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UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP WANTS TO GROW VALUES IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

By Gary van Dyk (@gvdcapejazz)

Photo : Gary van Dyk

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Celebrating their commitment to values in the Footprints project at Uitsig Primary by lighting a candle were, from left, Cindy Celliers from Solid Routes, principal Hermanus Mouwers, and Erica Jacobs.

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A leadership partnership with schools in the community is growing to leave an indelible footprint of values in the minds of learners at five schools in the community.

Valentine's Day was the perfect day to launch a unique programme that aims to instil positive values at St Augustine Primary in Ravensmead, Uitsig Primary, CL Wilmot Primary in Uitsig, Holy Trinity Primary in Elsies River and Ravensmead High School.

Erica Jacobs, one of the driving forces behind this initiative explained that

in 2012 the principals of these schools were part of a leadership circle on the Partners for Possibility Project.

"After a year of Leadership Development training these five principals and their business partners, decided to address values as a key community concern," she explained.

"Across all spheres, a good value system will stand you in good stead. It is no more so evident as it is in children's behaviour and their interpersonal contact, that we as a society are failing in terms of values. "Every day we open the newspapers, we read about greed, corruption, violence, intolerance, etc. In order to restore the social fabric of community, all adults have a responsibility to make conscious efforts to teach our children basic values in the home, at school and in community."

Through various workshops this leadership circle agreed to depict six core values in the form of a footprint.

Principal Garren February (St Augustine Primary), supported by his business partner Colin Levitan (of Tygerberg Animal Hospital) and Erica Jacobs (who managed the Leadership Circle), through the Metro North Education District (MNED) office, engaged the WCED HIV/AIDS & Life Skills Programme for financial resources to implement the Values Footprint Project.

These values are: caring, fairness, responsibility, respect, trustworthiness and citizenship, each depicted by a specific colour.

Jacobs pointed out that the Project aims to roll out in two phases.

"In Phase 1, this first term, the educators of the schools received the values training; Parents were invited to Parent Meetings so that they can reinforce the values at home.

"Learner leadership structures were trained so that they can support the implementation of the values on the playground and in their leadership; educators, parents and learners pledged their commitment to implementation of the 6 Values.

"This is what we launched on Friday," she said.

Phase two will be implemented during the second term and the intention is to enrol 12 more schools in a 4km radius, in an attempt to reach all the schools and all the families in the Ravensmead Uitsig Cravenby area.

"All schools will phase in the six values during this year and from 2015 onwards," added Jacobs.

"A total of 18 schools will be implementing the same values at the same time, thus flooding the community with positive messages.

"The Values Footprint logo, which depicts them in 6 colours, was specifically designed because schools saw this as an opportunity to leave a values legacy, for schools to make a definite imprint on the social fabric of the Ravensmead Uitsig Cravenby community and surrounding areas."

Schools would like to call on the support of the church leaders, community organisations and businesses in the area to subscribe to the same values and to support schools in the efforts.

"If we all live, work, preach and teach the same values, we can change the narrative of our community.

"Business can support positive messaging and awareness raising in community, through sponsorship of Values Footprint flags, specific colour fabrics, arm bands or T-shirts," concluded Jacobs.

For more information and enquiries on how to get involved, contact Garren February via email at garren@icloud.com or 021 934 6004 or Erica Jacobs at ej.jacobs2006@gmail.com or 082 7410254.

- TygerBurger



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