



Our Library Outreach Programmes

No ordinary library!

Read on to see what's different and vital for
the people of Masiphumelele

MASICORP

masiphumelele
township
south africa

partners in education for life

Susan Alexander co-ordinates activities at Masiphumelele Library and it is under her leadership that it has flourished and developed a comprehensive outreach programme.

The programmes distinguish this library – it has been a great success and is a highly valued resource in Masiphumelele.

From the beginning, many of the programmes were over-subscribed and the enthusiasm for more, expressed by residents of Masiphumelele, encouraged everyone.



We now have over 75 volunteers running 19 programmes!

Last year the Library issued over 11,000 adult and over 24,000 children's books. During the same period the outreach activities were attended by more than 34,000 participants. They included visits by nursery schools, afternoon story hours, literacy, tutoring, computer skills training, reading enrichment, Hero books, parent programmes, chess, class visits, friendship club and holiday programmes.



The Library is an exciting and vibrant place to visit – it attracts people to enter and most importantly, it helps them to help themselves once they are there.



In 2005 Masiphumelele Library was awarded the Western Cape Arts and Culture Award for "The Most Community Involved Public Library".

On the following pages you will find a brief description of all the programmes we support

DAILY PROGRAMMES:

Reading materials

The library provides books, periodicals and a daily newspaper.



Story Hour and crèches

On a weekly basis one of the library staff visits each of the 10 crèches in Masiphumelele to tell stories and talk about the library. In turn at least half of the crèches visit the library for **story hour**, so that libraries and books become part of their daily lives.



Afternoon outreach

This programme takes place every afternoon and is aimed at primary school children. The activities include holiday programmes, stories, games, puzzles, craft and films



Chess

Chess has been part of our programme from 2003. Coaching has paid off and the Masi Knights have played tournaments in Cape Town and elsewhere in South Africa.



Tutoring

Tutors run regular tutoring afternoons to coach students in their school subjects.



Computer classes

The Computer classes are held four times a week. A hands-on experiential approach is taken and the students never leave the class without an example of their work – they have produced CVs, business cards and brochures. There are more formal courses for students aiming for ICDL [International Computer Drivers Licence] certification.



WEEKLY PROGRAMMES:

Literacy

Literacy classes are hands-on practical classes and participants are encouraged to bring their young children to attend a preschool programme. In addition the parents are encouraged to read to the children at the end of the class.

Thinking skills

'Thinking Skills' or 'Philosophy for Children' is a programme designed by a Matthew Lipman to introduce philosophical enquiry to children from an early age, developing their critical thinking, learning and language skills.

Hero books

In this programme the children write and illustrate their own books with themselves as the hero. The children love the programme which gives them insight into themselves, helps them cope better with problems and to work out what their goals are for the future.

WordWorks reading enrichment

In this programme the volunteer works with 2 children per session and the bond that develops between them is the key to the success of the programme. Children have been accepted into English medium schools on the strength of their attendance



Class visits

School classes are brought in regularly for library orientation

Homework club

The homework club was started for primary school children that have graduated from the WordWorks reading enrichment classes. The children are helped with their homework and also do exercises and games to improve their reading, maths and writing skills.

Xhosa classes

Classes are held at the library for those staff and volunteers who would like to learn Xhosa, the language spoken most in Masiphumelele.



MONTHLY PROGRAMMES:

Friendship club

The Friendship Club takes place once a month. Children from the surrounding areas and Masiphumelele get together for an afternoon of stories, games and play.



Girls' group

There is a "Girl Child Movement" in which teenage girls become involved in mentoring and empowering younger girls. A DVD of life in Masiphumelele has been made as part of this initiative.

Art club

High school students get together with a facilitator to explore different art techniques.



Parent programmes

In addition to working with children, WordWorks trained volunteers work directly with parents to empower them to support their children's early learning in the home environment. On completing the course the parents receive a box of activities to use with their children. The boxes were put together previously by Fish Hoek primary school and a local Sunday school.

ANNUAL PROGRAMMES:

Annual Careers Indaba

This successful 10 day event was held in the July holidays and was attended every day by 40 high school pupils. It was a joint partnership between Masiphumelele Library and WorldTeach volunteers. In this time the teenagers experienced an interactive and informative programme helping them get to know what is available for their career paths and chose a career. Role models were invited to share their experiences and what came through again and again was the importance of aligning career choice with personal passions. It has become an annual event!



Masiphumelele Art Projects

Michaelis School of Art, Masiphumelele Library, Masiphumelele High School and the community of Masiphumelele entered into a very exciting partnership. The 3rd year sculpture students from Michaelis were set a project to do an artwork for a public space – conceptually and physically appropriate to the environment and the community. Now, another annual event!

