



Principal's Annual Report of 2023

As 2023 will be my last year at Llandudno Primary, and my last in the school education sphere, I would like to reflect on the year and also the successes and innovations of my time here at Llandudno with a degree of triumph but also with much nostalgia. I have been principal and team leader at Llandudno for 18 years and an Intermediate phase teacher and deputy principal at Llandudno for a combined 14 years before that.

STAFF

Over my last 32 years, staff have arrived at our little seaside Llandudno and made their mark on our school. They have shared their many talents and much energy both in the classroom and on the sports field, in school productions and in the everyday walks of life. Many of those staff members have stayed for a very long period of time, often over 20 years, enjoying our community and school ethos and we have truly bonded as a Llandudno team sharing the same Llandudno school community vision, focus, and lifestyle. I think fondly and respectfully of the legends of Llandudno: Mr Trumble, Mrs Mihal, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Beukes, Mr Pienaar, Mrs Kuhn, Mrs Lockie, Mrs Farmer, Mrs Pearson, all of whom had dedicated and lengthy stays at Llandudno. These staff are wonderfully committed, caring educators and human beings having given their time and love to our children at Llandudno over their many years or tenure.

To all the wonderful past and present educators and assistants at Llandudno Primary, I say a very big thank you for the enormously important role you have held and taken so seriously and giving our pupils the best of educations and opportunities they could ever ask for. Thank you to all the long-standing sports coaches and extra mural staff for sharing their specialized skills with our children during the last 32 years that I have been here.

In 2023, we only welcomed one new staff member, Mr Govender, who was appointed to our staff as our new Grade 6 educator and who quickly endeared himself to us and the children with his warmth, creativity, and kindness. I wish him a long and happy stay at our little school.

ACADEMICS

Llandudno pupils continue to shine academically in all our grades and our pupils are regularly sought after for placing in top high schools with their academic results and cultural or sporting achievements. Many of these schools are private and who can afford to be selective of top-class candidates, whom we proudly provide.

In last year's annual **LITNUM** (national literacy and numeracy) testing cycle held throughout the country, Llandudno Primary achieved high scores again in the Central Metropole school zone for the 19th year. These tests have been held annually and scientifically monitored since 2006. Llandudno Primary School has been the proud recipient of many annual prestigious Literacy and Numeracy awards over the years. Since Covid times, we have taken a slight 'knock' but our standards are still being met and remediation and extra classes are helping the learners who have struggled to grasp the basics, particularly in Maths, due to Covid-time absenteeism.

COMPUTERS CODING AND DRONES

I am very proud to be part of the SGB decision and direction the school has taken to move to introducing Coding and Robotics. This decision was made through thorough research and planning in the knowledge that all children will need to be ready for the world of work in a technological world.

Since 2019, we changed direction in computer teaching and in the offering of the two afternoon computer clubs and added exciting extra computer programmes. We have been teaching beginner Coding and Drone Flying, as well as incorporating 3D printing since 2021 and Lego Robotics from this year into extramural activities and class teaching programme.

In 2021 we became a Google School embracing Google technology and communications and we acquired 30 Chromebooks (mini-laptops) for use in the classrooms to augment the computer skills classes and for use in lessons in the day-to-day classroom programmes.

In January 2023 we purchased a further 30 Chromebooks to rotate in classrooms whilst also teaching Lego Robotics to all senior classes. From 2024, we will have 122 Chromebooks, which will allow many more grades to use them, the internet and various apps simultaneously. From 2025, all public schools will be including the school subject Robotics and Coding as part of the school curriculum throughout all grades from

Grades R to 12 to prepare our nation for the new world of work. While we may be skeptical about the ability of all schools to move in this direction without enough skills and resources, Llandudno is determined to make a success of the new direction and has already ensured our school has the infrastructure to support the new technology and the skill set of our teachers to manage in the digital age.

We intend on rolling out Chromebook usage in all classrooms from 2024 on a more regular basis as we embrace E-learning along with the traditional and 'Flipped Classroom' style of teaching.

We have been pursuing a teaching style taking our classes outside the computer room using the Chromebooks for group research, Maths activities, quizzes, as well as design and collaboration activities in all subjects. We continue moving into the 'Flipped Classroom' style of teaching, making the teacher more increasingly the facilitator or 'guide' to personal learning and discovery. This approach revolutionizes the way our pupils are educated at school, how they do their homework, and their interactions at school and at home. They have become more excited, critically engaged with their own research, and become the masters of their own learning while being able to share, teach peers, and solve problems.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

We are fortunate to have the services of Ms Alexa Friedman as our part time speech therapist and Mrs Jo Labouchere, dyslexia specialist, to provide remedial support to the learners with academic challenges. Ms Nicola Cilliers provides occupational therapeutic support to our junior pupils again this year, and Ms Natalie Higgins and Ms Yolande Roede provide private cognitive behaviour counselling to pupils since January 2023. Since October 2023 we have obtained the services of Mrs Shontell Fiet, our part-time social worker and highly qualified wellness counsellor. Wellness and performing at one's best with a strong mental and emotional frame of mind has been something that I have wanted to look at providing Llandudno for a number of years. I am proud to announce that we are now beginning to provide that support to our children and families from this year. We now have all the multi-disciplinary child specialists and therapists under one roof. They continue to provide weekly solo, group, and class mental and social wellness sessions. These services assist children and families with integrated therapy where needed. Shontell Fiet has already begun

parenting talks on very topical subjects around digital media, as well as devices and children. She will continue to hold talks each term geared for all ages in 2024.

SPORT IN 2023

Sport has been back in full swing since 2022. In February 2023 we returned to Knysna to compete in the Oakhill Inter Schools Water Polo tournament where our mostly young and novice players managed to compete quite well and learnt many new skills, improving their game play enormously by the end of the tournament. We hope to play in the boys soccer and netball tournaments in Knysna in April and June of 2024, respectively, to give these sports an opportunity to tour and we will return to Oakhill in the future as our sides build up strength. In May 2023 we once more held three successful Friday astro soccer derby afternoons against Hout Bay schools and our players, mixed sides this year, were great hosts and thoroughly enjoyed their afternoons. We continued playing girls soccer in the junior and senior phases this year, won many matches, and had record numbers enroll for netball. We also played many squash matches in the Western Province squash league again, although we lost a number of senior players to high school at the end of 2022 and due to some enthusiasm for rugby by some of our squash playing boys. We hope to build up the squash talent from Grade 5 again next year. Our netball has gone from strength to strength and with our new, dynamic, and effective coaches, we are proud to say our girls are playing very good netball and even entered the U13 Knysna April long weekend tour at the last minute as a reward for their fantastic training efforts. Swimming has picked up extremely well and we have swum in a number of galas this year. In the current term, we did exceptionally well at the Camps Bay and Jan van Riebeek hosted galas.

We would like to thank all our parents who are very actively involved in coaching sport for us and in particular, Sam Gouws, for running our cross country for the past 3 years. Our children, Nippers, and parents love the nature runs in the mountains on Wednesday evenings.

On the school sports coaching side, the Sports Hub coaches have worked hard with Grade R and Grade 1 pupils, giving them the ultimate best grounding in all sporting skills. Josh Savage continues to coordinate the Physical Education lessons for Grades 2 to 7 at Llandudno and the long-term athletic development programme in PE classes and

extra-mural sport. He also runs all soccer and cricket at LPS. Chad Williams and Andre Naude have handled our tennis and squash coaching over the last four years and provided good skills training in these sports. Wendy Paarman of Hout Bay Swimming Academy continues to take our swimming coaching for social and squad swimming, as well as class swimming lessons in summer. Thank you too to Gailyn Scarpa for assisting in morning swimming coaching in 2022 and 2023. Our sports coaches and their good work is evident in our results and invitations to attend galas and tournaments with other schools who swim competitively and play sport of a high standard.

I had always wanted to offer a variety of sports to cater for most sporting interests and skills but also to take that to a competitive level to keep children engaged and playing at a good level. This is not easy at a very small school but I do feel we have finally managed to do that at LPS and will maintain that focus on my departure. A well-rounded child is a confident and multi-engaged child.

CULTURAL EVENTS AND CLUBS

In September, the Foundation Phase put on a superb full-scale musical production, Peter Pan, which played to three sold out shows and many admiring comments were received from all parents and visiting guests alike. The spirit was amazing and we remind ourselves that these types of shows not only test our musicality, acting, and word memory skills but also build an emotional bond amongst the children, staff, and community as the entire school comes together to help with costumes, make up, music, catering, and offering time and so many more wonderful talents to make a successful event. The Llandudno management and SGB would like to acknowledge the hard work of the FOL, class reps, parents and school staff for this enormously successful event.

I hosted my first musical as I took over the reins at Llandudno in 2005. The Senior Phase children put on the hit musical 'Greece' to packed, foot stomping, and cheering audiences and that began the 'we can do this' attitude towards full-scale musical productions. We certainly have the talent. In 2024 the Senior Phase pupils will put on a musical extravaganza again.

Our annual music concerts in October were well-rehearsed and reverted to the formal yet lively programmes of the pre-Covid times. 2023 must surely have been the best display of musical talent and musical growth we have seen since our first full music department concerts in 2006. More than 100 pupils take music as a private extra mural with the six music staff who encourage our young players and share their expertise so patiently with them. Our two choirs, the junior ukelele group, guitar band, three marimba bands, and three rock bands have also enjoyed a great year of song and performance. In July 2023, our two senior bands performed at Artscape as their first big public performance in a Schools Cultural Talent competition. The nerves were there but they handled themselves very well in the enormous public arena.

A big thank you must go to Mrs Pearce for her exceptionally hard work in keeping the music department alive and growing at Llandudno over all these years - pre-Covid, surviving-Covid, and post-Covid. I had always dreamt of making drama and music available to all, enjoyed by all, and definitely fun at LPS. That has certainly happened under her guidance and innovations since 2019. Our mid-term assemblies are a reflection of this passion of our pupils and staff too as we encourage performance and music in all areas of life.

SCHOOL CLUBS

Crafty Chameleons, led by Karen Norman, joined Llandudno in 2022 to give our children a creative outlet and it has proved to be a huge success with our junior students and continued this year.

We have been running our Experi-Buddies club with much success for our junior scientists too. Ballet with Kate McCallum and modern dance with Audrey Anderson continue to thrive and provide much needed cultural and movement skills. Kate's Ballet held a beautiful Snow White production with many of our girls taking part at Kronendal School in early September.

Gym Wizards has been running for 24 years at Llandudno led by the ever famous Ruwayda (Ruby) Isaacs. We now have Friday gym and parkour club for 4 different age groups with big numbers and even bigger enthusiasm.

SOCIAL OUTREACH

We supported Sentinel Primary School for the weekly sandwich drive throughout the year, as well as with a large library book drive consisting of pupil contributions and many of our old school library books. We also supported the Oceans Alliance, DARG, CHOC, Reach For a Dream, Red Cross Children's Hospital, and Seven Steps Academy (Deaf School). These charity ventures give our families and children an opportunity to learn about, share, and care about our community and we hope it will help them become more involved in their own lives and to uplift the lives of others less fortunate than themselves as they mature.

SCHOOL OUTDOOR EXCURSIONS

Our school camps returned fully to the pre-Covid format this year with the Grade 4 camp at Glencairn in October where they spent a night away from home learning how to survive in nature and to fend for themselves. Grades 5 and 6 camped together at Back to Basics in Grabouw where the 'American Holiday Camp meets Boot Camp' seemed to be the theme and apart from sleeping in big hot dusty tents, there was seldom a day when mud, tough physical team challenges, ropes and rafts weren't encountered. Rowdy team songs were sung, scrumptious food devoured, voices abused until hoarse, and much sleep lost. Result: major success and bonding.

The Grade 7's have just returned from their long-awaited 5 day camp on the Breede River commencing at Grabouw's Cape Canopy Tour, Malgas Xama campsite, and ending at Indalu Game Reserve walking with elephants on the last day. What an awesome adventure for them as they prepare for high school in less than six short weeks. Another passion of mine has been 'The Outdoors' and taking children into 'The Outdoors' as it is a subtle 'great teacher' about living in harmony, finding peace and learning about one's self and nature. I still believe school camps and outdoor activities have so many benefits too innumerable to ignore. Long may these continue at LPS to establish a lifestyle of enjoying the great outdoors for every child.

FUNDRAISING

We began the year with a highly enjoyable and successful outdoor Welcome Cocktail Evening for old and new LPS parents at Llandudno Surf Life Saving Club. It was a huge hit with our parents cementing a parent bond within the first two months of the year. We also continued the monthly Thursday parent social get-togethers at the Llandudno Surf Life Saving Club.

In April, we skipped our annual school carnival in favour of a quieter start to the year and promoted a much bigger school raffle instead.

Parents and children missed the Bunny Hop Carnival but supported the raffle very well indeed. Great prizes and parental support meant we far exceeded our expectations and doubled our usual raffle profits this year, making up for the lost carnival proceeds. We opted to sell *Senor Chef* condiments, spices, and food giftpacks as the next fundraiser in July but, although it made money, it proved to show lukewarm enthusiasm amongst parents. The scheduled Vegas Night fundraiser never took place in 2023 due to a change of date and double bookings with other family events but the survey sent out also emphasized that families generally prefer family events to parent-only events.

We held our third fun Astro Family Sports Day fundraiser in September with more than 58 family teams of all ages and fitness levels. The day consisted of socialising and playing netball, tag rugby, soccer, and hockey. This event was hugely successful and proved how vital it is to encourage playing sport, team work, and sportsmanship in schools. It also proved a point that age and enthusiasm can cause injuries despite the 'will to win'.

The exciting Astro Family Sports Day and a number of small school fundraisers such as the senior grades discos, the pupil Readathon, and seven Funky Food days, all brought our community together. Parents and families have all enjoyed the events enormously this year. The final event of the year was the Halloween event held on Friday 27 October and, as you've guessed, was a winner with our children and parents alike. From playing spooky games to dressing up to haunt, dancing in a ghoulish hall, eating and drinking, and socialising in true Llandudno style.

We would like to thank our parent body for so generously supporting our fundraisers, the proceeds of which always go towards our building

projects. In addition, we thank the hardworking FOL parent team and class representatives who creatively, efficiently, and readily helped plan and worked at the fundraisers, sports events, and class fundraisers of the year. We say a sad but appreciative goodbye to Lisa Krohn as she leaves as head of LPS head of fundraising (FOL) at the end of the year.

BUILDING AND FACILITY PLANS

In 2024, we will continue to actively fundraise towards completing the Astro Project Phase 2, with the continued emphasis on building toilets and a club house as the next phase, hopefully to be completed in 2024. Phase 3 may focus on some developments around the swimming pool. Discussion will take place in the new year.

This year we have also upgraded our school safety and added extra gates and fences as security measures to make our school safer and more compliant with WCED regulations.

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

The governing body team have put together their collective strengths in revitalizing the school through some policy changes to drive our diversity mission and financial aid programme with an emphasis on school admissions and cultural acceptance, upgrading and enhancing the school field facilities viz. a club house and field paving, and following through on the smaller projects mentioned above.

A new trust fund has been established called the *Kunye Trust* to solely and actively sponsor specified financial aid pupils in our school and to increase the ongoing funding in years to come through public or parent donations. The *Llandudno Better Together Fund* is the name of the financial aid fund, which continues to raise funds for our financial aid pupils through public ventures in the community, such as holding golf days. In 2023, R150 000 was raised by the *Better Together Fund* team at a golf day headed by Janlé Biggs (SGB member) to go towards financial aid for Llandudno pupils. Anyone interested in finding out more about joining or donating to the *Llandudno Better Together Fund* or *Kunye Trust* is welcome to approach the school office to get details and contact numbers.

We are extremely grateful to the SGB of Llandudno Primary for their professional advice, service, and willingness to give up their time to

assist governing our school. A special thank you must also go to Chris Brown for being our volunteer architectural consultant and advisor on the Phase 1 and 2 Astro Projects.

There will be a new School Governing Body election in March 2024 where parents will be able to stand for positions on the SGB team and will be asked to vote for a new School Governing Body of parents. Some of the current SGB members are happy to stand again but new and enthusiastic blood is also welcome.

We wish to thank our current team for the roles they have played in the last few years:

The 2021 - 2023 SGB TEAM

Mr Neil Hellmann – Chairman

Mr John O’Callaghan – Finances and budget

Mr Ryan O’Mahoney – Play areas, Astro field, general

Mrs Karin Neill (Alexander) – Diversity and financial aid policies, staff appointment interview committee

Mrs Janlé Biggs – Diversity, Better Together Fund, building supplies, interview committee

Mrs Kara Robertson – Bursar and secretary of SGB, non-educator rep

Mrs Libby Bailey and Mr Gerhard Myburgh – Educator staff representatives

Mrs Denise Erasmus – School management and WCED representative

To all the parents of our pupils, I thank you for your ongoing support in the most important role you play in your children’s educational development. Without your support of our teaching, our Code of Conduct and ethos, your guidance at home, and the assistance in so many sports and cultural initiatives we would not achieve what we do with your children.

Finally, I would like to thank the highly-dedicated teaching, administrative, ground staff and security staff we have at Llandudno for the excellent work they do with our children in the classroom and on the sports field, maintaining the buildings and grounds, in aftercare, and in handling all queries, first aid, emergencies, and finances.

My appreciation must be conveyed for the personal interest the full Llandudno staff show in nurturing all our children to develop their

talents and strengths and for their support and compassion for each child and family. This dedication is integral to the success of our school. Llandudno Primary truly is a wonderful family and community school.

As I bow out of education and retire in December 2023, I feel sure that my incredibly rewarding time leading a team at Llandudno Primary will be remembered by many that I have taught or engaged with along my way. The great character and enthusiasm for life of this community will continue to uplift and support the new era with our wonderfully talented and dynamic new principal, Mr Alexander Molteno, coming to lead you all. He will take the school to new heights without forgetting our own brand of seaside culture and values.

It has been such an enormous pleasure to have gotten to know so many parents and children over these 32 years at Llandudno. This has been my 'Life's Work' and I am honoured to have served you all.

May your futures and your children's futures be bright and happy as you all take your separate journeys in 2024, whether still here at LPS or beyond Llandudno Primary school.

Warm regards and loving wishes to you all.

Mrs Denise Erasmus
Principal



LLANDUDNO PRIMARY SCHOOL
www.llandudnoprimary.co.za