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Plettenberg Bay

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Born in Africa - Sponsor information 2023.

Dear Sponsors

Once again, we have managed to successfully complete another year and we did this all together as a collective family. You as sponsors, our godparents, us as Born in Africa, our parents and last but most importantly, the Born in Africa children.

1. **20 Year celebration:** A wonderful full 5-day program was organized by Isabelle and her team in Plettenberg Bay. Each community had the opportunity to showcase their learners. We had around 100 visitors attending from many foreign countries.
In Belgium, a braai was organized and 200 members of the Born in Africa family attended! Thank you to each and every one of you who joined us in the festivities and those who supported us in the past, it's only thanks to you that we could celebrate this huge milestone!
2. **A Born in Africa Book** was written and published in honour of our 20th birthday. The sale has been going well and we thank everyone who bought one already. For now, it is only available in Dutch, but we are working on something for our English supporters. If you want a copy, you can order on www.borninafricaboek.com
3. **School uniforms:** This coming January 2024 the learners will receive the following items: 2 pairs of school shoes, socks, pants/skirt, shirt, backpack & school stationery. Grade 8 learners at Plett Secondary will also receive a tie.
4. **Educational Outings:** Born in Africa, learners from grade 1 till 10 all enjoyed an interesting and fun visit to the Raptor Rescue park during the school holidays! Our older students from grades 11 and 12 were treated to a day-outing to Oudtshoorn where they visited the Cango Caves and the Cango Wildlife Ranch!
5. **Educational Camps:** We hosted camps for our boys and girls from Gr 2-10. The theme this year was Discovering your talents. The camps were held at Moonsong Backpackers which was an awesome environment where young people could embrace the space and enjoy many fun activities. Our learners were also treated to an indoor heated pool as well as the Sport Academy in Knysna who hosted wonderful activities for them. Camp is so much fun each and every year and an event we all can't wait to attend!
- 5 **Career Guidance:** For our Gr 11 students, we hosted a Career Guidance outing. This was important for them as they indicated which careers, they were interested in. We visited various companies where they received very informative presentation on their career choices. They were able to ask as many questions as they liked which proved very satisfactory to them and the hosts alike. Places we visited included The Beacon Island resort, Ferreira and partners which is an accounting firm, The Plettenberg Bay Fire Dept

and Mungo weaving factory. Our learners were treated to an amazing lunch at Roadside Café. Careers which were on display included any career in the accounting sector, secretarial work, clerical work, business management, the hospitality industry from front office management to working in housekeeping. Becoming a fire fighter often seems too dangerous, however during our visit to the station, we saw the various positions available there and then at the proudly South African Mungo weaving mill, our learners were in awe of the vast career opportunities there. From weaving, to office admin, sales, assistant, designers to international buyers – the list of careers under one roof was astounding.

- 6 Mentorship:** Working with learners each afternoon and often during school break time is hard work, yet a very rewarding task. It is such a privilege to be working with the children and this year our 5 mentors continued to work on theme-based group sessions. We also all followed the 1-year long FAMSA counseling course which equipped us all with the knowledge required in this field to do our jobs to the best of our ability. Some of the themes the children got to enjoy this year included dental hygiene, anger management, study methods to name a few. Of course, many individual mentoring sessions were held with each of the Born in Africa learners and much attention was given to academic support this year. We focused on computers, mathematics, English, many school projects and more. As always, the children were really made to feel safe in the environment we have created for them. They were also always given something to eat during the group sessions.
- 7 Education Support:** As mentioned, our mentors and volunteers have been very busy with online support for English and maths. The children practice on tablets and laptops to improve their skills in English and maths, the program we use for this is IXL. We can see that the extra help assisted the children with their schoolwork. We assisted our learners with educational support by offering them the necessary tools to work on their school projects. We really focus on all educational programs. We were able to help them with research and the printing of projects as well. Typing and research skills have improved immensely. We have also been very active with hosting our libraries in Kranshoek and Wittedrift High, with students very eager to read books, both in English and Afrikaans.
- 8 Medical support:** 12 learners received prescription glasses, a few learners were taken to the doctor and 6 learners went to the dentist. We also visited the hearing clinic with 2 of our learners, one of them received new hearing aids.
- 9 Educational centers:** In 2023, we built a new classroom in Kwanokuthula where a total of 15 kids enjoy their own private space in the afternoons with their mentor Liezel. In this space, learners can complete homework, work on school projects, and enjoy group sessions hosted by mentor Liezel.
- 10** We are currently planning the building of a similar **Wendy house** at Wittedrift high for mentor Belinda to work with her group of learners in the afternoons.
- 11 Life skills programs:** This year, like others, we were able to offer surfing lessons (26 learners), swimming lessons with Adopt a Swimmer (11 learners) as well as Nippers (10 learners) at Central beach. Grade 3 learners in the Craggs enjoyed our Learn to swim program where we reached 12 kids this year, who all completed a series of 12 swimming classes.
- 12 Donation of food:** During the year on many occasions, food was handed out to our children, when we were able to receive food or meals from donors and businesses.

- 13 Dream project:** This year over 251 children had their dreams fulfilled. The dreams went from outings like ziplining or quad biking to kids who dreamt of having their own bed or cupboard. Unfortunately, we don't find sponsorship for all the dreams, and we thank the parents for understanding that not every child's dream can come true in a year. This must never, however, deter a learner from dreaming big each year!
- 14 Tertiary Bursaries:** 2023 has been an incredible year for our tertiary program. This year we had 34 active studying learners who are studying at various institutions. Their conduct was impeccable to say the least and any workplace will be extremely lucky to have them employed one day. Personally, I would like to thank the parents for instilling such good values in the children. It has been an absolute pleasure this year. Most of the students who will graduate at the end of 2023 will apply to continue to study their honors degrees as well. We are not sure at this stage how many have been accepted, but this is very positive news. We are also very busy with enrolling several new tertiary students for the year of 2024 and this will be the start of their journey, we are incredibly enthusiastic to work with this new group. There are 13 learners in Gr 12 and so far, 11 of them will be entering their tertiary studies.
- 15 'Wittedrift High bursaries:** This year there are a total number of 56 Born in Africa learners attending Wittedrift High. 34 of these learners are studying with a bursary which is provided by Born in Africa. This bursary covers the learner's school uniform, stationery and books, transport to and from school and in some cases hostel fees as well. At the end of 2023, 10 learners will graduate from high school and 9 of them will continue to study through Born in Africa on a tertiary level. We are very proud of all our learners who are working so hard towards their futures. Our students also do very well on the sports field and on a cultural level. We are also very proud to announce that 5 of the prefects selected for 2024 are Born in Africa learners. Besides taking care of all these learners daily with all their needs, both academically and extra-curricular, we have also established a Chess Club, a Library, dance classes, Mathematics lessons for Gr 8-11, and managed to establish a choir.
- 16 Social Media:** This year we reached 5500 followers on Facebook. The website is fully functional and very user-friendly. (www.borninafrica.org). We are also active on Instagram and YouTube, so be sure to follow us to stay up-to-date with all our activities! Born in Africa has also managed to establish its brand-new database where all our information is stored at a central hub.
- 17 Volunteers:** This year has been very busy with volunteers, both local and from overseas! In total we had 20 volunteers who all brought amazing new skills and interests which they teach to the children. It is so valuable to have them as part of our afterschool program. Some of what they learned included the skill of crochet as well as a project where they learned about many countries from all over the world!
- 18 Gr 12 Certificate Ceremony:** We are very proud to announce that this year Born in Africa hosted a very special event where our Gr 12 graduates were honored for their remarkable achievement. Graduating from high school is a remarkable event. Rightfully so, they received certificates with special words from their mentors as well as special gifts from Born in Africa and board member Ruby Chetty who delivered such encouraging words, alongside Born in Africa chairlady Janet Harding.

We would like to use this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a blessed festive season. We would like to thank you as sponsors for enabling us to work with these amazing children and we endeavor to do all we can to progress the education and personal development of the children.

Yours in community service, The Born in Africa team!

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