil the love mathematics by enjoying quarterly numeracy days. We play competitive numeracy games outside the classrooms. The babies enjoy these moments!

We use these occasions to train our learners to think on their feet and be able to come up with solutions as fast as they can.



Measuring up!



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SPORT

This year was promising for sport as all COVID regulations have finally been lifted. We started our sport programme with gross motor exercises and preparing for Tarkastad interschool athletics.

In February we had the privilege of having three visitors from the School of Merit. As it was our sports day, the visitors had fun playing with our learners.

We took ten athletes to represent our school at Tarka's **interschools athletics day**. Three of our athletes were in the top three of their age groups. The day was interesting as it gave us an indication of where we need to improve in order to be competitive.



Our netball team in their new bibs



Inter-school athletics in Tarkastad

In April, we invited Tarka Primary for a **netball match** and later hosted Bedford Country School and Orange Grove School. Our players learnt the rules of netball and enjoyed playing against each other. The standard of netball has improved since we have begun competing against other schools. Our learners LOVE the outings and meeting other learners from different schools. Our educators have also benefited from this experience. We will definitely continue our netball "tournaments" in 2023.

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In June, we went to Orange Grove to participate in a **cross-country event**. We took a team of ten athletes, and we came back with **three** first place medals!

We had our own **sports day** in September with different houses competing against each other. We also visited Tarka Primary for netball and soccer. We took two netball teams, U/11 and U/13, and our first soccer team.



Interhouse athletics

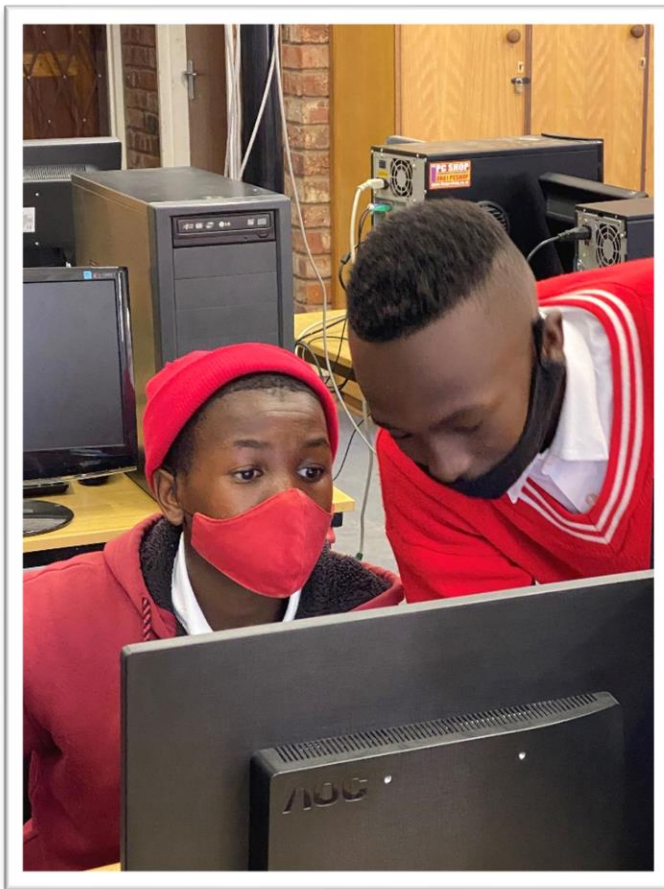
Late in the third quarter we again visited Orange Grove for their **athletics day**. We took 26 learners to participate in different events including long jump, shotput, sprinting and long-distance running. We came back with eight first place awards. Xolani Manatheli received three first place awards! Iyonke Mageja, Syndey Karels, AJ Rigney and Esam Frans, all won first place in their categories.



IT and COMPUTER LESSONS

We are truly fortunate with the fantastic facilities we have in our IT centre. We have 20 computers with Internet access for the students to use, as well as additional computers in the classrooms and in the resource centre for staff use.

The senior classes have the use of eight iPads, and this year, Mr and Mrs Stein donated Robotic balls! We are hoping to upskill our educators in 2023 to be able to incorporate robotics into our curriculum.



Peer to peer learning is encouraged

All Grade 2 to 7 learners have a paid subscription to **Reading Eggs** which along with computing skills, assists with literacy on an individualised basis.

Other free software applications are used in between, to reinforce computer skills, and practice Maths and English drills. These are also used during load shedding when we have no Internet access.

A major investment this year was an **inverter** sponsored by the **Solon Foundation**, which enables the office computers to continue functioning and powers the wi-fi during load shedding. The students are able to continue their lessons in smaller groups, using the seven laptops. The teachers

living on the premises are also very happy to have wi-fi now during load shedding. **Thank** you again to the **Solon Foundation!**

In the future, we hope to be able to purchase more laptops, and a generator to run all computers in the computer lab during load shedding. Headphones also remain an ongoing expense.

COMMUNITY CARE and DEVELOPMENT

COVID

We started the year still in masks, sanitising and keeping our distance, but thankfully restrictions were eased, and we could go back to normal. We intend continuing some of the good habits learned through this experience such as regular hand washing.

PARENT WORKSHOPS



Parent meeting and tea in the hall



Parent meetings took place in sheds on farms

Our relationship with parents suffered during lockdown. There were no face-to-face meetings or parents' workshops. Thankfully these meetings have resumed once a term. We use this time for workshops that empower our parents and strengthen our relationships with the parents.

Phakama Mzileni, who has joined our Trust, conducted one of the workshops demonstrating the importance of working together for the benefit of the child ("It takes a village to raise a child"). A doll and some string was used, and everyone was behaving as if the doll was a real child! The parents really enjoyed the workshop and the message was well received.

PRIZE GIVING and YEAR END CONCERT



A prize winner with her mother and class teacher

The 2022 graduation was phenomenal, and the celebration was used to encourage achieving learners with presents based on what they excelled in. We then crowned it all with our overall top achiever; Samantha Karels from Grade 7.

Our guest speaker was Zanele Nazo, one of our past pupils, who is now a qualified senior phase teacher! She came with her mother Monica Sijila, who was the cleaner for the Winterberg School Trust for 25 years and also a past pupil. Zanele's speech was excellent, highlighting that no matter what your background is, you CAN ACHIEVE. Be diligent and REACH FOR THE STARS!

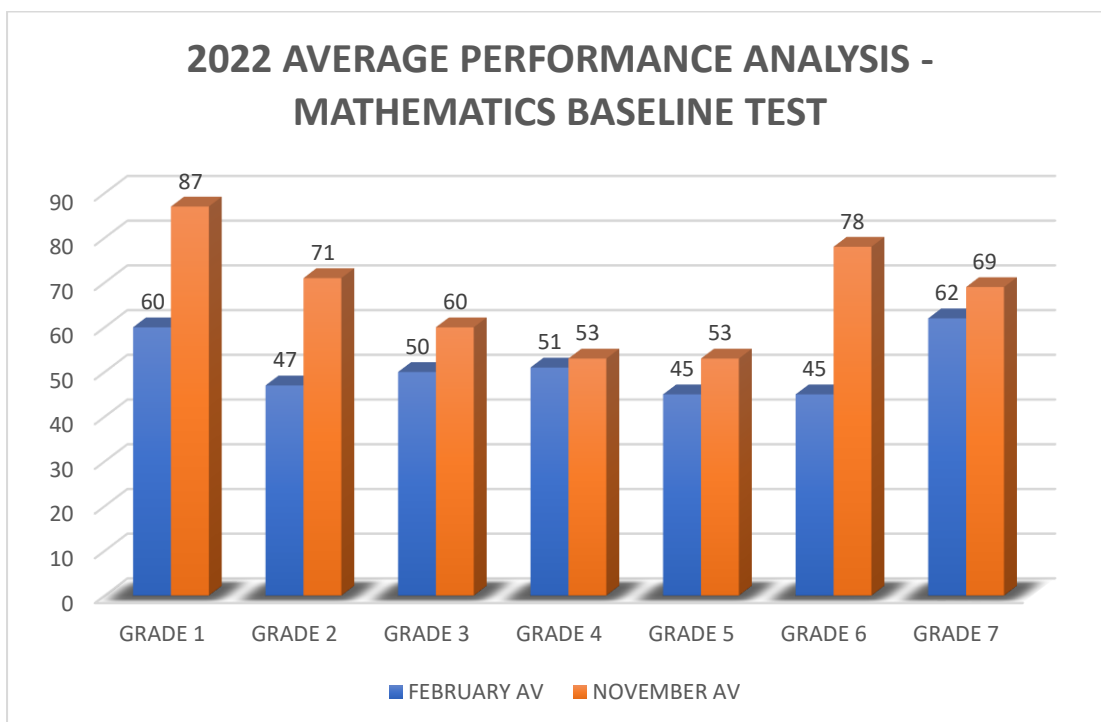
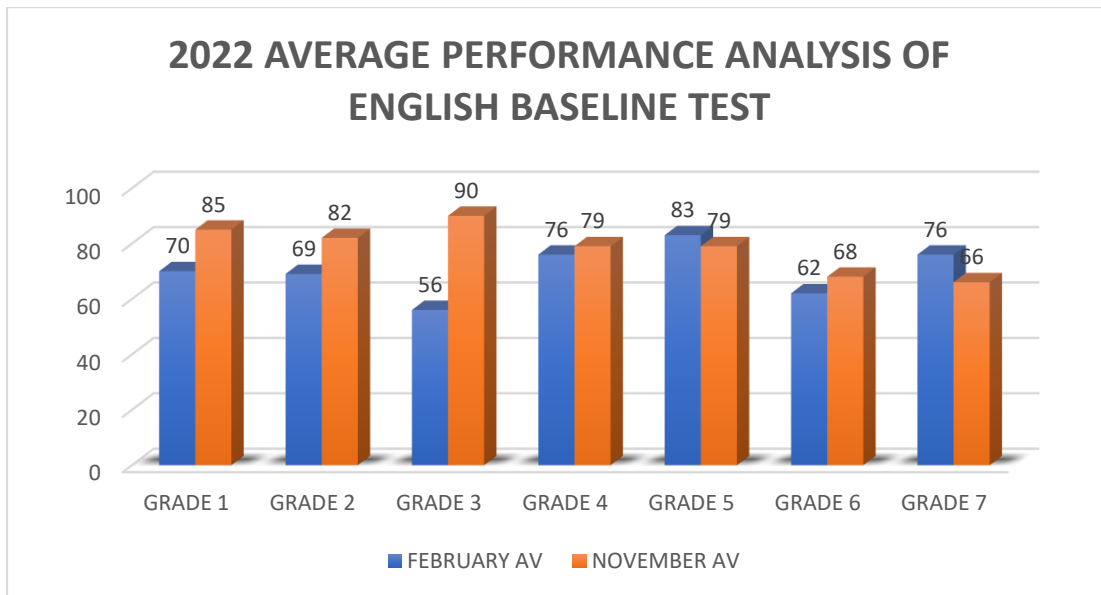


Samantha winning the student of the year



Charmaine and Joanne with guest speaker, Zanele and her mother, Monica

STANDARDISED TESTING



There was a marked improvement in both English and maths in most grades from February to November. The Grade 4 and 5 maths results only improved slightly, but this can largely be attributed to the new students who joined us during the year. These learners had previously been at township schools and it is interesting to note how far behind they were, compared to our Winterberg learners.

STAFF NEWS and DEVELOPMENT

After the new appointments in 2021, the staff stabilised this year with 1 new appointment. **Thabisile** took on the Grade R class, while Nombulelo moved to the preschool.

The WST funds the studies of two of our teachers: **Nombulelo Lisa** has started working towards a Bachelor of Education, Foundation Phase through the Centre for Social Development (CSD) in Grahamstown.

Sindisiwe (Cindy), Bosch started her ECD Level 5 course in March 2022 at the Teachers Learning Centre (TLC). This is an online/distance learning course situated in Johannesburg. The course is based on ECD and Grade R CAPS numeracy, language and life skills.

“I started studying in June and we started with nine modules. We attended two contact sessions in June and September. In November, I wrote my first exams. I attained four distinctions! I would like to thank the management and the Trust Board for giving me this opportunity as it is broadening my knowledge in the classroom and the community at large.”

“So far I have completed four modules and am busy with my fifth module which is Numeracy in Grade R. TLC has also provided a trauma and stress counseling session for students for free on how to deal with trauma as an ECD teacher. I find the course very interesting and I have learned a lot. There are some challenges but I am doing well. Without ambition one starts nothing and without work one finishes nothing!!!.It has been a great journey and I am eager to pursue my ambition . Thank you.”



Cindy Bosch



Nombulelo Lisa

YEAR END FUNCTION FOR STAFF

We decided to hold our year-end function at our local farm bowling club. None of the teachers had ever played bowls before! **Oppenheimer Memorial** donated prizes for the event. It was certainly a fun team-building exercise to end off our successful year.



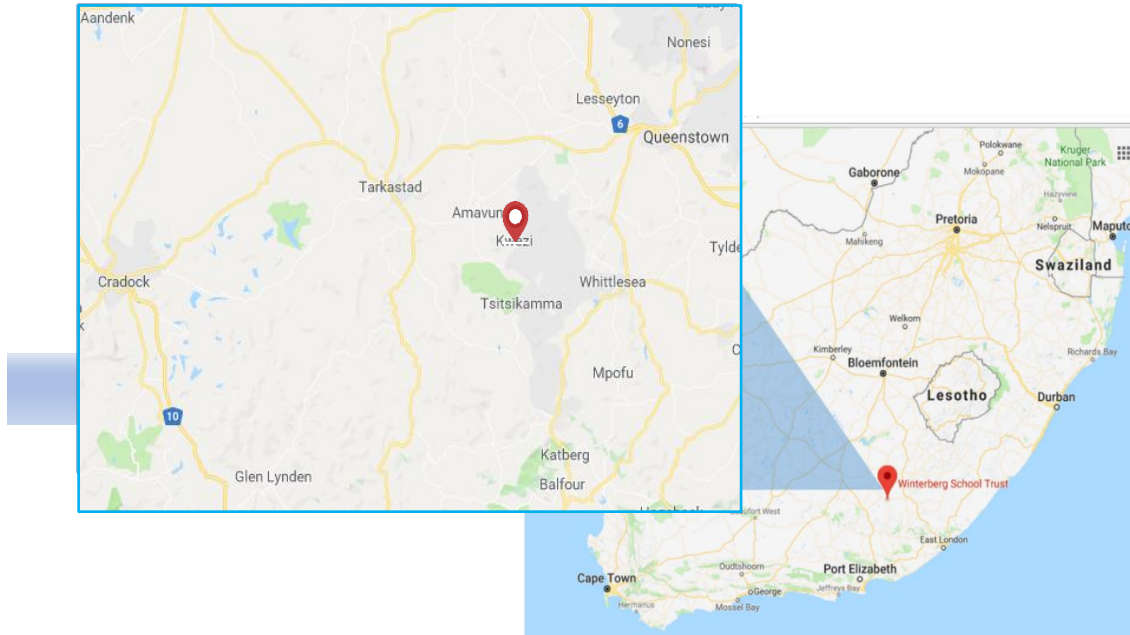
TRANSPORT

Transport is fundamental to the success of the Winterberg School Trust as there is no public or other transport available for learners. The WST transports learners to our own school, as well as to schools in Tarkastad.

The school is in a rural farming community, 25 km from Tarkastad. Our learners mostly live on farms, some of which are up to 50 km from the school. Transport is therefore a vital factor when considering the education of the children in our district.

The total number of children at the WST is 76 in addition to the 30 older learners who are transported by the WST to schools in Tarkastad. The three Luncedo Craft ladies, and three of the teachers who live in town, are also transported daily.

The three WST buses drive an average of 700 km a day, starting at 5 am. They take learners to Tarkastad for school at 7:30 am, before repeating the routes to collect the WST learners. At 1 pm, the routes are reversed, with the last learners getting home by 5 pm.



Location: Eastern Cape, South Africa,
32°17'988" South; 26°30'115" East
25km on R344 from Tarkastad to Bedford/Adelaide

LOOKING FORWARD

Progress on our goals for 2022:

- Strengthen and retain current staff *Our staff quota is stable, and although a few teachers will be shuffled around in 2023, no new appointments are currently needed.*
- Formulate a strategic plan *Thanks to those who helped us formulate this important document.*
- Research CAPS and other alternative curriculums to ACE, to better enable us to make decisions for the future *A decision has been made to switch to CAPS.*
- Work on our bursary programme *Ongoing*
- Upgrade the jungle gyms *Hopefully this will happen in 2023!*
- Research a mobile clinic which has been identified as a huge need in the community. *Research done, but we still need to source funding in order to implement this project.*

New goals for 2023:

- **Increase our numbers** – this will be done by accepting an extra bus load from Tarkastad. Also check if all children of school going age are attending from the farms.
- **Empower our educators** by providing more workshop opportunities for them to engage in.
- WST to lead the process of starting a **principals' forum** for ALL principals within the Tarkastad district - this will be a platform to share successes and frustrations. Educators' needs will also be tabled and addressed.
- Improve our **sporting facilities** – our soccer field is in urgent need of an upgrade and our netball court is also needing repairs.
- Improve our **netball and soccer skills** with our learners - continue to grow with our sporting matches against outside schools.
- Continue to improve our **numeracy skills**.
- Offer **remedial** to struggling learners.
- Offer **after-school assistance** to grade 8 to 12 learners waiting for transport.
- Improve our **internet service**.
- Find viable options to cope with **load shedding**.
- Focus on **outreach** through Facebook, Instagram, Paypal and LinkedIn.
- Increase our **donor base!**

EXPENSE STATEMENT (Jan – Dec 2022)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Implementation	1498037	1724583
Equipment	11054	26390
Stationery and materials	148544	100600
Staff Development	12308	38275
Parental workshops	9,561	12,580
Toy Library	0	3,000
<u>STRATEGIC PLANNING</u>	0	11,968
<u>NETWORKING</u>		
Annual report, donor liaison, fundraising	20302	30278
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
General : insurance, audit etc	221,142	238,426
COVID management	19,169	0
Building maintenance	136195	79217
Industrial Lawn mower		42890
<u>TRANSPORT</u>		
Fuel	151449	272922
Maintenance	86300	215353
Vehicle replacement	70000	70000
<u>BURSARIES- LEARNERS</u>	25498	17696
<u>CATTLE MANAGEMENT</u>	78,211	35,149
TOTAL	2,487,770	2,919,327

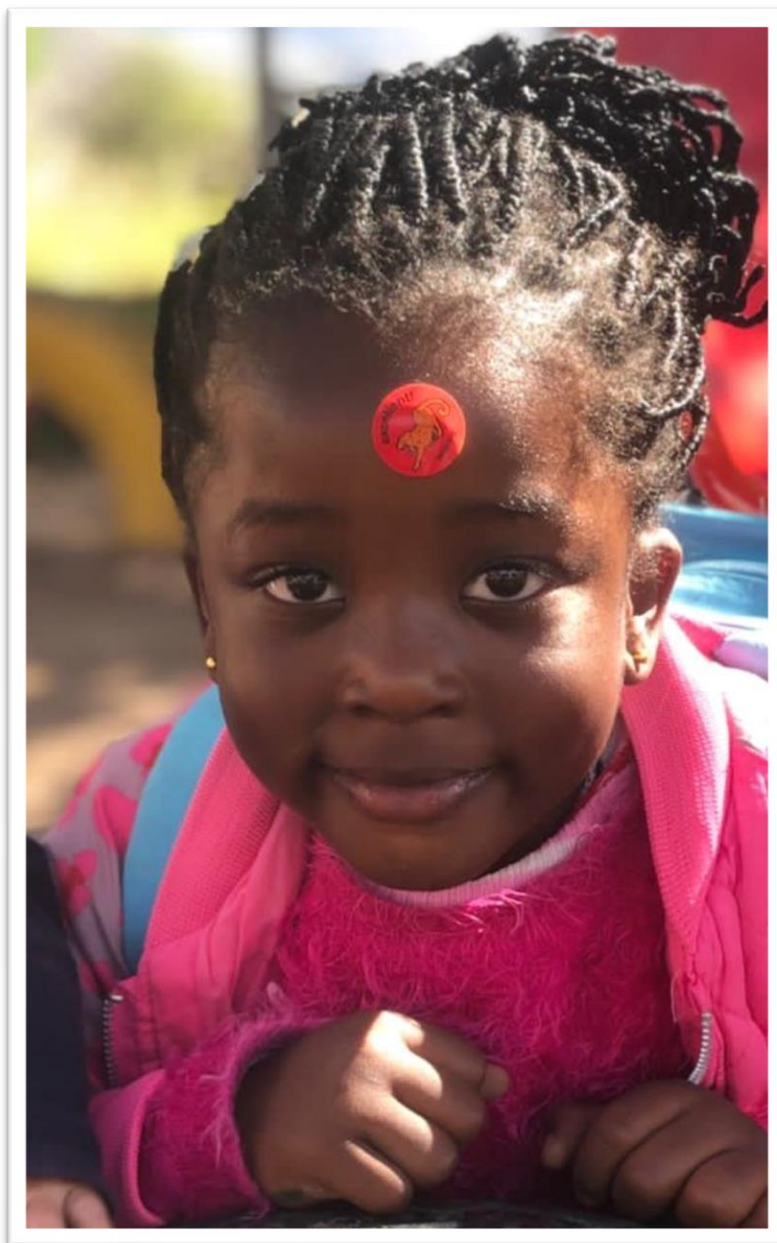
Expense Addendum

- Our total income for 2022 was R2 750 897. Sadly, the fluctuation of the price of diesel affected our budget along with vehicle maintenance costs owing to the shocking conditions of our roads.
- We are proud to report that our administration expenses form a minimal 8,2% of our total expenditure.
- Transport is fundamental to the success of the Winterberg School Trust. There is no public transport available to the community other than the transport offered by the WST.
- The government do not pay salaries or provide stationery, thus the expenditure on salaries and materials. Salaries for our teachers and support staff remain our biggest expense.

WINTERBERG SCHOOL TRUST



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



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