COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



MICHAELHOUSE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP TRUST

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Q1 - 2025

Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust

QUARTER 1 PROJECTS AND IMPACT REPORT 2025

The intention of this report is to capture the work of the Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust during the 2nd Quarter of 2025 as part of our ongoing mission of improving our 16 'footprint' schools and 8 ECD Centres as functional places of learning. This is a complex and multi-faceted process. We have 13 focussed projects in this regard, progress on which we report below. Where we can, we work on the basis of 'fair exchange' to ensure sustainability and equal "skin in the game", we are also mindful of keeping our schools 'at the centre of the community' by working on the basis of co-determination, collaboration and cooperation. Below are the high-level successes of our work in respect of:

- Eduhelpers [teaching interns]
- Principal leadership development
- Shaya Izibalo Maths
- School maintenance
- Early Childhood Development progress
- Career Guidance- Eduvelopment
- Teacher's IT Training

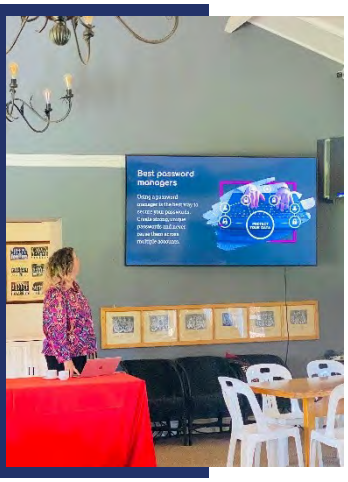
EDUHELPERS:

1st Workshop; Ninja Unicorn, Email Marketing, Practical Skills, ABESA Bursaries.

The 1st workshop for the year was hosted by Bianca Johnson of Ninja Unicorn. As we move into the second term, our goal has been to continue strengthening the technology skills of our Eduhelpers. To support this, we hosted a follow-up workshop on the 16th of May 2025 at Michaelhouse. Bianca returned with even more exciting content, including lessons on Artificial Intelligence, Email Marketing and using the internet to teach in classrooms. We believe these sessions will deepen our Eduhelpers' knowledge and equip them with practical skills they can take back and apply in their respective schools. Our 26 Eduhelpers are involved in 11 schools and provide valuable support to existing staff, many of whom have excessive workloads.

Some significant achievements during 2025.

- 2 Eduhelpers received study bursaries through ABESA to complete their undergraduate studies. Their focus areas include Robotics and Acounting Science
- 1 Eduhelper received an internship opportunity with a R7 500 stipend over 2 years through ABESA



Bianca Johnson: Facilitator of the workshop



Eduhelper Worshop of 2025

PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP

School Nutrition Programme; Principals Speaking up; KZN Midlands; 15 MHS Parents.

This reporting period in the school leadership arena was marked by two significant events. The first, an interruption of the school nutrition programme affecting 5 of our neighbouring schools due to a procedural glitch within the Department of Education. This meant the nutrition service provider to Lions River, Crystal Springs, Curry's Post and Morten Primary as well as Jabula Combined school, was unable to deliver (he was not since December 2024). Local communities from the Dargle, Curry's Post, LOVE Notties and LOVE Howick generously collected food items to provide emergency relief for hungry learners. Whilst this is a situation that one hopes never repeats itself, it demonstrated the leadership at our schools. Principals speaking up, reaching out, supporting each other and sharing both plans made, and food donated.

The second, the 4th and final school leadership circle in the KZN Midlands, under the banner of Citizen Leader Lab (CLL), previously known as PfP (Partners for Possibility) held a celebratory events to acknowledge the participants in the previous four leadership circles – 32 Business leaders and 32 Principals. Approximately 50 guests listened to stories of transformation in personal leadership and within the larger school community. We heard of shy principals who found their voices, who refined their listening, deepened their compassion, improved their delegation, shifted their lens to find the gifts in community, as opposed to only the challenges and possibly most powerful, acquired the skills of convening. Gathering their parents and neighbouring community to co-create a strategy of engagement. The impact of this programme on school functionality has been immense with enrolments increasing and learning outcomes improving.

As a legacy many exciting community led projects are still underway, from sustainable vegetable gardens to sports tournaments, and much support is still needed. If you would like to be a contributor into this school leadership space, do contact Mrs Karen McKenzie on karen@citizenleaderslab.org to connect you with a project of your interest.

Over the past 6 years more than 15 Michaelhouse parents, old boys and staff have chosen to immerse themselves in this journey developing a deep understanding of the challenges facing rural public schooling in KZN. We hope that those involved will continue to be beneficiaries with your gifts and talents in service of education within these under-resourced schools on Michaelhouse's doorstep.



Love Howick Matt and Mrs Mhlongo at Lions River Primary.



Celebrating the 4th and final Circle

MATHS INTERVENTIONS:

Matric Term 1 Revision, Assessments Completed; Koloso App; Pleasing Marks.

Matric term 1 revision took on a hybrid model with sessions taking place at Michaelhouse and online. The onsite session was attended by 280 learners. Grade 8 term 1 revision session took place online. A term 1 assessment was completed, collated taken in for measurement.

SIMI has partnered with Koloso. The Koloso app set up for all grade 8 learners in partner schools making use of the app, were visited & Koloso prizes awarded to learners achieving pleasing marks.

- 3000 Term 2 workbooks printed & distributed
- Payment gateway has been added to the SIMI resources site.



Jabula Grade 8s attend SIMI online session

MAINTENANCE:

Natal Park Waste; wheel bins; waste collection

Natal Park waste has been collecting refuse from Injoloba, Dargle, Asithuthuke, Chrystal Springs, Dabulamanzi and Esiphethwini Sendezi bi-weekly at R3346.50 per trip. MCPT have managed to buy wheel bins for the schools to make it easier for the Natal Park waste team to be able to collect the waste.

The Trafalgar maintenance team will be returning to assist with the repair needs of our partner schools in the 1st week of June as they have been out of the province for the most part of the term.

ECD

Grow ECD Partner; ECD Policies; Giraffe App Training:

Over the past three years CPT has become involved with 8 ECD Centres in our wider community. Our implementing partner Growecd conducted a second training workshop on 18 March 2025. The aim was to ensure all ECD owners understood the

requirements of running a legally compliant and effective ECD centre. A practitioner who was an employee of the department of social development in the ECD division ran the workshop to ensure that all necessary due diligence was in place and all the centres had the correct procedural practises in place.

Ayanda Gwamanda of CPT has been visiting centres that are falling behind with uploading data to the Grow app and to ensure that all the ECDs are current and ready for the forthcoming curriculum kits due to arrive 26th May.. The Growecd team conducted Star Assessments in our centres to ensure readiness. The team will then come up to assist with set up and teacher training on the appropriate manner to implement the curriculum. Two of our learnership students have been assigned as trainers and to conduct weekly drop ins at the centres to provide support and guidance. These visits will decrease as the centres gain confidence.

The official opening of the refurbished Zenzani ECD Centre will take place on the 7th of June. All relevant stakeholders and supporters have been invited to attend.



Fully kitted Grow Classroom example



Painted Zenzani ECD Center ready for opening ceremony

BOY'S SERVICE:

Farfield Boys; Zenzani ECD; East House Debut Visit; Building Relationships

Boys service has continued to with the same momentum as last term. The Farfield field boys did a spectacular job helping with painting the Zenzani ECD centre. The boys from East house made their debut visit to the ECD centre situated in the Midlands Community College. The aim is to build a relationship with the centre for East boys to partner for their service portfolio, since Shea O Connor indicate they would not like to have the Boys services programme continue in their school. Individual projects for boys wanting to get their service honours continue.

CAREER GUIDANCE: EDUVELOPMENT

1st Eduvelopment Workshop; Motivation for the Year Ahead; Matric Session

The objectives of the Eduvelopment workshops are:

- To introduce learners to diverse career opportunities and pathways
- To provide guidance on university applications, bursaries, and funding

- To engage learners in practical skills-building workshops
- To motivate and inspire students to pursue further education or training

Grade 11 & 12 learners from Injoloba Secondary School, Jabula Combined School, Emiyezaneni Senior Secondary School and Asithuthuke combined school attended Eduvelopment Workshops. The purpose was to expose learners to a variety of career options, assist in tertiary education planning, and equip them with practical tools for the future.

Workshops on university applications, NSFAS, and bursary options were particularly impactful. Many learners had limited access to such information before this program. The career guidance program held at MCC and Michaelhouse was a significant success as it provided vital exposure, tools, and encouragement to Grade 11 & 12 learners from our partner High Schools. While logistical and language challenges were noted, the benefits to participants clearly outweighed the difficulties. The initiative helped broaden learners' understanding of post-school options and empowered them to make informed decisions about their futures.



Eduvelopment session with Asithuthuke



Eduvelopment Session with Emiyezaneni

TEACHER'S IT TRAINING

The IT workshop for our partner schoolteachers was facilitated by Mbu Mkhabela from Dinangwe Technologies. The session took place in the Michaelhouse IT classrooms during the school holidays when both teachers and the classroom were available to MCPT. The following are the module objectives that were discussed:

- Understand key concepts relating to ICT, computers, devices and software.
- Start up and shut down a computer.
- Work effectively on the computer desktop using icons, windows.
- Understand network concepts and connection options and be able to connect to a network.
- Create a simple Word Document and perform Mail-merge.
- Create an Excel spreadsheet and learn to use Formulas and Functions.
- Create a PowerPoint Presentation and attach different types of multi-media objects.
- Know about the main concepts of file management and be able to efficiently organize files and folders.
- Recognize how critical it is to safeguard data and devices against infection. The students were split up into groups for this session, and they were tasked with researching and presenting on several forms of malicious software that were listed.

- Introduction to Cloud Computing.
- Recognize considerations relating to green IT, accessibility and user health.

This module aimed to boost educators' computer proficiency and comfort level. By the third day, a noticeable improvement was evident in some students, who had gained confidence and skills. To further enhance their credentials I recommend registering students for the ICDL certification program, which would grant them an internationally recognized certificate upon completion. Additionally, each attendee received a certificate of attendance.



Partner School teachers

CONCLUSION

As can be seen from the above quarterly report, our work and our contribution to the upliftment of our 16 footprint schools and 8 ECD Centres as functional places of learning is comprehensive and far-reaching. For you our stakeholders, we hope to enjoy your continued support, and we hope you will spread the word of the valuable work we are doing, so that our community engagement grows and progresses.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

1. Join MySchool AND SchoolDays
2. Donate via EFT or Zapper
3. Partner with us on a project

zapper™

BANKING DETAILS:

Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust
Standard Bank
Branch: Pietermaritzburg
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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

MICHAELHOUSE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS IS A FULLY REGISTERED TRUST
(DEED TRUST NUMBER: IT2112/00),

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(PBO: 930001405)

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