



**ubuhle**  
care & dev  
centre

NPO: 068-330  
PBO: 930032421

Plaas Vlakfontein 523 JR  
Bronkhorstspuit 1020

P O Box 1563  
Bronkhorstspuit 1020  
South Africa

Tel: 083 228 4903

<http://ubuhlecarecentre.blogspot.com/>

Nourished \*\*\* Nurtured \*\*\* Renewed

NEWSLETTER

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South African schools opened on 13 January 2011. We were so excited because we were able to open our very own Ubuhle School. Most of the children that graduated from our Pre-school (Grade R) are now with us in Grade 1.

Betty Masilela (retired teacher) and Monique Taljaard her assistant are teaching them - *see photo top left*. So far 17 Grade 1's have registered.

Our second class ranges from Grade 2 upwards and Melanie Prinsloo is the teacher and Leon Taljaard (Monique's Dad and foster father to our babies) is the assistant – *see photo top right*.

Many of the older kids were not coping in regular school and some of them cannot read at all.

12 Children are registered in this class.

### WHY DID WE START A SCHOOL?

Thoko and her team achieved remarkable results with the pre-schoolers last year and we do not want them to lose the advantage they now have, especially their English skills. The Grade 1-3 children in the nearby township schools are only taught in Zulu and are then expected to do 6 subjects **in English** in Grade 4, causing many of them to fail.

The school performance of the farm children we assisted last year is of serious concern to us. The average grade for the afterschool children in 2010 was 35%. Many of them could not read and hardly spoke English. **For example** - the Grade 9's wrote a national exam in December 2010 and only 6 of the 96 children who attend this specific township school passed.

In general the South African Schooling system is in crisis. The Department of Education announced last year that the Outcomes-Based Education Curriculum implemented 10 years ago is failing, but as a result of the 6-week strike last year no changes can be made this year.



**Bigger kids  
reading  
stories  
to  
Grade 1's**

## PRE-SCHOOL:

The pre-school continues and is thriving. We have fifteen 2-3 year olds.



**2-3year olds with teacher Sophie and her assistant Maria**

The 4 – 5 year old class is full with 30 children in the class.



**4-5 year olds with Zodwa and her assistant Nandala**

## FUNDRAISING MUSIC FESTIVAL

The owner of the Pancake Den in Bronkhorstspuit town has taken the initiative to organise a music evening at the Bronkhorstspuit Golf Club on Saturday 26 February. ARTISTA (George and Riana Pretorius) from TRUK will be performing, including a song with the Ubuhle Children.

An invitation is attached for your interest. We appreciate your continued support.