By Phuti Ragophala
E mail address: phuthi.ragophala@gmail.com
Cel Number: 082 839 3642
Key note: Innovation in education

- Lessons from a rubbish dump
- From teaching community to grow vegetables to teach a teacher about IT campaign.
When the school started

- In 1966 January 17th
- Only four classrooms from sub A to std 2
- Two educators only - still alive Mrs Mokone and Mrs Manaka
CLASS OF 1966
School produced a lot of academic leaders in our country

- Late Peter Mokaba
- Ria Phiega
- “Fat Joe”s etc
- Drs, advocates, pilot engineers, marine pilots(girl)
- They gardening as manual work
- Collecting marks from garden,
- Not much incorporated in curriculum
- No inspiration or skill acquirement
- But as a punitive measure.
Today the school has grown
Grade R to 7
1240 learners
21 classrooms, one computer lab
34 educators
25 support staff members
CHALLENGES

- Unemployed parents and dependency on government grants/ handouts
- Poverty stricken families
- Learners without school uniform
- Orphans
- Lack of skills
- Lack of ownership of school
- Dumping sites in and outside the school fence
- Learners with sores and head fungi
OBJECTIVES

- Reduce rate of unemployment
- Poverty
- Lack of ownership of school
- Expose IT and IKS skills to learners, educators and community members
- To ignite learners and educators passion
- To give primary school education a revamp/facelift
- To make a school a hub of service delivery beyond academic services
- To give hope to community members that their children can still get a better education even in semi-rural school
MULTIFACETED INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

- Various meetings and consultations with stakeholders including NGO’s to get solution to the challenges
- Learners education not to be impeded
- The following are some of the multifaceted projects that we came about:
  - IKS in food production through Perma culture using the rubbish dumping sites (FTFA)
  - Medicinal herb making using herbs from garden (Khanya Africa Development Services)
  - Orchard (Department of Agriculture)
  - Poultry (former MEC Mam Dikeledi Makadzi)
  - IT project - Teach a teacher project Coza Cares, Netday, schoolnet, MASTEC
IKS in Food Production (Perma Culture)

- Preparation of soil in according to the slope and planting of seeds
- Intercropping method
- Organic manure
- Mulching the ground to cover soil
- Waste material used to fertile the soil
Forest of food
ORGANIC PRODUCTION
Lessons and harvest time

Forest garden
LEARNERS TAKING HOME
NEARBY BUSINESS PEOPLE BENEFIT-NSNP
Tangible difference made:

- Employment and stipend to 25 support staff
- Green Farming lessons to learners and their parents
- Schools, hospitals and churches were inspired by the model and replicated. E.g Helen Joseph in Gauteng
- Poverty reduction and ownership of school
- Farming skill acquirement
- Lack of vandalism
- Clean environment - free from rubbish dumping sites
- Clean atmosphere
- Medicinal herb making

• Learners need to be equipped with survival skills
• Path their career at an early age in order to ignite their passion
• To nurture their critical thinking and problem solving skills at an early age
• To learn to come with solutions that challenge their community
Through integration of learning areas and school projects, medicinal herb making project emerged by using herbs from the garden and skill acquired from Khanya Africa development services.

Lessons on germination of seeds and sectors of economy (primary sector) are conducted in the garden e.g pop corns - mealies.

- Meal meal - mielies
- Bread - corn
- Learners need to be taught how things are done
- Medicines from herbs etc
- Learners learnt to do All purpose ointment from herbs.

The following are the steps taken:
Young scientists project
Testing humidity in Moringa using machine. They even tested alkaline and acidity in the water that municipality supply and was found to be more alkaline.
EVERY MORNING ACTIVITY BY YOUNG SCIENTISTS
TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE MADE:
- Number of learner with sores and fungi reduced
- Benefit community members
- Ignited passion to learners and gave them hope (Proverbs 22:6)
- Garden became a laboratory to augment their studies
- Designed website to sell their products:
  - www.pulaointment.wozaonline.co.za

9 October 2012 during career dress up day
POULTRY PROJECT

- Indigenous way of producing food-poultry farming
- to produce eggs
- manure
- Meat
- animal farming skill
Tangible difference made:

- Animal farming skill acquisition by learners and community members
- Augmentation support staff stipends
- Community and orphanage centres benefit from school products. E.g., pensioners, local business people
NEARBY BUSINESS PEOPLE BENEFIT
IT PROJECTS

- E- education policy 2004 to 2013
- E- schools .E-educators and E-learners
- 21\textsuperscript{st} century skills acquirement by learners
  - Critical thinking(provoking their thoughts)
  - Collaboration and communication(working together and sharing the information)
  - Problem solving
  - Creativity and innovation
  - Media literacy and technology skills

We are teaching a mobile generation as such we need to integrate IT learning with curriculum
TEACH A TEACHER PROJECT

- ISPA super teacher of the year 2011 produced by Coza cares leadership of Fiona Wallace
- Embarked on teach a teacher IT campaign
- Conducted several workshops to empower educators in my school, neighbouring, other circuits etc
- Engaged learners in IT tools when teaching in class
- Took it further to Empower community members, local youth and local orphanage centres staff members
TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE MADE:

- All educators in the school yard are competent in integrating IT tools with Learning areas e.g schedules, progress reports, tests, memos, invitation cards etc.
- Cleaners in our school are now computer literate.
- E.g produced a school clerk integrate IKS production with IT eg budget, recording, meetings, workshops done in IT tools. Banking is done electronically.
- Most learners can sit in front of the keyboard with confidence and search for information, play chess etc.
- Neighbouring schools educators and local youth are literate in computing (one community member got a job through knowledge gained form the project).
- One educator from a local school who got mentorship from our school through teach a teacher project, was titled 2012 ISPA super teacher of the year. (Sadike Kekana)
Parents and staff meetings are done through overhead projector and laptop.
School messages are run on electronic board.
Designed school website: www.pulamadibogoprimary.co.za
News letter and brochures are designed every year for dissemination of school information.
Memory sticks, video cameras and cd are used to enhance education e.g. educators portfolios.
Most of the educators have e mail addresses and can twit, face book, blog and create drop box.
The school projects attracted Freedom Park from Pretoria for partnership.
The school is marketed through documentaries, newspapers, radios and books.
Neighbouring schools educators

From cleaner to administration clerk

Grade 7 learners researching on youth leadership

Preparation for staff meeting
REPLICATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

- A candle cannot lose its light by lighting other candles (Chinese man)
- There is no better exercise for your heart than reaching down and helping to lift someone up (Bernard Meltzer)
- Through workshops, meetings, exposure visits and media, many institutions are gradually harvesting good ideas to replicate them at their various places
- Obstacles: unable to sustain the project as we are NPO?????
PAY IT FORWARD FOR REPLICATION

Hellen Joseph Hospital

Nearby homes

Private and departmental institutions

Youth centers like Mamotintane

Drop in centers

Nchachane village

Neighbor schools like Kotankwe

Nearby schools

Old age home

Prisoners
**LESSON LEARNT**

- Traditional way of teaching has no room in this 21\textsuperscript{st} century era
- Learners learn by doing-passive learning is no longer an option
- We are teaching a mobile generation, we need to intergrade curriculum with IT tools
- Teaching is like hunting birds. You ought to shoot where they are going. If you shoot where they are, you will shoot where they were. (GJJ Swart)
- If a child cannot learn in the way we teach, we must teach in the way they can learn (Chinese man)
- Government national campaigns can be used to address the challenges in the school yard. E.g
  - AsgiSA=(accelerated and shared growth Initiative for south Africa)
  - JIPSA=Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition)
  - MDG=Millennium Development Goals
  - Batho Pele principles etc
Academic perspective alone cannot make a child to be educated. Dalai Lama said:” It is vital that when educating children’s brains that we do not neglect to educates their hearts”

The multifaceted projects that we came up with, assisted me in redefining what a primary school is. The following are the basic perspectives of a primary school:
1. School environment

2. Social background of learners

3. Spiritual and pastoral care

4. Academic perspective
EDINA TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION ON EDUCATION
What makes all the projects successful is partnership:

- UNILIM, FORMER STUDENTS, PIFI, NAZRA, FREEDOM PARK, TIA
- NGO'S, business people, FTFA, CPSI, ABSA, Netday, Coza Cares, ARGO, ECYD, EMT
- Department and sister departments
- SGB and parents
- School-learners and educators

It takes the whole community to raise up a child.
If you keep on throwing stones at dogs that bark at you, you will never reach your destination.
TEAM WORK SPIRIT FROM YOUNG LEADERS
FORMER STUDENTS
FORMER STUDENTS-PIIFI
Support Staff and SGB
SGB MEMBERS
Dream Team - Pillars of my strength
WAY FORWARD AND FUTURE PLANS-OLPC

- Trained in OLPC (one laptop per child) by Rwandan facilitators under the leadership of Mark Kaplan, Sergio and Fiona Wallace from Coza Cares.
- This year's plan is to rollout XO to all learners to enhance learning and teaching methods in our country as stated in the education policy.
- Coza cares the main sponsor.
- Series of workshops to educators and learners.
- Poultry to be reinstated - rely on sponsors (Freedom Park and TIA).
- Support from the Department of Education and NGO.
- I really believe that there is still hope in teaching as a profession.
First team to be trained in OLPC
GREEN GADGET
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Dream team-Colleques
- SB members
- Learners
- Support staff members
- Community of Mankweng
- All school partners
- Galatians 6:9 “Let us not grow weary of doing good things for in due course we will reap the fruit if we do not lose heart”
- “A journey of a thousand steps starts with a single step” said Oprah Winfrey.
Thank you