



THE NEWSLETTER

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Nokuphila (Thembisa South Africa)

Nokuphila Primary School is paving the way towards achieving South Africa's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal, which aims for children to have inclusive, equitable education and lifelong learning opportunities.

This goal is exemplified through their bursary recipients: Lungile and Ayanda, bright young minds with extraordinary futures ahead.

We had the opportunity to catch up with them. Lungile Kekana at St John's College and Ayanda Khoza at Christ Church College.



Ayanda Khoza

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What were your reactions when you found out you received the bursary?

They were ecstatic to discover they had each earned a school bursary. Lungile felt validated in receiving a bursary to such a prestigious school.

"I was happy and moved to tears because I never expected it as I only achieved 4th place in our school's Top 10 for academic achievement. That shows that you must work hard to get what you want." Says Lungile.

How did you feel when you first arrived at your new school?

Moving to a new school in a different area, far removed from people and the environment you know, can be scary, especially for adolescents. Naturally, the boys felt lonely and slightly out of place when they arrived.

Fortunately, the schools put in the effort to ensure all their learners, regardless of background, are welcome and treated equally. Once they had settled into their new schools, the boys quickly made friends.

Ayanda says he felt lonely on the first day but now feels welcomed and has made a few good friends.

According to Lungile, "It was exciting but a little intimidating because the school has its own culture. For example, certain parts of the lawn are off-limits to Grade 8's."

What role do you think Nokuphila Primary School played in helping you achieve your bursary?

Ayanda and Lungile believe their success is because of their years at Nokuphila. They are thankful to their teachers and the school's teaching approach, which focuses on academics, the psychosocial well-being of learners, and leadership programmes. In addition, the school helped them find and apply for these bursaries.

Ayanda: "I'm happy and aim to make Nokuphila proud. I thank Nokuphila because it has changed my life. I'm appreciative to God because not many learners get this opportunity."

Lungile: "I am thankful for the leadership skills that the school instilled in me because if it weren't for it, I wouldn't be here."

Do you want to achieve specific things while attending your new school?

The boys have tasted what is possible through determination and dedication and hope to achieve the highest levels of excellence at their new schools in the classroom, music halls and sports fields.

Ayanda wants to get good academic results, earn his IEB Certificate and be a good sportsman, as his school has amazing sporting facilities.

Lungile also has many things he wants to achieve; he wants to be the Head of House and to achieve an academic and a music blazer. He shared these parting words, "Success won't come to you. You need to go to it. Dreams won't wait for you. You need to go to them."

GTEC = GTO Sponsored Project Completed - Bulembu (Eswatini) Baby Home

GTEC was held in April 2022 and since then we have been working hard to ensure that donations were put to good use. We had \$3000 USD donated by individuals at the event and \$11,000 USD from The Committee for Carbon Offsetting. Ultimately, the funds went towards a Solar Project at Bulembu (our NGO in Eswatini). The Solar System was set up on the Baby Houses where 30-50 babies under 2 years old are cared for by "Aunties" when they are brought to the Bulembu Baby Home. They sometimes arrive as young as a day old. Imagine the number of nighttime feedings, bathing, and nappy changes needed. With the new system, batteries run at night so Aunties can safely and efficiently care for all those babies.

Summary of the Solar Power installation for the Bulembu Baby Home:

- Total cost of the Solar System and installation was \$12,300 USD.
- This included a 10kVA system with 9 solar panels, an inverter and lithium batteries.
- The annual cost saving on electricity is \$2,400 USD.
- Power in Eswatini is based on coal-fired power plants. This also reduces overall carbon emissions for the site.
- There are currently 37 babies and toddlers in the Baby Home.



Click the link to view a "Thank You" video from Bulembu: <https://youtu.be/HSwhDOiXbyE>

PI Day: Calgary WSP Office - Canada

The Calgary offices displayed their inner nerds by celebrating Pi (3.14) Day on the 14th of March!

Three Calgary offices sold delicious pies to raise money for GTO and fed hungry WSP folks. We had more than 8 volunteers running the events and over \$455 CAD dollars was raised.

Well done team, you made it look as easy as pie.

