

Welcome to The Yomelelani News coverage of 2023



30th March - Celebrating Easter just before the Easter Break



The school follows a Christian ethos, and an Easter service is conducted by the staff with the children keen to participate. Following the service, the children receive gifts of Easter eggs, which are kindly donated by “Spread some Sunshine”. This small UK Charity sponsors gifts at Easter and Christmas each year and has done so for a number of years.



Yomelelani is very grateful to “**Spread some Sunshine**” which it literally does as you can see by the smiling faces.

Mango Groove Easter Concert Easter Saturday 8th April



Joke of Dutchies organised and sponsored this ambitious event held at Curro School with the well-known South African band “Mango Groove”. Since their foundation in 1984, the band has released six studio albums and also numerous singles. This resulted in a number of generous donations for the school. **A big thank you to Joke!**



The audience had a ball, and the Yomelelani children were on stage to sing the national anthem at the end, which was great excitement for them to perform with Mango Groove.



May Power saving gift of an Inverter to counter Eskom's loadshedding!

It isn't very pretty but it is vital to the proper functioning of the school during the regular loadshedding (power cuts) which the country endures, particularly during the winter months when it is dark as the children arrive and leave school. **Thank you to Dermot and Helen Mathias.**



16th June -National Youth Day celebrations at Yomelelani

Youth Day is a South African national holiday that falls on June 16. It celebrates the contribution of young people to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. The date commemorates a children's protest march that took place on June 16, 1976, in the Soweto townships near Johannesburg.



September 24th - Heritage Day at Yomelelani

Heritage Day is a South African public holiday celebrated on 24 September. On this day, South Africans are encouraged to celebrate their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a nation that belongs to all it's people. "The Rainbow Nation" - phrase coined by Archbishop Tutu after independence.



27th September High winds and torrential rain hit the Western Cape as StormAnna rages.

At least 11 people were killed after heavy rain and winds hit South Africa's Western Cape province, including Cape Town, over the weekend. It left a trail of destruction, with the authorities warning that the death toll may rise as the floodwater subsides. The destructive weather flooded homes, tore off roofs, destroyed crops and damaged roads and other infrastructure including water and sewage systems.

Eight of the 11 people who died were electrocuted in an informal settlement when waters swamped illegal connections to the power lines.

About 200 farm workers were stranded in areas that were cut off by flooding. The area's farmlands, including its famous vineyards, were also flooded with the impact on harvests also to be severe.

More than 80 roads were closed and at least 15,000 homes were cut off from the power grid. Rail services in parts of both the Western and Eastern Cape province were suspended.

The Bot River flooded, taking with it the bridge over the N2.



IMAGE SOURCE: REU

Overstrand municipality implemented drastic water restrictions in Greater Hermanus and Kleinmond. Both areas' main water supply ran dry. Hermanus had no running water for 2 weeks. The pumps that pump the water from the dams to the reservoir were completely washed away. Water tankers were stationed at various points to supply drinking water, which still needed to be boiled to purify. Work continues 24/7 to get things back to normal but restrictions will be in place until mid-December.

Yomelelani was fortunate to have a large jojo tank, which enabled them to have water. However the storm caused damage to power lines resulting in no electricity and the electrics relating to the inverter were flooded. Fortunately, this was remedied quite quickly, and school continued albeit with a limited water supply.

Things are limping back to normality but the cost to the community is massive. The N2 at Botrivier has been reopened but the Hemel en Aarde Road is still closed, isolating all the wineries whilst they repair the pumping station and the collapsed road.

26th – 29th September - Whale Festival

The Whale Festival, a big tourist attraction for Hermanus, was cancelled due to shortage of water to all facilities. A sad loss to the Tourist income for Hermanus.



News from the UK

Fundraising Bridge afternoon in Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire run by Gavin and Sue Masterton and Richard and Sue Stone (Trustees)

An afternoon of bridge and tea was hosted at the Gerrards Cross Community Centre. We had 23 tables with Chicago Bridge and raffle. All raffle prizes donated by the local shop owners which made a lovely display and encouraged people to dig deep for the Charity.

We raised together with the raffle approximately £2,450. This amount when converted to Rand will go a long way to either providing solar panels to charge up the inverter when loadshedding gets beyond 4 hours which it inevitably will do, or it will go to the fulfillment of another inevitable need.

17th November – the children enjoyed a visit from the local Traffic Department to Yomelelani who gave them an animated lesson on Road safety.



Rose, our principal joining in the fun

Yomelelani School and Trustees thank you for your continued support and wish you a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2024.



If you wish to donate to the work of Yomelelani school please go to the website and follow the “Donate instructions”.

www.yomelelani.co.za