

# Ponelopele Oracle Secondary School



In March 2007 Oracle South Africa, in conjunction with the Gauteng Education Department, officially opened the Ponelopele Oracle Secondary School in Kaalfontein, Midrand. Equipped with the latest in e-schools technology and enjoying the active involvement of Oracle staff members, Ponelopele is designed to uplift and provide a sustainable education institute to the local community.

The no-fee school offers approximately 1,300 learners the opportunity to develop to their full potential based on the facilities of a formal, well-built school with many amenities. The project also created opportunities for unemployed people from the community who were contracted to help build the school and others who now run the tuck shop.

Part of the reason for positioning the school close to Oracle's offices is so that Oracle staff members can be directly involved with supporting the institution. Ponelopele features 24 classrooms, science and biology laboratories, a library, a cooking and needlework room. Students have use of two dedicated computer rooms and a school hall with a stage. As part of ensuring community inclusion, the school hall is fenced off as a separate building with its own catering wing, stage and ablution facilities which can be rented out for community events and generate income for the school.

Staff involvement includes volunteer work, Earth Day projects such as creating vegetable and other gardens, building a volleyball court, putting up fencing and playing sport. Employees host annual Take a Child to Work Days at Oracle to give learners more exposure to the world of business and the opportunities that lie ahead for them.

Oracle funds extra Maths, Science and Accountancy lessons for learners and teachers to ensure that they are well equipped to do their best. They have also equipped the school with Lego technology to support the understanding and development of Robotics and have installed smart-board technology in several classrooms. Junior Achievement entrepreneurship programs have been implemented to give learners additional preparation and options for when they leave school.

Ponelopele has produced amazing results with the 2014 Gr 12's achieving over 91% pass rate. 2013 saw Ponelopele producing the top Gauteng learner who is now studying actuarial science at UCT. Teachers and learners have excelled in academics, sport and cultural programs and in many cases have received awards for their efforts.

Every year a top performing Gr 12 learner is given a bursary from Oracle to study further at a tertiary institution. 2014 saw one of the first learners to join Ponelopele go on to complete his BSc at Wits University. He is now employed on the Oracle Internship program and contributes confidently to the Oracle Consulting Services business.

The Ponelopele Oracle Secondary School is highly regarded as an inspirational example of co-operation between Oracle, local government and community. Oracle, together with its tremendous support from partners and customers, will continue its partnership with Ponelopele to ensure that it contributes to the development of skills and the personal growth of both learners and teachers in the community.

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