



April 2018

2017 Successes

A busy and fruitful year

During 2017 we had an extremely busy and fruitful year packed with many interesting activities –our school programmes were at capacity with programmes on Biodiversity, Water, Energy, and Waste.

Our school programmes for 2017 supported the 2017 United Nations theme International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and we presented Science in Tourism programmes.

- We reached 11651 learners with environmental knowledge through quality programmes;
- Biodiversity improved with the introduction of indigenous trees, school gardens and food gardens;
- Women in Science promoted in Mamelodi as role models for young female learners;
- Community members engaged in Sustainable Farming techniques;
- We made a difference by celebrating theme days such as Water Week and Clean up Week, taking the environmental message to the streets of Mamelodi.



WSEC Youth Clubs

Bush Pigs Holiday Camp

56 Learners attended the camp at Bushpigs from 12 -14 December 2017. As usual it was a very enjoyable time, introducing children to nature. Because it rained, the kids were exposed to other activities such as the shopping game, where they had the task to buy food at the local shop and prepare a meal, keeping in mind their environmental footprint. They also did hiking and other adventure activities. Hopefully this experience will stay with them for the rest of their lives and motivate them to take care of their environment.



Tu B'Shevat

New Year of the Tree

On 25 January we celebrated Tu B'Shevat together with the Jewish National Fund of South Africa, the Jewish Community and community members from Mamelodi. We were honoured to be addressed by the Israeli Ambassador Mr Lior Keinan and Rabbi Gidon Fox. This was followed by tree planting by Embassy staff, school representatives and Ms Hilda Kekana, the District Director of the Gauteng Department of Education, Tshwane South, to commemorate this day. Tu B'Shevat is the "New Year of the Trees." In contemporary Israel, the day is celebrated as an ecological awareness day, and trees are planted in celebration.



School Greening Awards

Indigenous Gardens Winners

The primary aim of the School Greening programme is to introduce learners and the school community to the rich biodiversity of South Africa. As such we support 7 schools with indigenous gardens every year and each school has a gardening team which consist of learners, a gardener and an educator. The gardens are all indigenous so that learners can learn about our own indigenous plants and its medicinal uses. The advantage of these gardens are that the plants are water wise and can survive much longer in drier times. The criteria for these gardens are off course that they should be well maintained, but we also look for evidence that these gardens are used in the curriculum.

As part of our continual monitoring we visited each school to assess their garden against this criteria. The school that took first prize this year was Nellmapus Secondary School, runner-up was Mahube Valley Primary School, and Phateng Secondary School come third. Congratulations to all our winners.



World Water Day - 22 March 2018

Nature is Water

World Water Day is observed on 22 March every year and it focuses the attention on the importance of water. This year's theme explores how we can use nature to overcome the water challenges of the 21st century.

Environmental damage, together with climate change, is driving the water-related crises we see around the world. Floods, drought and water pollution are all made worse by degraded vegetation, soil, rivers and lakes. When we neglect our ecosystems, we make it harder to provide everyone with the water we need to survive and thrive.

Nature-based solutions have the potential to solve many of our water challenges. We need to do so much more with 'green' infrastructure and harmonize it with 'grey' infrastructure wherever possible. Planting new forests, reconnecting rivers to floodplains, and restoring wetlands will rebalance the water cycle and improve human health and livelihoods.

Globally, over 80% of the wastewater generated by society flows back into the environment without being treated or reused. The picture on the right is our pond at the centre, demonstrating some nature based solutions.

Reference: UNESCO (2018) United Nations World Water Development Report 2018: Nature-based solutions for water



As part of World Water Day, our learners visited Faerie Glen Nature reserve on invitation from the Adopt-a-River Moreleta Spruit Forum to learn the scientific way to do a water study.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Our aim is to be a leading environmental education and resource centre that demonstrates models of best practice within the community and creates champions for a sustainable future.

Head Office
 Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre
 20202 Serapeng Street, Mamelodi East, 0122
 PO Box 79217, Rehabelle, 0122
 +27 (0) 12 801 3197
christa@wsec.org.za
www.wsec.org.za

Fundraising & Communication Office
 Khuluma Ne Sizwe
 PO Box 2542, Faerie Glen, 0043
 +27 (0) 12 991 0719
 +27 (0) 86 600 1458
info@KhulumaNeSizwe.co.za
www.KhulumaNeSizwe.co.za