

# 'Teaching is a work of heart'

MELISSA LE ROUX

AFTER 50 years in education, Kannemeyer Primary School in Grassy Park is as committed as ever to "pushing their pupils to do their best".

The school's motto, "To Persevere", is instilled in the pupils by principal, Ridwan Samodien, and the educators.

Kannemeyer Primary School is the second oldest school in the area – with EC Primary School turning 100 next year.

The school, in Third Avenue, has achieved Green Flag status over the past five years for providing an eco-friendly environment for its learners.

"We are very proud to be seen as a school that cares about the environment, and we encourage our pupils to keep the school clean and tidy," says Samodien – who has been the principal for 21 years and has been teaching for 31 years at various schools.

Included in their achievements over the past 50 years is the building of the school's own Khanya computer lab – which has helped learners become computer literate.

"What makes Kannemeyer different from other primary schools in the area is our very firm focus on children. We say that teaching is a work of heart. Our learners love being at school. Here, they belong in a home away from home; they love their teachers and they love their school," says Samodien.

Learners at Kannemeyer Primary School are taught to strive for what they want to achieve. Samodien himself constantly tries to instil the three rules for building character – and which makes up the school's code of conduct – into all pupils. They are: "I shall take care of myself, I shall take care of my fellow earthlings and I shall take care of my environment."

"The children know me fondly by my war cry: 'Good, better, best, never let it rest, always let your good be better than your best,'" he says.

Samodien wants parents to become more proactive in their children's education and help them to realise their dreams.

"My immediate goal is for our learners to become thinking citizens rather than consumers. They need to live by former President Madiba's dream – build a future for themselves and not wait for others to make it happen."



**CELEBRATION:** Pupils listen attentively to speeches at Kannemeyer Primary School's 50th anniversary celebration ceremony.



**SING FOR JOY:** The school's choir in full song at the celebrations. Photos: Melissa Le Roux

Another of the school's dreams – which has been pending for many years – is to have its own Multi Purpose Indoor Sports Centre. A celebration ceremony was held on Thursday 14 April, to mark the school's 50th birthday. The school will be hosting

a bazaar – as part of their fundraising for the year – on Saturday 28 May and a Community Building Day, also known as "Madiba Day" on Saturday 23 July. For more information contact Kannemeyer Primary School on (021) 706-2365.