

"A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence"

Jim Watkins

This term, Ukuwela was all about true-blue grit and determination! Our learners and candidates have shown that while the journey to employment isn't always easy, staying the course is what makes the difference.

## The Champions of 'Vasbyt'

We kick off this edition by showcasing our candidates who have been employed for one full year! These four young people demonstrated the meaning of perseverance and can be so proud of their well-deserved Vasbyt awards. It takes more than just skill to succeed; it takes courage to keep showing up, families who back you all the way and employers who commit to walk alongside you on this journey.

A massive round of applause to our latest Vasbyt Award recipients:

Anthea Human, Koketso Phalane as well as Chrizzett Botha and Kihara-Lee Ruiters.

You are the ultimate proof that resilience pays off!

**BELOW LEFT: ANTHEA FROM BVSA STANDING TALL WITH HER VASBYT AWARD**

**BELOW RIGHT: KOKETSO AT SAFARI BRAAI PRODUCTS. ONE YEAR DOWN THE LINE AND STILL GOING STRONG!**



## KIHARA (LEFT) AND CHRIZETT (RIGHT) WITH YOZELDÈ, MAIN ANGEL FROM MICHELANGELO HAIR ACADEMY



### Flexing Our Muscles: Work Exposure

Resilience is a muscle that gets stronger with every new challenge. This term, our senior learners put their grit to the test in the real world. Our boys rolled up their sleeves and showed stamina at Game Car Wash, proving they have the focus to deliver a sparkle every time. This comes as no surprise as they have been practising their car washing skills under the watchful eye of Teacher Johan de Jager who supports the boys to run a small-scale car wash business at school! Way to go teachers and boys!

Our senior girls branched out to Heatherpark SuperSpar, where they navigated the fast-paced retail environment with poise and a "can-do" attitude packing bags and serving customers with a smile.

A big thank you to these businesses who always welcome us with an open heart and an open door!

#### GAME ON AT GAME CAR WASH!

#### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE





## WELL DESERVED CERTIFICATES FOR YOUR HARD WORK AT GAME CAR WASH, BOYS!



### The proof is in the polish!

To be resilient, you need a versatile toolkit. We had the best time with the team from Michelangelo Hair and Beauty Salon who came to present a short course in gel nail training to our senior girls. What a privilege adding another professional layer to the growing skill sets of our girls. Watching them master these intricate techniques was a highlight of the term! The course was held over the duration of four weeks and ended with a real salon day where we had clients, soft spa music in the background and our girls with their impressive skills and smiles!

**FILING, DRILLING, POLISHING, BAKING, PAINTING - WE DID IT ALL AND LOVED EVERY MOMENT OF OUR GEL NAIL TRAINING!**



## Stronger together

We know that a resilient learner needs a resilient support system. Ukuwela along with our passionate and enthusiastic educators from the work-orientated phase, hosted a vital Parent Evening. We dove into the practical details of our curriculum and discussed how skills taught at school can be implemented at home. We also tackled the transition to life after school with honesty and a shared commitment to our learners' futures. Thank you, parents, your presence and investment in your children's lives matter more than you realize.

## The secret is out!

Finally, the date has arrived... We are so proud to share that Jody Oliver has received a Regional Excellence Award from Woolworths! This is a major achievement considering only two staff members per term across all stores in the region are selected for this prestigious award! Jody was nominated by Natasha Malherbe, manager of his department. We wish we could print his nomination form for all the world to see! Here is a short extract: "His kindness, steady character and unwavering determination make him a joy to know and work with ... Jody shows exceptional customer care going out of his way to guide customers, answers questions, and make sure they leave satisfied. Peers recognise his strong work ethic, noting that he completes tasks with focus, care and pride ... Staff members regularly note how Jody's good manners and friendly nature make him a pleasure to work with." Congratulations to Jody, his family, and the amazing team from Woolworths Garden Route Mall - your persistence is the river that has cut through rock!

**AN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR AN OUTSTANDING YOUNG MAN!  
COONGRATULATIONS JODY!**



## What's next?

The momentum is building! We are super excited to share that we are gearing up for two partnerships next term. We will be joining forces with the Garden Route District Municipality investing in work experience for our candidates. We also cannot wait to get our hands in the soil with conservation NGOs Natural Purpose and Respect the River. Watch this space...

Yours in committing to impact,

*The Ukuwela Team*



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