

News from the Editor's Desk

Another year is coming to an end. In 2024 SHINE saw the most learners in our literacy programme, most literacy hours, most volunteer hours, most paid youth, and most graduates from the literacy programme who are now able to read and write and understand what they are reading. We look back at the year to acknowledge how far SHINE has come and with hope for the future lives that will be impacted by SHINE.

We are grateful to everyone who has contributed in 2024. We are grateful for the financial support that we received, for all those who gave of their time as volunteers, to the youth who brought their enthusiasm, to the school heads and to the teachers and to the staff of SHINE for everything. Everyone of you make what SHINE does possible, thank you for your support in 2024.

People come into our lives for a reason, a season or a lifetime. As my season with SHINE comes to an end, I am grateful for everyone I have met and journeyed with in the past two years. I wish SHINE continued success and that the number of children positively impacted by the literacy programme will continue to grow and be changed for the better.

To quote a few lines from the poem "To Realize"

"To realize the value of four years, ask a graduate.

To realize the value of one week, ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of a millisecond, ask a person who has won the medal in the competition.

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have"

Warm Regards

Trish Matthews

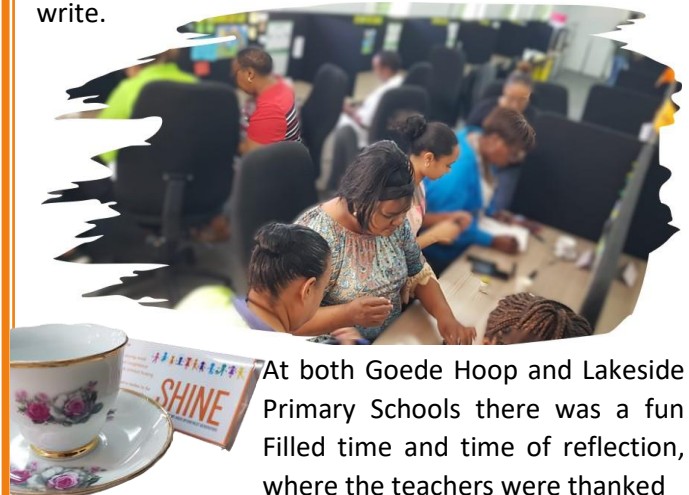
*Many people
will walk in and
out of your life.
But only true
friends will
leave footprints
in your heart.*



Teacher Appreciation



Every year we get the opportunity to show some love and respect to the teachers of the Grade 1, 2 and 3s from the schools we work in. They are the unsung heroes who invest daily into the lives of their learners. SHINE's role is to improve their learning outcome for those who need additional help learning to read and write.



At both Goede Hoop and Lakeside Primary Schools there was a fun Filled time and time of reflection, where the teachers were thanked for bringing their flavour, their colour and their fragrance into their classrooms. The teachers of each Grade created their own canvas of flowers showing the diversity and uniqueness that each bring into their environments. It truly was a time of celebrating and honouring these unsung heroes.



*True heroism
lies in the
sacrifices
made behind
the scenes,
away from
the limelight.*

*Suzanne
Brockmann from
The Unsung Hero*

Graduation 2024

The SHINE Graduations at both schools allow us to see in measurable terms, the impact that SHINE is having on the learners who attend our Literacy Programme.

Goede Hoop Primary

On the 31st of October 2024 we celebrated the graduation at Goede Hoop Primary School for the class of 2024. Each learner received a certificate to congratulate them on all their hard work during the year. Three of the learners were confident enough to read out loud to their peers and guest from the stage. We applaud their courage and are excited by their achievements.

Of the 287 learners who attended from Goede Hoop Primary, 154 will return for a second year.



Lakeside Primary

On the 1st of November 2024 it was the Graduation for Lakeside Primary School. Of the 181 who completed the year with SHINE, 95 learners have Graduated being able to read for meaning. There will 86 who will return for a second year as Grade 3s. We will also see a new intake of Grade 2s next year, having been assessed and select from the current Grade 1s.



Volunteer Appreciation



SHINE has truly amazing volunteers. On the 18 November 2024 the volunteers were honoured at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

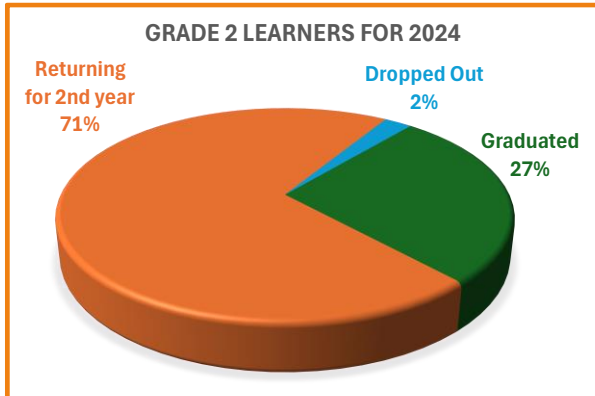
With the theme for the evening being the Olympics there was much laughter and healthy competition. Amanda and her team put together an amazing evening with many interesting games that were played in the spirit of fun. The competition was fierce to see which team could come up with the most words from the word "Congratulations", or pop all the balloons in their row, do a cup stack without dropping the ball balanced on top and many other light-hearted games.

Each volunteer and Nampak Youth were presented with a certificate thanking them for their contribution and celebrating their generous spirit and willingness to serve those in need with not a handout but a **HAND UP**.

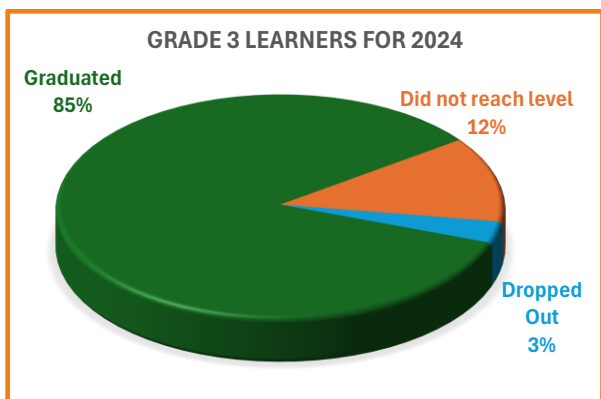


2024 in Numbers

As the year draws to a close it is good to evaluate SHINE's successes in 2024. In the Grade 2 class of 2024 we saw 27% graduated, having reached the level of literacy where they can now read for meaning and 71% that will be returning for a second year. The Literacy Programme of SHINE is a two year programme so this is a good result.

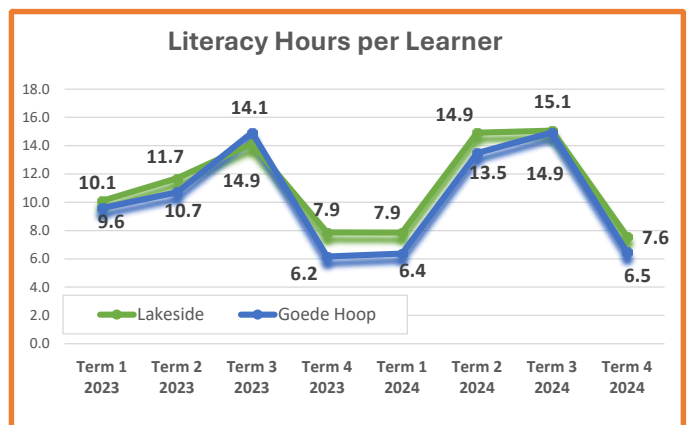
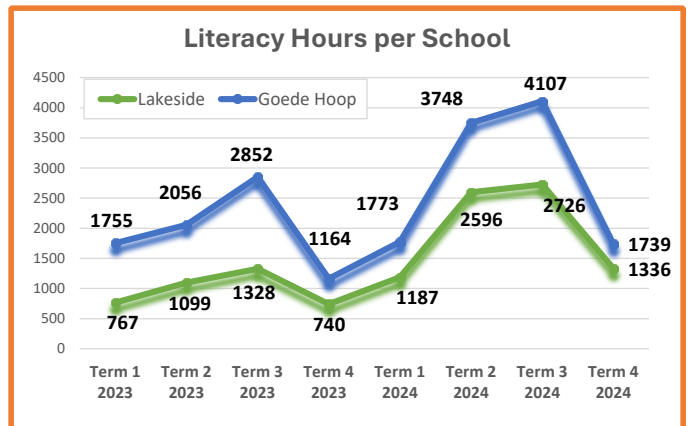


Of the 129 Grade 3 learners that were in the Literacy Programme this year, 109 have reached their literacy goals, with most scoring near perfect scores on their assessments. We had 16 who have made progress but are not yet at the level they should be and possibly have other underlying challenges, and also a few who had stopped attending in Term 4.



We saw one of our learners who was challenging and disruptive in Grade 2, settle into the programme in Grade 3, and by the end of this year being classified as one of our success stories achieving 78% on the final assessment. This is why SHINE will continue to reach as many learners as we can, as we never know what future leaders are being forged and molded by their ability to read and write.

During 2024 a total of 445 learners complete the year with SHINE, with each learner receiving an average of 43.2 literacy hours of tutoring. This equated to a total of 19 212 literacy hours for 2024. While 43.2 hours may only be a normal work week's hours, it is the individual attention which helps the learners in SHINE's care to flourish and grow in their love of reading and learning. Numbers do not tell the individual stories of lives impacted, but they help us understand the impact that is being made in the lives of many.



Thank you to everyone who has been part of SHINE in 2024. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours all a peaceful relaxing festive season and for 2025 be a really great year for you.

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Let your actions speak louder

Treat all people with kindness and respect; in so doing you give them dignity and validate their worth.

In the words of Maya Angelou "People may not remember what you said, but they will remember how you made them feel"