PRINCE ALBERT SKILLS SCHOOL

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Annual report

1 Jan – 31 Oct 2024

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1. School details

1.1 Board of directors

Hélène Smit	School founder
Roel Noens	Director – Chairman
Kasper Stockman	Director – Secretary
Sien Bolsens	Director – Treasurer

1.2 School staff

Rodine Barends	Teacher – boys' class
Kenneth Myburgh	Teacher – boys' class
Mariette Heskwa	Teacher – girls' class
Christelle van Zyl	Admin and marketing consultant

1.3 Students

The school hosted around fifteen boys and eight girls this year.

2. Donations

The school received various donations and support during the year, as summarized below:

PePkor (PEP stores)	Donated sanitary pads for the girls.
Zwartberg High School	Donated sanitary pads for the girls.
Belgian students	Donated toys and learning equipment for students.
Roel, Sien and Kasper	Donated welding helmets and other equipment for students. Sponsored Doen & Leer training for teachers.
Airpark	Donated free WiFi to the school.
Renu Karoo	Donated plants for the school garden.
Department of Agriculture	Donated seeds for the school to plant a vegetable garden.
Pedal Power Association	Donated ten bicycles for the girls' class.
Jolle Stappers	Donated money.
Karen & Stichting Gilles	Donated additional classroom container and money.
Di Pudney	Donated plants to rejuvenate the parkie. Donated food from Prince Albert Café for students working in the parkie on Tuesdays. Donated plants for the school to sell during PAOG. Sponsored six prizes for the students' garden-in-a-box competition during PAOG.
Thursday Ladies	Donated maize for porridge.
Prince Albert Open Gardens (PAOG)	Donated funds for marketing material the school used during PAOG and made a donation to the school based on their ticket sales.
Malcolm Searl	Donated plants for the school to sell during PAOG.
Rugga Roots	Donated a rugby training course and accommodation for coach Kenneth.
Sylvan Smit	Donated shoes for each student. Will donate the End-of-Year trip for students and teachers to the beach.
Shofar Church	Will donate Christmas presents at the end of the year to students.

3. Volunteers

Various people donated their time to the school to share their knowledge with the students:

Marijke	Donated time to read stories to the students.
Belgian students	Jarrick, Robbe, Indra, Kato, Manon and Wouter did their practical at the school, teaching the students various skills. Robbe, Indra and Jarrick presented cooking classes.
Nell Kruge	Donated time for a soup cooking class.
Tiny Lammers	Donated money.
Johan Myburgh	Lent tools, welding machines, grinders, and more for school projects.
Malcolm Searl	Donated time to teach the students gardening skills and woodwork skills.
Sue Torrence	Donated time to show students how to make a 'garden-in-a-box'.
Informative talks by various agencies	Donated time to deliver various informative talks to students: - Social Development - FARR (Foundation for Alcohol Related Research) - IEC (Electoral Commission of South Africa) - Right to Care (Healthcare Hospital) - Badisa (social development)

4. School achievements

The school achieved various milestones during the year. School activities are also briefly mentioned below.

4.1 School milestones

Construction of a **fence** enclosing the boys' class and office began in 2023 and was completed in May this year. The fence included a 6x2.8m gate.

The school improved its efforts to raise awareness, evidenced by **branded school clothes**, a school sign at the entrance and two large flags.

Christelle van Zyl was hired as an **admin and marketing consultant**.

Since May, monthly articles have been published in the **local newspaper** (Prince Albert Friend) providing more information about the school and its teachers.

Also, since May, short articles have been published in the **weekly Newsflash**, run by the local tourism office. These articles provide updates on school activities and introduce students.

In July, planning for a **new website** began. It will provide information on the school, teachers, and students, along with explanations on the school's purpose and teaching methods. The website is expected to be live by the end of the year at www.princealbertskillsschool.com

Academic classes for the year included Afrikaans (Rodine), English and Geography (Kenneth), and reading and writing (Mariette).

Sport for the year mainly focused on soccer and netball. Students played friendly games against Albert College and Zwartberg High School.

Boys' class teacher, Rodine Barends, completed her **first practical training** at Prince Albert Primary as part of her education degree in August. During that time, Christelle filled in as teacher.

4.2 School activities

Various school activities that took place during the year:

Belgium directors Roel, Sien and Kasper visited the school for a few weeks (Mar - Apr)

Students participated in athletics with Zwartberg High School students (Jan – Feb)

Students received new school T-shirts (Mar)

Belgium student volunteers – Jarick, Robbe and Indra (Mar – May) and Kato, Manon and Wouter (May – Jun)

Five to eight students worked at the local Parkie on Tuesdays to clean, maintain, and expand the gardens with the support of locals Di Pudney and her gardener, Ferdi (Feb - Sep)

Students toured the town to visit major sites including the hospital, police station, and jail (May)

Students completed the fencing and gate around the school (May)

Teachers completed the Doen & Leer course to teach students how to read and write (May)

Donation for ten more bikes received from the Pedal Power Association (Jul)

Students received new school uniforms (tracksuits) and shoes (Sep)

Local Malcolm Searl presented workshops on gardening and woodwork in preparation for the Open Gardens (Sep)

Local Sue Torrence presented a gardening workshop in preparation for the Open Gardens (Sep)

Students build wooden boxes and entered the “garden-in-a-box” competition at the Open Gardens (Sep)

Students presented the Parkie at the Prince Albert Open Gardens to raise awareness for the school and sell potted plants as a fundraiser (Sep)

Academic classes during the year focused on Afrikaans, Geography, and reading & writing (Thursdays)

Students ride their bikes at least once every two weeks and do all maintenance on the bikes

Students play sport once a week (Wednesdays)

Two students attended the Milasande X Karoo Souk creative workshop from 21 Oct to 2 Nov.

Finally, an End-of-Year trip for students and teachers is planned for 22 Nov to the beach.

5. 2025 planning

A management and teacher retreat is scheduled for 15-17 Jan 2025 for year planning.

Participate in the monthly Saturday market to sell home-made products from the school.

Start a big skills project that students can work on throughout the year.

Engage with local Departments (Municipality, Hospital, Badisa, Social Development & Police) to educate and support students.

An End-of-Year trip for students and teachers.