

# **MASIBAMBANE COLLEGE**

"Holding hands with the Orange Farm  
community"



**An Introductory Brochure**

**2005/6**

THANK YOU FOR VISITING US.

## **In the Beginning.....**

In early 1996, the City of Vienna in Austria made contact with Education Africa, expressing an interest in supporting the development of a school in South Africa. Education Africa approached Walter Sisulu for his advice as to where to plant a new school which would strive for academic excellence.

***The patriarch of our nation did not hesitate to suggest Orange Farm as the area which most desperately needed a school.***

And so in 1997, Masibambane College started with its first Grade 1 class consisting of a mere 21 learners.

## **Orange Farm**

Orange Farm, once the dumping ground of the apartheid government, is an enormous impoverished informal settlement situated 50km south of Johannesburg.

Massive unemployment hinders improvement in the living conditions of the approximate 250 000 residents and the situation is getting progressively worse as each successive year more unskilled matriculants join the ever-growing job queue.

Isolation is also a major obstacle as a 1 hour, unsafe train journey separates Orange Farm from job opportunities in Johannesburg.

The family unit, having been severely damaged by the apartheid regime, is now being ravaged by the impact of the AIDS epidemic that is currently sweeping our African continent.

The size of the area is best gauged by the fact that there are 25 primary schools in the area.

Today, Masibambane College is a beacon of hope in this very sad and desperate community. It not only hosts a school that continues to strive for excellence, but it also endeavours to meet the needs of the Orange Farm community in very real and practical ways.

***Masibambane College's greatest ambition is to impact all of the schools in Orange Farm through a teacher resource centre. Our hope is to try and provide a better education for all of the 30 000 children in Orange Farm by developing and empowering Orange Farm educators.***

## **Partners with Masibambane**

Masibambane College's success must be attributed to the loyal support of its various partners that have remained dedicated since 1996.

The **City of Vienna in Austria** has provided most of the funds necessary for the capital development of Masibambane College. This relationship continues today as the City of Vienna remains committed to the further development of the College.

**Education Africa**, a non profit making fundraising organization, has been instrumental in facilitating our relationship with Austria.

**St. John's College** in Johannesburg has been another important key to Masibambane's success. St. John's College is a well established private school in Johannesburg and has journeyed with Masibambane throughout its developmental years, offering both educational as well as financial support along the way.

More recently, Masibambane has initiated a relationship with **St Mary's School in Waverley**.

**The Orange Farm Community** has been a vital partner. Their ownership of the project is crucial to our sustainability in Orange Farm. Most of our children and teachers live in Orange Farm.

Over the years many other organisations and people have contributed to this very exciting project.

## At the heart of Masibambane

### A Christian school.

Masibambane College falls under the authority of the Dioceses of Christ the King. The Church of the Province of South Africa(Anglican Church) holds the school in trust for the purpose of education.

### A community centred school.

At the heart of Masibambane College's existence is the desire to ***“Hold hands with the Orange Farm community”***

Masibambane College endeavours to uplift and empower the community of Orange Farm by:

- Making our facilities available to the community.
- Playing an active role in the development of teachers. It is our dream to run a teacher resource centre at Masibambane College.
- Creating jobs wherever possible. For example our uniform is produced by mothers at our school
- Adult education endeavours to make people more employable. LITERACY, COMPUTERS AND SEWING classes are offered.
- We have a partnership with the Tebogo Home for Disabled Children as well as Modimo O Moholo work centre for disabled adults.
- We run an after-school care project for orphans in the community. We look after 50 orphans.

### A school of excellence.

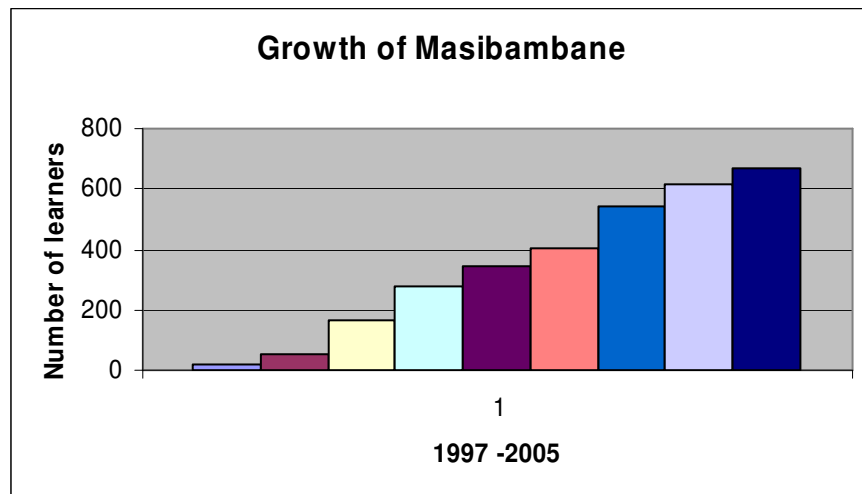
Masibambane provides a good quality education for 668 happy children.

The school ranges from Grade 0 – 9.The following aspects are critical:

- Staff development.
- Smaller classes(Maximum 35)
- Child-centred education where children are encouraged to explore, investigate, create and design within a secure and disciplined environment.
- Affordable education which is sustainable.
- Parents committed to participating in both the financial and educational aspects of their child's schooling.

## Growth of Masibambane

<b>Growth of Masibambane since its inception in 1997</b>									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Grade 0			40	64	54	45	72	55	51
Grade 1	21	23	62	71	61	75	80	90	88
Grade 2		28	28	56	61	68	74	90	70
Grade 3			34	39	63	49	69	68	92
Grade 4				48	50	59	62	69	61
Grade 5					53	54	71	65	60
Grade 6						52	63	65	62
Grade 7						-	53	65	66
Grade 8								50	70
Grade 9									48
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>668</b>



# **Finances**

## **Income**

Masibambane is a private school. The operational expenses of the school are covered by two sources:

- 50% comes from school fees which parents pay.
- 10% comes from bursaries – 70 children are on full bursaries.
- 40% comes from a government subsidy which is determined by the number of children in the school.

## **Expenses**

Staff salaries absorb 87% of the annual budget. (Currently, the educator salaries are below that of state schools.)

The remaining 13% of the budget is thinly spread in order to cover the absolute essentials necessary for the running of the school.

We do all we can do reduce our expenses by:

- Making our own desks.
- Doing our own building and paving.
- Keeping strict control of assets.
- Fundraising.

## **Huge need for fundraising**

The school is under constant pressure to raise funds for

- Capital development
- Learner support equipment
- Tours
- Bursaries
- Support of teachers salaries – in order to bring them in line with that of state schools.

## **Controls**

Masibambane College is governed by a Council which has representatives from the various stakeholders at Masibambane.

The Council meets once a quarter and is responsible, amongst other things, for financial sustainability of the school. It ensures that the budget is adhered to and that strategic financial planning is in place.

Our books are audited on an annual basis.

## **Contact details**

### **Postal Address:**

Masibambane College  
PO Box 180  
Orange Farm  
1860

### **Phone Numbers**

011 850 3858/0118 ..... Switchboard

011 850 0119 ..... Fax

### **Email:**

[masibambanecollege@telkomsa.net](mailto:masibambanecollege@telkomsa.net)

### **Banking Details**

Standard Bank  
Eastgate (Branch Code 018 505)  
420 463 755

## **THRASS at Masibambane College**

In October 2005, the entire Masibambane staff underwent 4 days of intensive THRASS training. Classrooms were equipped with all the THRASS material and the school embarked on its very exciting THRASS journey.

The decision was taken to modify the time-table to include a daily period which could be used for THRASS. The intention was to create space for the teachers to implement THRASS. In this way it was hoped that they would become familiar with the THRASS material and apply it in their normal teaching.

Our children all speak English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language with either Zulu or Sotho as their mother tongue. Our policy at Masibambane is to try and get the children to communicate in English all the time at school. The medium of instruction is strictly English and this is applied from as early as grade 0.

THRASS has proved to be a most useful tool to overcome the many barriers faced by our children and educators. It is consistent, it is truthful and it is meaningful. It is equipping our children for life.

The Phoneme Machine is particularly useful in our environment as all our teachers speak English as their second language. It provides the learners with an opportunity to hear English being spoken by an English speaking person. More importantly for the learners – it is a computer driven program.

We have very recently been donated a SMART interactive whiteboard and we are looking forward to exploring the educational avenues that this wonderful piece of technology offers.

Our thanks must be expressed to Alan Davies and his wife Hilary who have personally sponsored all the training and equipment. In addition, it has been wonderful to have the ongoing support of Laola Altschul whose constant visits have kept us THRASSING.

### **Our dream for the future**

Our hope is that Masibambane College will become a THRASS teacher development centre in Orange Farm.

Our dream is that our College will be a conduit for the implementation of THRASS in all the schools in Orange Farm.

***A BIG DREAM, but one that will impact 30 000 children.***