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Plettenberg Bay

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Born in Africa - overview 2021

Goodmorning,

Once again, we have managed to successfully complete another year and we did this all together as a collective family.

1. **Covid 19 Safety protocol:** As last year, we continued this year to practice all the rules and regulations which are required by law. We have now moved down to Level lockdown one in SA due to the diligence of our people. Let us continue to do so. To those who have lost loved ones due to the virus, we share. Heartfelt condolences with you all. If your children need additional counselling, please contact Belinda at 0725253515.
2. **School uniforms:** All 350 children will received school shoes, socks, pants/skirt, shirt, a backpack, and school stationery. Plett Sec learners received a school tie.
3. **Educational Camps:** We were not able to host any camps this year, but really look forward in doing so next year. We will certainly keep you as parents updated with the planning in this regard. We know your children cannot wait for their yearly camp to commence again and we too are holding thumbs this will happen in 2022.
4. **Educational Outings:** We were extremely fortunate to host for our Gr 11 students a Career Guidance outing. This was important for them as they indicated which careers, they were interested in. We worked according to their list and visited various companies where they received highly informative information on their career choices. They were also able ask as many questions as they liked which proved very satisfactory to them and the hosts alike. We were a group of fourteen in total. An intermediate phase teacher spoke to our

learners and SAPS, Cornuti, Dr. Michelle Hutton, CrossFit Plett, Mazars were the companies which were visited.

5. **Mentorship:** Our 4 mentors continued to work with our children, always practicing social distancing. Themes this year were more educationally based and some of the work done with your children included, the composing of a CV, a formal letter, the reading and writing of stories, essay writing, correct direction giving using a map, mathematical and computer assistance. Then we once again delved into the sad reality of sexual abuse, neglect, bullying. In the beginning of the year, we equipped them with all home remedies on keeping themselves and family healthy in the time of Covid 19. We really hope that this year you as parents feel happy about the work we have done with your children. We also offered them something to eat during their sessions.
6. **Our new mentor:** This year we welcomed our newborn in Africa mentor in Kranshoek. Most of you know her by now as Juf Ash. She is Ashdean Oosthuizen from Knysna. It is so important we find the right person for this overly sensitive and critical position, and we have managed to do just this. We have done so, but just would like to mention her in this letter as well.
7. **Education Support:** All primary children in the Born in Africa program received a personal Slimkoppe book to improve their math's. Through weekly exercise and follow up, we really see improvement in the kids who work in it regularly! Our mentors have been remarkably busy with online support for English and math's. The children practice on tablets and laptops to improve their skills. The programs we used were MobyMax and IXL. We can see that the extra help helped the children with their schoolwork.
8. **Medical support:** several learners received prescription glasses, a few learners were taken to the doctor, dermatologist, and dentist for various medical ailments.
9. **Educational centers and sports field:** Our Sports and Culture classroom is now 100% finished and our netball and soccer fields are sorted out which are great additions to our Kranshoek education center. The Classroom in the Crag is now also totally up and running.
10. **Life skills programs:** We are fortunate that this year we were able to continue with our swimming skills programs. We had a group who took part in learning to surf and learning to swim which as well was fantastic and an enormous success. Our children also took Part in the Plett Nippers this year.
11. **Donation of parcels:** How wonderful our donors were once again this year with more than 700 food parcels handed out.

12. **Dream project:** This year more than 265 children had their dreams fulfilled. The dreams went from education outings like to the snake park, going to the movies, a bicycle, beds, cupboards and many more.
13. **Tertiary Bursaries:** This was a phenomenally successful year in terms of our Tertiary students. No less than 32 students were supported by our bursary program, and we are indeed incredibly proud of how hard they have all worked this year. Their conduct was impeccable to say the least and any workplace will be extremely proud to have them employed one day. Personally, I would like to thank you as parents for instilling such good values in your children. It has been an absolute pleasure this year. Quite a number of these students will graduate at the end of this year, and we are so proud. We are also remarkably busy with enrolling several new tertiary students for the year of 2022 and this will be the start of their journey, we are incredibly enthusiastic to work with this new group as well.
14. **‘Wittedrift High bursaries:** This year too we continued to support our 32 Wittedrift high bursary learners who are also attending the hostel. We have paid for their school fees, hostel fees, transport, books, uniform, and other important school related items they have required. This costs on average R25 000 per year per learner. Born in Africa is also proud to announce that we have selected seven pupils for next year who will begin Gr 8. Important please is that we have new contracts for our WH bursary recipients to complete. Belinda is busy with the children now to fill in and read and understand and then at the same time the parents have an obligation to also read and sign the contract of the child and it needs to be returned to us. We are also busy with filling in the WCED bursary applications already for 2022 as well.
15. **Volunteers:** Since September we have volunteers again from Belgium and Italy. We are expecting more volunteers to help us out in 2022, which will enable us to do lots more fun activities again!
16. **Gr 12 Certificate Ceremony:** An Incredibly special event was born out of Covid 19 last year with our Gr 12 farewell. This year the schools held their respective farewell's and we decided to instead continue with the certificate ceremony where your Gr 12 child received a Born in Africa certificate with beautiful words from his or her mentor. Also, a memory stick, and some nice treats were handed out to our Gr 12 learners. We are so proud of them indeed as they have reached a wonderful milestone in their lives and you as parents and be truly proud.
17. **Social Media:** This year we reached 4450 likes on Facebook and over 620 followers on Instagram. The most favorite posts on Facebook were the ones

about our tertiary students who do extremely well! We are also active on Instagram and YouTube, so be sure to follow us to stay up- to date with all our activities!

18. **Dates:** This year we plan to work at our centers with the children until 9/12/2021. The Born in Africa office will close on 15/12/2021
19. **Thank you:** On behalf of the Born in Africa office in Plettenberg Bay, in Belgium, our board members in SA and overseas and all our donors and godparents we wish you as Born in Africa parents and children a very blessed festive season. Please be safe, you are all very precious to us. We look forward to working with your children in 2022. We thank you once again for allowing us the opportunity to work with your children and assist them in developing their education as well as social development.

Please be safe out there, practice social distancing still in these times!

Kind Regards
Your Born in Africa team!