

Skool wat te midde van sosio-ekonomiese uitdagings 'n ondersteunende leeromgewing bied

Ntsika Secondary School – Oos Kaap

Die Hoof, Madeleine Schoeman, het die toekenning namens die skool ontvang.

'n Kort uittreksel uit die skool se motivering: “When you drive towards Ntsika, you could notice the potholes, the fence that is not quite upright. The grass is long and the rubbish dump at the entrance to the school is an eyesore. You could despair, or you could see potential. You could frown when you see some of the people of Ntsika, or you could see the people of Ntsika. You might see a dirty window but come around on a Friday afternoon and you see boys and girls all over the school scrubbing class rooms with foam flying. You could meet one of our volunteers: unemployed young people of the community, or people from town who know that Ntsika is not a charity case, but a school with a pride who can rise with the help of the community. A Ntsika environment is tough. When you constantly battle against odds like inadequate funding and limited resources, you could stop dreaming. Add to that the tremendous socio-economic problems of our area, the close to non-existent English of the majority of our learners, and you have a situation that can be overwhelming. Imagine a life where there is no food at home in the morning and little possibility of food in the evening, but during the school day you could get some food to help you concentrate and focus on your school work. The odds against these learners are unbelievable, but they still dream because they are children. Ntsika means pillar and that is what Ntsika will be, because of its people. Ntsika is an enchanting, spiritual place with humbling potential.”

Op die vraag oor die vestiging van vennootskappe tussen die skool en wêreld daar buite tot voordeel van die skool, sê Madeleine die volgende: “This is one of the most time-consuming practices at Ntsika, but crucial to the all-round development of the child coming from the impoverished environment of our school. Our learners must be exposed to opportunities – on the one hand that they can understand what is possible. On the other hand, exposure helps them to become more firmly rooted through an understanding of the richness they do have, for example their creativity born out of poverty and necessity and the good aspects of cooperative work. In haar motivering gee sy dank en erkenning aan 'n ongelooflike lang lys borge wat nie net die leerders se lewens verbeter nie, maar ook die van die onderwysers. Ntsika se aksieplanne om uitdagings te oorkom, sluit in van bokke weg hou van groente wat geplant is, om 'n gesteelde

heining terug te vind tot die verbetering van die Gr 12 slaagsyfer, wat jaarliks geklim het van 32% in 2011 tot 87% in 2016. Ntsika se raad aan leerders by skole waar onderwysers dikwels vir die een of ander rede afwesig is: “You cannot wait for a teacher. Learning is first and foremost your own responsibility. Being proactive means always having a book and pen in hand, using our resources, forming study groups.” Madeleine se boodskap aan onderwysers is: “You need to be prepared for the children’s hunger to learn”.

Onderwys by Ntsika is ‘n geval van: “You have to take care of fences and food before you can have education.” Aanvanklik oorweldig die lees van Ntsika se storie ‘n mens met hartseer, totdat jy besef - Madelaine is reg – Ntsika is nie ‘n charity case nie. Ntsika se storie maak ‘n mens ryker, dit laat jou ongelooflik nederig, dit laat jou skuldig voel omdat ons so maklik oor onbenullighede kla en uiteindelik laat dit mens met ongelooflike hoop vir die toekoms. Baie dankie dat Ntsika dat jy julle storie met ons gedeel het.