“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22v6 (NIV)

Message From Our Board

At iThemba School Fish Hoek we are all about looking and moving forward. Working with children, by its very nature, propels you into the future and brings a constant sense of forward momentum. However, it is also good to look back and see where we have come from and what impact we have had on the lives of the children over the last year, and it is those achievements that we celebrate in this report.

From small beginnings in 2012, iThemba now educates and cares for 60 children. Each year, around 20 of those children leave us for primary school having received an educational grounding of a high standard. The South African Early Childhood Review 2017, an annual measure of progress in Early Childhood Development service delivery, reported that two thirds of South Africa’s young children are living in poverty. Only 50% of 4 year-olds from low-income households are able to access an early learning programme.

iThemba School Fish Hoek offers the lowest income families an opportunity to break out of the cycle of poor education and related poverty. The school provides an exciting opportunity to teach children the Bible.

We are so grateful to God for our staff. Each and every day they make a massive difference in the lives of our children. Each child has within them enormous amounts of untapped potential and iThemba School is unlocking that potential and opening doors to future flourishing.

To each and every one of our staff and volunteers, we say “thank you for sowing love and hope into the children’s lives.”

To each and every one of our supporters, donors, sponsors and partners, we say “thank you for working with us to make a difference to the next generation.”

And to those of you reading this who are yet to experience the joy of partnering with iThemba, we say “join us and change a life.”

Finally, as we look to the future with such excitement we always do so with an eye on what God has done in the past: the death and resurrection of Jesus is what inspired the start of iThemba. Our prayer now is that we continue to bring glory to Him, in the future.

Murray Anderson
Chair of the iThemba School Board
In the scenic beauty of Cape Town’s South Peninsula, the community of Masiphumelele is home to at least 35,000 people, living in an area with infrastructure designed for less than a third of that number. Early Childhood Development centres in this community are overstretched and under-resourced; many children are left unable to access even the poorest quality early years education.

It was in this context that St Peter’s Church in Fish Hoek had the vision to establish iThemba School, providing a quality learning experience, healthy nutrition and Christian education in a safe environment for some of the neediest children in that community.

iThemba, an isiXhosa word meaning “hope”, aims to bring hope for the future to children and their families by giving them an educational grounding that will allow them to thrive, and by sharing with them the message of eternal hope through Jesus Christ.

At the end of a quiet cul-de-sac looking out onto the Fish Hoek sand dunes, music and children’s laughter ring out. In this peaceful location next door to St Peter’s Church, 60 children, aged 3 to 6, learn, sing, eat, sleep and play each day.

Each child represents a family working hard to lift themselves out of poverty. Parents at iThemba pay fees at a level comparable to those charged at a township creche, with the difference being made up by donors and sponsors.
Our mission at iThemba School is to provide children who otherwise would not have the opportunity with the best possible foundation in life. We do this by ensuring that each child receives a healthy, balanced diet, a safe environment, quality preschool education and teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our vision is that the children who come through the doors of iThemba School will leave with a spiritual and educational grounding that will equip them to thrive in any setting and set them up for a lifetime of learning. We aspire to provide these children with the foundation they need to achieve their full potential.

In all that we do, we seek to live out the values of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These values underpin every interaction at iThemba School and form the basis of our teaching and disciplinary style.

‘...go and make disciples of all nations...’
Matthew 28v19 (NIV)

‘...All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.’
Galatians 2v10
Our Grade R is registered with the Department of Education and we follow their Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS). This policy statement for learning and teaching in South African schools provides an age-appropriate base to prepare children for Grade 1. What it looks like from day to day is children engaged in a varied daily programme including small group table rotations, practicing basic concepts in concrete play, strengthening their bodies and interacting in whole class discussions. We report to parents four times a year.

We are registered with the Department of Social Development and are currently implementing the new National Curriculum Framework for Children - Birth to Four Years (NCF) in our two younger age groups. Their day is also a diverse blend of varied opportunities to play and learn. We believe that implementing the NCF will bring additional structure to our teachers’ weekly planning, which will further improve our educational standard. Our language of teaching is English.

At our daily Bible teaching assembly for the whole school children learn about Jesus, pray and sing.

The joyful sound of children’s singing and musical instruments fills the school as Wriggle and Rhyme provides a wonderful music lesson for everyone each week. On Fridays Fit Kids help children to explore what their bodies can do! The programme is enriched by volunteers from St Peters Church who ensure that all children enjoy a small group reading session every week.
Our impact

Setting a child on the path to educational success begins in the preschool years. Most tertiary study in South Africa is offered in English and so an English education can mean breaking the poverty cycle.

iThemba School impacts the lives of 60 children annually, with the exponential impact of an additional 20 children with each year’s new intake. At the age of 6 they leave us well nourished, knowing about Jesus, feeling cared for and with a solid foundation for doing Grade 1 in English.

At iThemba School we are excited to see our children off to a good start! It is the impact that we see the school having on our children’s lives that is driving our vision for the future (see the end of this report).

“The first five years have so much to do with how the next 80 turn out.”

Bill Gates Snr.
Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Our partners

If you or your company would like to partner with us by sponsoring a child, please go to the ‘How to help’ page on:

www.ithembaschool.org

or email:

partnerships@ithembaschool.org
Our finances

iThemba school finances are managed in line with good governance principles.

Our audit accountant:
Masana Mabasa
CA(SA)- South African Institute of Chartered Accountants
Bachelor of commerce in accounting - University of Kwazulu-Natal
Post Graduate diploma in accountancy (CTA) - University of Kwazulu-Natal

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”
Benjamin Franklin
Ready, steady, G-R-O-W…

The vision is that iThemba School grow into a donor-based primary school. The time is right to start moving forward, with God’s help and your support.

Competition for places at primary schools in the Fish Hoek Valley is fierce and it gets harder each year for our children to secure an English Grade 1 place. Fees at the good schools are out of the reach of our families.

The plan is to grow a grade at a time from Grades 1 to 7. iThemba School Grade R graduates will progress on from the preschool, which will remain as it is.

The school will continue to be funded by sponsors and donors, who believe in the power of education to change lives. Extending the school provides an exciting opportunity to continue to teach the children the Bible up to the age of twelve years.

The present iThemba School site, next to St Peters Church in Fish Hoek has no room to grow. We are looking at an area closer to Masiphumelele, where most of our children live. This would allow us to build stronger connections with the families we work with.
Our feasibility study and research lead us to believe that it would cost around R5.7 million to acquire and develop a suitable site to meet our needs for up to Grade 3 (phase 1) and a further R4.1 million to develop the site up to Grade 7 (phase 2). It has been very encouraging to see people get enthused with us as we have shared the vision with them. We hope that you will share our passion and excitement for this next stage in the life of the school.

We are in the process of setting up a Trust in order to have good governance in place, and are looking for people to partner with us by bringing skills, knowledge or financial support as we kick-start this ambitious vision. A project manager to oversee development once property has been bought will be vital.

Draft Cost for Developing a Primary School – Phase 1

Total Cost
5.7m

- Purchase of property and transfer duty: R3 000 000
- Building renovation and work: R2 132 500
- Grounds, fencing and security: R239,000
- Project management: R200,000
- Furniture and playground equipment: R67,000