



■ Some Kannemeyer Primary School pupils with the African drums they used to entertain the community.

Kannemeyer Primary does it for Madiba

RAQUEL SEPTEMBER

The country was buzzing with activity as it celebrated the birthday of Nelson Mandela at the weekend, and Kannemeyer Primary School joined by hosting a community building day.

A tent was set up on the school's sports field and teachers, pupils, parents, community members, and even past pupils and teachers, joined the Kannemeyer Primary family for the day. They spoke about why they love the school as much as they do, as well as what the community can do to improve it. The community was encouraged to claim ownership of the school.

"The school is at the centre of the community, so it seems fitting that the community, the parents and the school need to work together to take Kannemeyer Primary from strength to strength," said Louise van Rhyn, who helped the principal organise the event. "The parents need to form a partnership with the school. Today is a day when everyone who has a connection with the school is able to connect with each other," she said.

The crowd was treated to entertainment by past and present pupils who sang, danced, played guitar and beat African drums. Everyone was impressed with the talent and cheered the performances with great enthusiasm.

Fatima Matthews, the parent of a Kannemeyer Primary School pupil, said: "It is very important to have a day like this for the community. This is about the future of our children."

Grade 6 teacher Nicolette du Plessis was proud to show the community the wonderful things happening at Kannemeyer Primary.

"We need educators, pupils, parents, and businesses in the community to get involved in the upliftment of our school to help make it a better place," she said.

"Change is coming to Kannemeyer, and I am excited to see the community on board. If we maintain this connection with

the parents, things can only get better," said Grade 5 teacher Miranda Collop.

Faldela Chotia, manager for Circuit 3, said: "This is one of the best functioning schools in my circuit, and this is because they have teachers and a principal who are always willing to go the extra mile. It is very important that we have days like today so that we can make sure that the community takes ownership of this school. Community involvement should continue so that we may carry this school to excellence."

One of the activities the community were asked to participate in was to arrange themselves into small groups and discuss what they loved most about Kannemeyer Primary School and what they thought needed improvement. Everyone in her group seemed honoured to have Willemina Williams, a past teacher who taught at Kannemeyer Primary for 27 years, present. She shared a few words of wisdom and those listening were fascinated by the stories she told.

"The highlight of my teaching years at Kannemeyer Primary has always been the pupils. I was always ready to encourage them. The key is to have patience and to never give up," said Ms Williams.

A big concern for Kannemeyer Primary is to improve their pass rate.

"Our aim is that every pupil scores more than 50%. We want our pupils to reach their full potential. As teachers and parents we need to see what we can do jointly to improve the pupils' performance," said principal Ridwan Samodien.

The day was filled with music, exhibitions of the pupils' drawings of why they love their school, eating, and the community made painted hand prints on big slabs of white paper to serve as a reminder of a fun-filled.

However, Kannemeyer Primary still needs a school hall, sporting equipment and new equipment for the playground. If you can help in any way, contact Mr Samodien on 021 706 2365.