

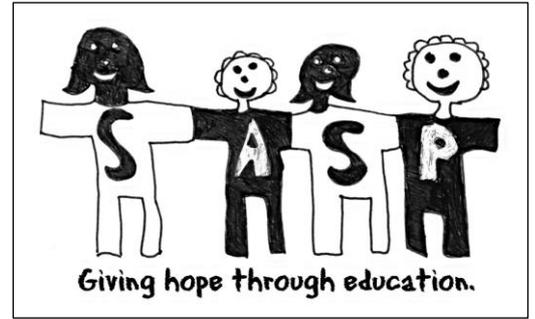
South African Schools' Project

NEWSLETTER 8

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SASP BURSARY STUDENTS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

In this edition of the newsletter we want to introduce you to some of the young South Africans who are being supported through their studies by SASP.

STEFNI PIETERSEN

Stefni has been known to us for a number of years now, being one of the first recipients of a SASP bursary.



"It all began when I was in Grade 5. I remember that day as if it was yesterday. Mr. Tom Campbell, his wife and friends from England visited the school. We had a few items planned for them. I had to say a poem. I was so nervous. What I can remember of that day, was that one of the ladies started to cry after she heard me say the poem. Afterwards she told me that I had so much confidence to say the poem in front of all of them. She was so proud of me. I was only ten years old, and here I was saying an English poem in front of people from England. It was a great feeling to receive so much positive feedback. I then realized that if you want to go forward in life, you have to make people take notice of you.

Then in Grade 6, I realized that if I work hard SASP will sponsor me to go on to Grade 7. I worked really hard. It was a great year, but also a sad one, because I knew I had to leave my school, my teachers and my friends behind. On the 23rd of November 2012 Mr Campbell announced at our prize giving that I am to get a bursary for 2013 to go to Graslaagte. It was one of the happiest days of my life, because they gave me a future. What more can you ask for?

I enjoyed the year at Graslaagte. It was nice to see Mr. Tom and Sapphire so often, because they really care for me and only want the best for me. With all the financial support during this year, it was easy to concentrate on my schoolwork.

I passed grade 7 with flying colours and now it was off to High School. Once again SASP was there to support me in all my needs. The only thing I have to do is to study. I only wish my dear mother, Catherine, who died a few years ago, could see how well I do. She would have been so proud of me."

From the beginning I noticed this lovely, friendly little girl. She was always eager to rearrange the book shelves – only so that she could read. Stefni always had a book in her hand – busy reading. No wonder she excelled in Afrikaans and English especially. She has been a hard worker in all her years at Uitvlucht. She stood head and shoulders above the other learners in her manners and her school work

Stefni still lives in a shack in a very poor part of Arcadia near Humansdorp, but she does not use it as an excuse. In fact, she definitely rises above her circumstances.

Therefore I would like to thank SASP for giving not only Stefni, but others as well, this wonderful opportunity to be able to finish their school and maybe go on to further studies.

Mrs Sarien Viljoen, Principal Uitvlucht School

SHURNAY PLAATJIES

Shurnay was one of the first learners to be sponsored by SASP. Initially at Graslaga Primary she now attends Humansdorp Secondary School. When her mother died she was taken in by her aunt. She now lives in a two bedroom house with her aunt and four cousins. Despite her personal circumstances Shurnay studies hard and shows sporting promise.



“ I just want to thank SASP for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime. It has made me realise that you can achieve many things if you work hard.

Because I have a bursary I can get my books and the things I need before school opens. I also get things like tracksuits, pullovers, shoes and my school dress.

My favourite subject in school is economics because it teaches me things about the world of money and how it is spent to fulfil our needs.

The sport that I am currently playing is netball. It is my hobby and how I keep my body in shape.

My goal is one day to be an attorney. I appreciate very much everything that SASP has done for me to help me fulfil my dreams.”

THEODARIS NONTOBO

Theodaris grew up on Uitvlucht farm, one of six children. When he arrived at Kruisfontein school in 2005 his teachers noticed that he was rather special, having the intellectual ability and sense of values to become a successful learner.

He progressed well through school to become head boy in Grade 7. His teachers were impressed by his leadership qualities and his strong values based on Christian principles.

He is involved in sports, particularly athletics and rugby.

The bursary has enabled Theodaris to further his studies at Humansdorp Senior Secondary School.



“Is it possible for an ordinary boy with no finances and an unsteady balance in life to make it to the top one day? Probably not, or so I thought, until SASP made an appearance in my life.

It has now been almost three years since SASP reached me at the most important time in my school life. The support the organisation gives me has had a huge and positive influence on my school career.

I want to thank SASP once more for everything and I hope it will continue to reach out to more young people. I feel exceptionally proud and privileged.

THANK YOU.”

IF THE SHOE FITS?

All pupils at Uitvlucht were presented with brand new shoes, courtesy of Gina and Emily, 2013's MiniGap students.



Meanwhile Anna and Emily, together with Ms Elizabeth Godwin, a teacher at Abbots Bromley School, are completing their preparations for their own visit in October.