

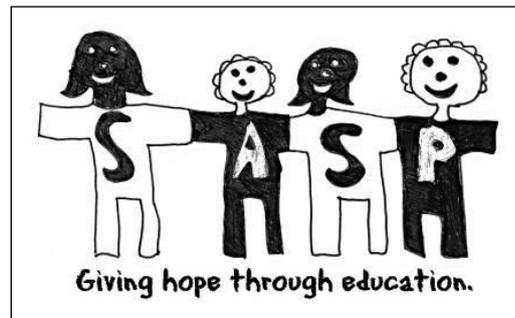
South African Schools' Project

NEWSLETTER 11

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SASP STUDENT AMBASSADOR

One of this year's undoubted highlights was the visit to the UK of Stefni Pietersen, in May. Thanks to the generosity of SASP supporters Stefni was able to leave her home country for the first time. During her stay of just over two weeks, she spent time with Tom and Saff, and Bill and Anthea, as well as experiencing English education at Spring Grove School and as a boarder at Abbots Bromley School. Wherever she went Stefni impressed all those she came into contact with, with her incredibly positive outlook and gratitude towards the charity that has supported her through much of her education. Now 16, as SASP's first Student Ambassador, she describes the impact that her visit to the UK has made upon her.



"I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped me to travel to the UK and looked after me so well while I was there. It was so amazing meeting everyone and I'll never forget you. Your support has played a big part in my life and for that I shall be eternally grateful. So thank you everyone, you will always have a special place in my heart."

ANGELA TAKES FUNDRAISING TO NEW HEIGHTS

"In 2013 my husband and I were privileged to be able to visit South Africa with Bill and Anthea Weaver and see for ourselves some of the schools and communities that SASP is working with. We fell in love with the work that this amazing charity undertakes and are committed to helping in any way we can."



"I guess I have always been a bit of an 'adrenaline junkie' and consequently had always wanted to do a wing walk. When this proved impossible to organise, a sky dive became the obvious choice. I wanted this once in lifetime opportunity to mean something, so to raise as much money as possible for SASP became my goal."

"I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of family, friends and colleagues who helped me raise over £1,500. I know that this money will go directly to helping children and families who so desperately need it."

Angela Weaver

Well done, Angela. We are all very proud of you!

For further information on this and our other projects, please visit our website, or our Facebook page.

PROJECT UPDATE

Tom Campbell, SASP Project Manager, has provided information on the projects in which SASP is currently involved. As can be seen SASP's influence is reaching an increasing number of children.

- This year the emphasis has been on upgrading a new farm school, **die Mistkraal** in Patensie. SASP provided 144 sq m of block paving, shade ports and bench seating to accommodate two thirds of the school. We also were able to renovate the exterior of the school.
- The exterior of **Uitvlucht** school was upgraded.
- We launched a new "Home-School" project in the township area of **Kruisfontein**, to support disadvantaged township children with learning difficulties to stay within mainstream education



- SASP gave the opportunity for children from both the **Home-School** and **Seventh Heaven Orphanage** to enjoy an activities residential at Hartenbos
- 4 additional bursaries were created, making a total of 18. Since 2010 SASP has provided over 50 years' worth of support to more than 30 students.
- SASP is now pleased to be involved with the **Smurfs Kids Academy** in Wavecrest. This Creche and Grade R facility provides care and education for over 50 township children.
- SASP has continued to provide educational supplies for eight primary and farm schools
- SASP continues to provide over 15 food parcels a month to needy families
- Over the next few months SASP will be providing a classroom for the new Home-School project, which will cater for up to 16 students. In addition, the Smurfs Academy will receive a large-screen TV, as well as some educational resources.
- We are also hopeful of resuming our support for the leadership camps which provide residential programmes for primary, senior and bursary students
- 6 additional students have been identified to receive bursaries in 2017

MINI-GAP EXPERIENCE 2016

This year's participants were Elizabeth Lindsay and Annushka Stanley, both sixth-formers at Abbots Bromley School.

Elizabeth reflected on her experience. *"I expected to see poverty and was prepared for this. But I was not prepared for the extent of the deprivation and inequality that I witnessed. However, having the opportunity to work with children from these impoverished communities gave me an understanding that all the children I met were extremely talented with the potential to succeed. I now completely understand the importance of education and am thrilled that I have been able to contribute in some small way to their lives. I wish them all the best for the future."*



Annushka has also commented on her experiences. She says, *"I was astonished at the cultural divide, the numbers of people living in abject poverty, which was worse than I expected. I was inspired by Vanessa, who works to solve problems at an earlier stage through her work with the home-school project."*

The experience has helped me to clarify my thoughts on my own future education, to pursue a path of community education."

Both girls are now thinking of ways that they can use their very successful visit to make a difference in the lives of others less fortunate than themselves.

SUDBURY HALL

A very successful fundraising evening was held at Sudbury Hall in May, attended by a considerable number of SASP supporters old and new. The highlight of the evening was the surprise appearance of Stefni, the SASP Student Ambassador.

Thanks to David Legh for organising this event.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We should like to wish all of our supporters, old and new, a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.