

A 60 Year Long

LENASIA
MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Journey

In a 70 Year Old

Community



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***Introduction:
Overview of Lenasia Model Primary School's Founding and Growth***

"It is our responsibility to break down the barriers of division and create a country where there will be neither whites nor blacks. Just South Africans, free and united in diversity" (Oliver Tambo).

The words of Oliver Tambo resonate through and well beyond the walls of this school as we mark 60 years since its establishment in August 18, 1965 and see its place in the 70-year history of Lenasia.

This school, initially referred to as Lenasia Asiatic Primary School Number 2, was designed by the apartheid government of the time to cater exclusively for Indians, as part of its policy of segregation. The school, a prefab structure, was erected in 3rd Street, Ext 1, Lenasia.

Fortunately for visionaries and activists such as Steve Biko, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Ahmed Kathrada, Isu Chiba, Prakash Napier, Yusuf Akhalwaya and numerous others, including progressive organisations such as the United Democratic Front and Mass Democratic Movement, who, together agitated for changes in the political dispensation, the draconian laws of apartheid government caved in and birthed a new South Africa ... a Rainbow Nation!

It is in this context that we reflect on the 60 years history of this school and look forward, re-energised to bring to fruition the words of Nelson Mandela:

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

During this time to present, various school leaders identified with the values as enshrined in the Constitution, assumed duty as Principal at Lenasia Model Primary School and ushered in positive changes together with the SGB. They helped formulate, but not limited to, the following as of today:



VISION

- **Lenasia Model Primary School aims to nurture the balanced development of body, mind and spirit**
- **provide a quality education where all learners are able to reach their full potential,**
- **so that they can make a meaningful contribution to society in all its diversity.**

MISSION

- **Providing learners with continuous learning opportunities and encouraging learners to give of their best, whether academically, honour on the sports field or coping with the trial and tribulations of growing up.**
- **Equip all pupils with the skills, qualities and values necessary to participate effectively in a common future with all South Africans;**
- **Provide for the fullest possible all-round, balanced development of each learner and staff member in the school, thereby preparing learners for life.**

1996	
Jan: Opening of the schools brick structure -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - B. Morgan - Nelson Mandela visits the school
1997	
School chosen as an OBE Pilot school for the Foundation phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Acting Principal): E. M. Tagari - J. Vandeyar
2002	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COSAS Protest Action – School remained open - 3 Learners received Gauteng colours for Volleyball - Won National "Love Life" Competition for Volleyball 	
2003	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Netball school of the Year - Freda Mofere: Netball player of the Year - Musa Mabasa: Broke record for 100m 	
2004	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SADTU and NAPOSOSA Protest Action - 2nd in Mini Olympics 	
2005	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosted inter-primary sports - Won inter-primary sports 	
2006	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Won the Book quiz 	
2010	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - J. Vandeyar passed away (06/03/2010) 	
2011	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal: E. M. Tagari 	
2015	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal: D. Abrahams 	
2016	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening of the new Library - Hosted the Inter-primary school sports 	
2017	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosted the Annual Bookquiz 	
2019	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch of the Reading eggs program 	
2020	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covid 19 Pandemic 	
2025	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening of the borehole 	

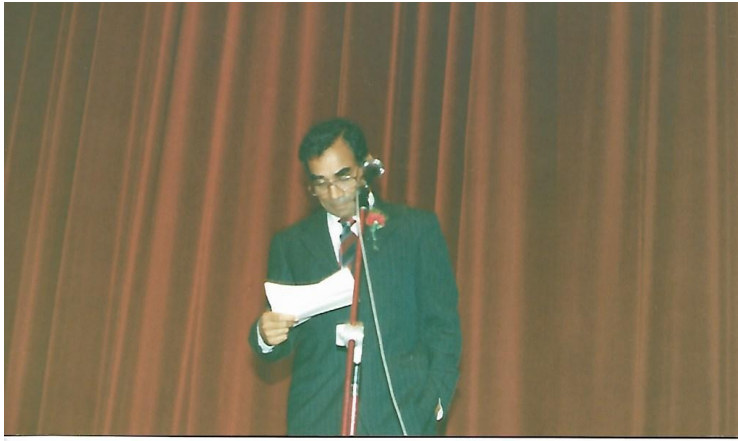
Founders and Key Figures

In complete contrast to the present democratic dispensation where the School Governing Body (SGB) plays an integral role in the recommendation of principals for appointment at schools, the National Government of pre-1994 appointed school inspectors to play an instrumental role in the appointment of Principals.

Hence, Mr W.A. Moonsamy assumed the role of acting Principal at the opening of this school on 18 August 1965 with a staff of 16 and an enrolment of 602 learners. Mr A. J. Williams was later appointed as acting Principal in January 1966 with 25 staff members and 699 learners. The following year Mr D. Naidoo was appointed as Principal from 16 January 1967 followed by Mr G.N. Naidoo as Principal from 11 July 1969 (Refer to table). Mrs A. Suliman reported for duty as school secretary from 11 July 1969 and held this position until her retirement in 2016. A position she held for 47 years! In September 1997, Mr J. Vandeyar was appointed as principal, until he passed away on the 6th March 2010. Mr E. Tagari was then acted as principal until December 2011 until his official appointment in January 2012. He retired in December 2014. Thereafter Mrs D. Abrahams was appointed as principal of Lenasia Model Primary until present. The table below summarises the sequence or rein of the former Principals of Lenasia Model Primary School.

YEAR	PRINCIPAL	POSITION
1965	A.G. WILLIAMS	ACTING
1967	D. NAIDOO	
1969 (12/01)	P.G.P. NAIDOO	ACTING
1969 (22/07)	G.N. NAIDOO	
1987	M.C. MATHIR	
1992	R. MASHER	
1996	E.M. TAGARI	ACTING
	B. MORGAN	
1997	W.M. TAGARI	ACTING
1997 (07/10)	J. VANDEYAR	
2010	J. VANDEYAR	J. VANDEYAR PASSED AWAY (06/03/2010)
2012	E.M. TAGARI	
2015	D.P. ABRAHAMS	

Picture 1 below: Mr Mathir



Picture 2 below: Mr PGP Naidoo



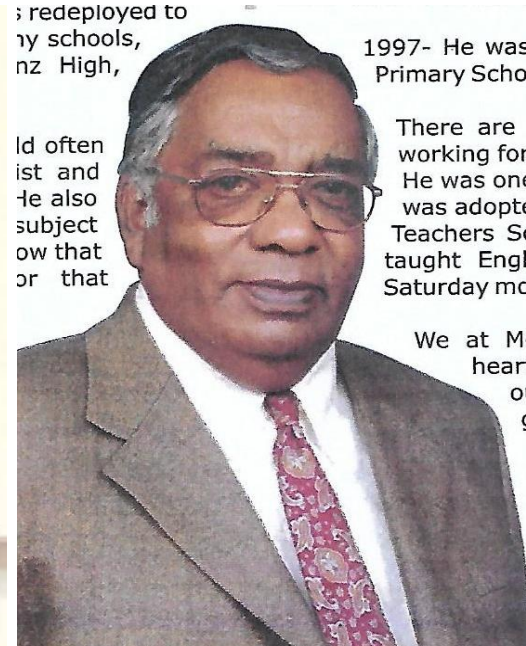
Picture 3 below:
Mr Tagari (left) & Mr B. Morgan (right)



Picture 4 below: Mr G Naidoo



Picture 5 Above: Mr Masher



Picture 6 above: Mr Vandeyar

School Architecture and Facilities

Situated on Plot Stand No. 38, Ext 1 and encircled by three streets viz. Heron, Primary and Penguin, Lenasia Asiatic Primary School Number 1 and Lenasia Asiatic Primary School Number 2 (now Alpha Primary School), had a mere wire fence separating these two prefab school buildings. The former was later relocated to another area of Lenasia while plans were afoot to rebuild a brick structure for the growing number of learners at this school, later renamed as Lenasia Model Primary School. The newly constructed brick building of Lenasia Model Primary School comprised of a double story Administration block with offices for senior management, a staffroom, separate blocks for intermediate phase and foundation phase learners. Later, a Grade R block was added and adjacent to it, a hall was catered for and used for parents meetings.

Over the years various entities were added such as:

- Soccer grounds (now outsourced to Hola Skoka) with revenue coming into the school's coffers;
- Green plastic benches donated by Mr M. Morar for the children to sit on during the breaks;
- Outdoor tables with chessboards on it;
- A fully equipped library sponsored by Imperial Motus also included a projector from which books could be displayed to enhance learning and teaching, reading and comprehension skills;
- A "Reading Eggs" room with 45 laptops and a data projector. This is used by two facilitators to teach English to the Foundation Phase learners;
- A multi-purpose sports court built by Hola Skoka. In 2016 Lenasia Model Primary School entered into a partnership with this organisation to help promote and develop soccer and netball for our learners;
- A borehole donated by "Al-Imdaad Foundation" in 2025 to help ease the water challenges faced by the school;
- A beautifully maintained garden near the admin block and a safe assembly area for learners. These help to enhance the school's physical image.



Picture 7: A Class picture taken in front of the old school building (a prefab structure)



Picture 8: Learners standing alongside each other on the grounds. Take note of the wire fence and the school uniform – a grey tunic with mustard colour collars. This was later changed in 1996 to a fresh blue and white tunic, still used today.



Picture 9 above: Soccer grounds of Lenasia Model Primary School previously.



Picture 10 above: Soccer grounds of Lenasia Model Primary School at present.



Picture 11 above: Multi-purpose court



Picture 12 and 13 above: Green plastic benches sponsored by Mr Morar (Current Deputy Principals father), who is associated with the Adarsh Yuvak Mandal.



Picture 14 and 15 above: Reading-eggs program



Picture 16: Ribbon cutting at the handover of the borehole from Al-Imdaad foundation to Lenasia Model Primary School

Pictures 17 below: Lenasia Model Primary School's new Library



Changes in Curriculum and Educational Philosophy

Some of the subjects that were previously taught were needle work for the girls and handicraft for the boys. Other subjects included Guidance and Right-living, Handwriting, Music, Art and P.E. History and Geography were separate subjects unlike today where it is incorporated into one subject called Social Sciences. English, Afrikaans and Mathematics were compulsory subjects.

Also, the grade one to grade 7 as we know it today were previously referred to as Grade one and Grade two and thereafter Standard one to Standard five.

In 1998, Curriculum 2000 was introduced to all schools. This was reviewed and revised in 2000 to formulate the National Curriculum Statement (NCS) which was implemented in 2006. In 2012, The Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) was set to be applied in Grades 1-3 and Grade 10 in 2012 and Grades 4-9 as well as Grade 11 in 2013, followed by Grade 12 in 2014. Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the CAPS curriculum was revised in 2021 and is still the curriculum in use today.

Student Life and Traditions

Lenasia Model Primary School endeavours to provide a holistic educational environment and creative opportunities for its learners. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Activities under the auspices of the English Teachers Society viz, Book quiz, Speech Contest; Newspaper quiz and the Spelling Bee for both the English and Afrikaans subjects.
- Activities under the auspices of the Lenasia School Sports Committee viz, Athletics Darby Day, Sports day, Cross-country races etc.
- "Gladiator Day" which includes water activities that learners thoroughly enjoy.
- Character dress up day for "Literacy Day". Each grade is given a book to read and then do a small presentation to highlight the important themes and/or characters of the book.

- Annual Awards day to recognise learner achievements.
- Grade 7 Entrepreneurs (Market Day) which brings in much needed remuneration and Careers Day highlighted by special guests in their respective fields to educate our learners about their respective Career path.
- The Science Fair where learners showcase their innovative and creative projects backed by Scientific research and methodologies.
- A fully equipped Scholar Patrol and Prefect System.
- Photographs Day which is a favourite amongst learners.
- Educational tours (Excursions) to various places.

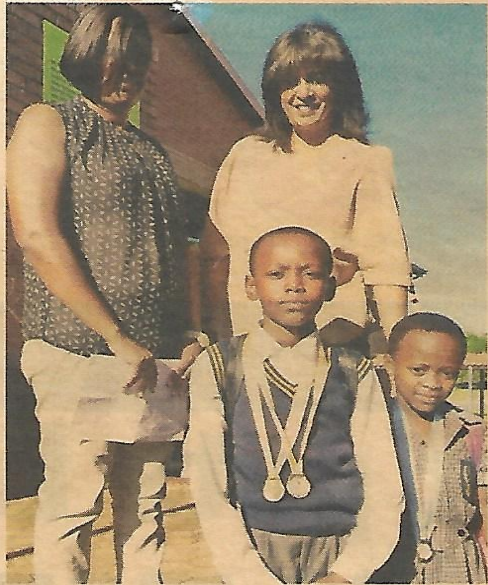
Many of our learners participated in District Olympiads for various subjects and have achieved top positions.

In sports too, our learners are soaring through the races and other sports and compete at District and Provincial levels.

Our school is proud to boast our own Model who is currently Miss Sekgosesse Queen. She is seen entering many beauty pageants and we look forward to seeing her as our future Miss South Africa one day.



Picture 18 above: Learners chosen to be Prefects



Learners bring home the gold

TWO learners from Lenasia Model Primary School, Olwethu Seme and Themba Motaung represented Lenasia Model at the Inter-Primary School Sports held at the Lenasia Stadium on the February 9. Qwethu Seme, secured two gold medals in the 60m and 80m races.

Owethu further went on to represent the Johannesburg Central District (JC D14) on February 16 and won two silver medals in the 60m and 80m races while competing against other districts.

Like Owethu, Themba Motaung, 11 years old, also represented Lenasia Model Primary school at the Inter-Primary School Sports and Johannesburg Central District. His stellar performance resulted in him winning gold medals at both rounds in both the 80m and the 100m races.

Themba further went on to represent Gauteng on March 1. At this round he came out second in the 100m race. This outstanding performance further qualifies him to participate at the next round in Germiston which will be held on the March 15.

The Principal, Deputy Principal, Sports Co-coordinator, SMT, SGB, educators and learners are proud of him having gone this far and bringing pride and honour to the school.

Submitted by Lenasia Model Primary School



Picture 19 above: Learners of Lenasia Model Primary School excelling in Olympiads.



Picture 20 above: Gladiator day – A favourite event for learners each year



Picture 21: The School participated in the Mini World Cup in 2018 and won the “Best Dressed” award. Bottom picture: Soccer and Netball team winners.

Picture 22 below (left): Ex-Model Primary learner. Currently Miss Sekgosese Queen



Picture 23 below: Literacy Day – Character dress-up



Picture 24 above: Science-fair participants

Challenges and Triumphs

The democratic dispensation in the country offered parents the prerogative to register their children at any school of their choice. This also led communities to establish private schools with distinct religious and or cultural emphasis. This led to an exodus of Indian learners from the State schools to the private schools. In this respect, Lenasia Model Primary School became a focal point for learners from Soweto to be enrolled here. Consequently, Lenasia Model Primary School became the first primary school in Lenasia to enrol learners from Soweto, Protea Glen, Kliptown and from the ever-increasing informal settlements in and around Lenasia.

Sadly, several local parents viewed this in a negative light and the exodus of children from the local community escalated from the public schools to the private schools. Many of the local community parents took into consideration, the following:

- Language barriers,
- Quality of learning and teaching
- Fear of an ever-increasing number of especially unregulated transport providers in the schools' vicinity.

The perceived failure of the Education Department, Councillors, JMPD and SAPS to adequately monitor and control the school transport providers (Taxis), became a course of concern not only at Lenasia Model Primary School but to residents near the school. This resulted in a breakdown of any meaningful relationship between the local residents and transport providers.

The school barely manages to maximise the collection of school fees from learners as most parents tend to prioritise paying the transport providers' fees over and above the school fees. The school has had to resort to innovative and creative fund-raising events such as selling ice-creams or having a "casual-day" Friday.

Lenasia Model Primary School has made great strides in engaging with various businesses, NGO's and community-based organisations.

Imperial Motus has donated a fully stocked library to be used by learners, staff and the community at large.

The Click Foundation donated a computer based “Reading Eggs” programme for learners to develop skills in English. This project has two facilitators who engage with the learners during teaching hours.

Lenasia Model Primary School entered into various competitions. It won 20 Laptops from Vodacom to be used by the learners to enhance curriculum delivery. This has yet to be fully utilised.

Another great success for the school is the donation of a borehole by Al-Imdaad Foundation. This has helped with mitigating the water bills this school has been faced with as well as during times when there are water shut-downs due to water maintenance during some days of the year.

Community Impact and Outreach

Since almost 95% of our learners commute to school via taxis from the Soweto areas, the local residents are no longer a central part of the community of this school.

There are rare occasions when the local residents and the transport providers (taxis) get together to assist in the cleaning up of the area around the school.

The school does engage with the following:

- Nurses from the Lenasia Clinic for learner vaccinations
- SAPS
- Saaberie Chishty Ambulance in cases of emergency
- Partners for Possibilities – an organisation for principals to foster relationships with businesses

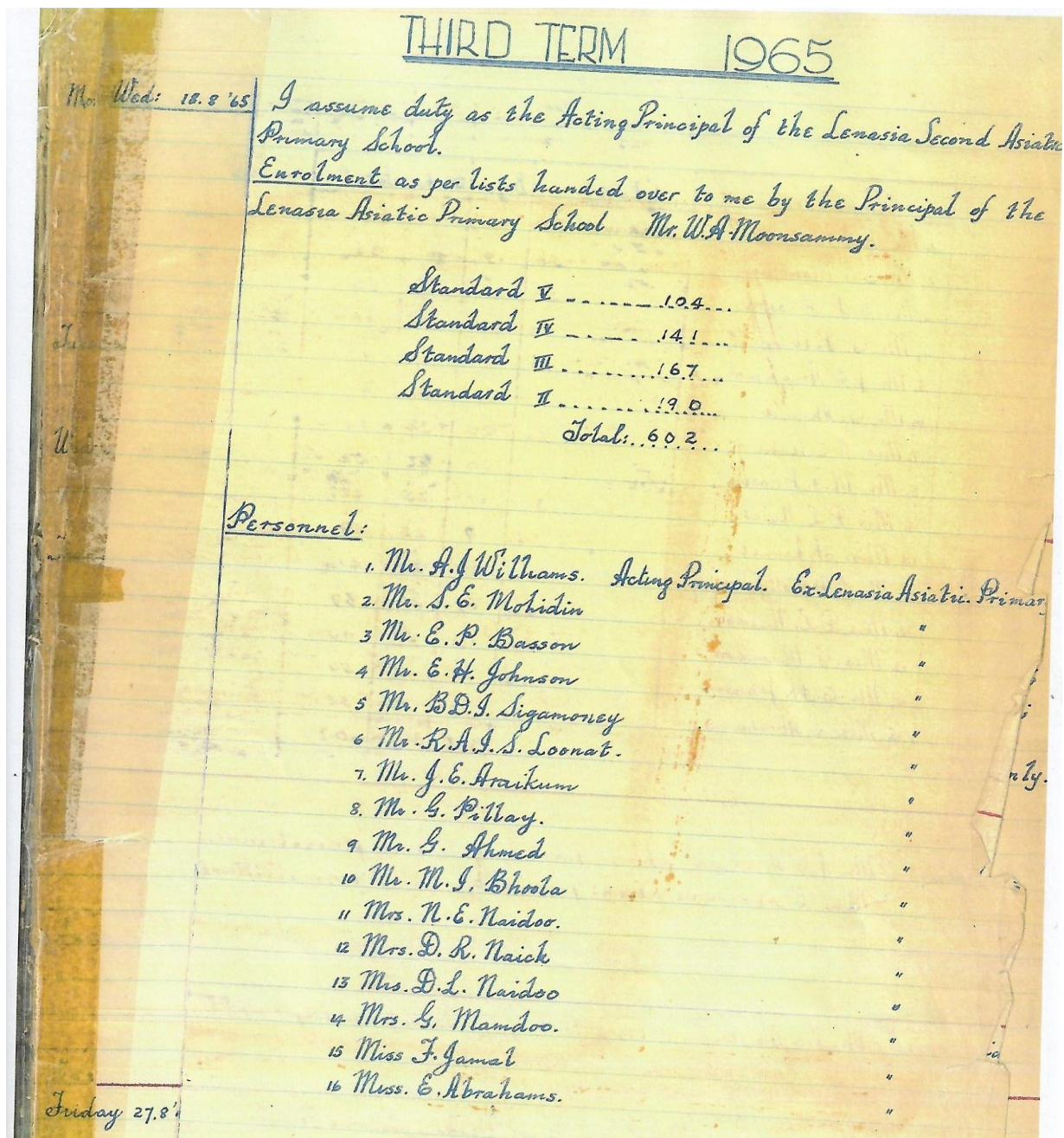
The Evolution of Technology and Learning Tools

The staff at Lenasia Model Primary School have several opportunities to optimise their teaching repertoire by utilising the various resources available on the premises viz. – the laptops from Vodacom

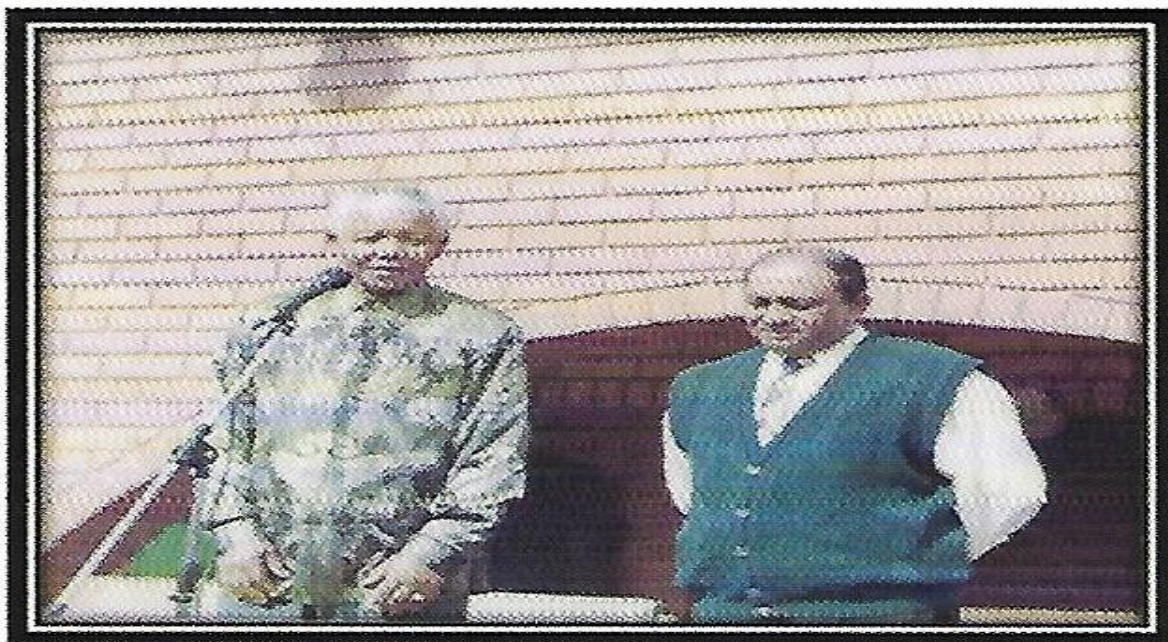
- The fully resourced library
- Data projector from Imperial Motus to enhance lesson delivery.

Lenasia Model Primary School uses the SASAMS programme to compute learner assessment results and it has also offered the school to be used by the District for on-line learner admissions. The LURITZ system together with the SASAMS programme capture all learner information which need to be forwarded to the District and Head Office on a regular basis.

Photographs, Memorabilia and Artefacts



Picture 25: First log book entry.



Picture 26: Previous Principal Mr Tagari with previous President Mr Nelson Mandela

N.R. MANDELA
Best wishes to the Lenasia
Model Primary, an institution
of real excellence.
Mandela
23. 5. 97

Picture 27: Log book entry of Nelson Mandela's message to Lenasia Model Primary School



Picture 28: R. Koor and M Ally (Retired R teachers) who achieved 1st place in the National Teacher Awards for the Grade R division.



Picture 29: Seven educators from Lenasia Model Primary School were nominated for the national Teacher Awards



Picture 30 above: An old Staff photo



Picture 31 above: Recent Staff photo



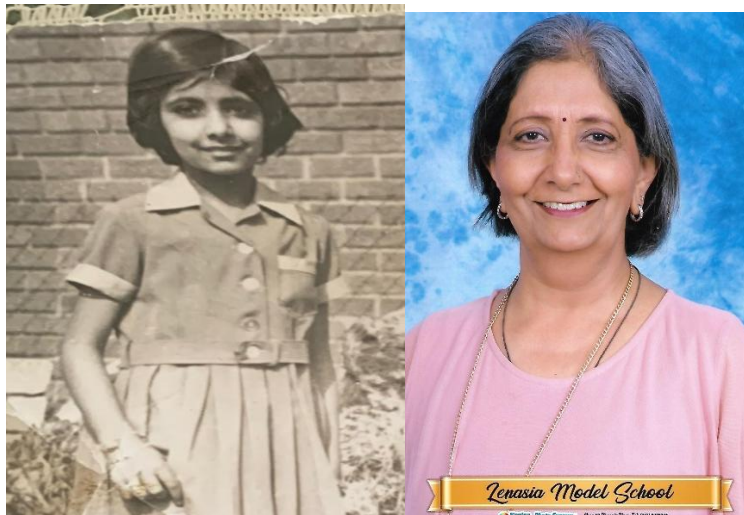
Picture 32 Above: An old picture of the Previous support staff.



Picture 33 above: Current PS Staff

*“Life is a circle. The end of one journey is the beginning of the next”
(Joseph M. Marshall)*

There are many individuals who have walked the corridors of this school at different times in their lives, as different roles. Amongst these is the schools Deputy Principal Mrs M. Morar, who completed her primary school years at this school. Ms P. Mazibuko, the current secretary of the school also completed her schooling at this school as well as Mrs S. Sakalingum who is an educator of this school. Along heritage lines, Mrs C. Khunou is a PS Staff member of this school, taking after her mother Mrs S. Khunou and her father Mr R. Maluleka. Mr Maluleka (Uncle Richard) was amongst the first set of PS staff members, assuming duty at this school in the 1970's.



Pictures 34 above: Mrs Morar as a learner at the school (left) and as the current Deputy Principal (Right)



Pictures 35 above: Ms. P Mazibuko as a learner at the school (left) and as the current Secretary of the school (Right)



Pictures 36 above: Ms. S Sakalingum as a learner at the school (left) and as the current Educator of the school (Right)



Pictures 37 above: (From left to right) Late Mr R. Maluleka (Uncle Richard), Late Mrs S. Khunou (Aunty Selina) and current PS staff member Mrs C. Khunou (Aunty Doopsie)

Conclusions: Reflections of the School's Legacy and Future

The school has recently obtained a borehole, through the generous sponsorship of Al-Imdaad. This then makes it possible to continue with the school day, even if water is shut off.

For the future, the school is earnestly seeking a sponsor for a solar-powered system. This will then make it possible to continue with all office functions when electricity is cut off.

The school is also trying to secure a sponsor for a computer centre. The school believes that learners need to be exposed to this, before the end of their primary school tenure.

Lenasia Model Primary School would also like to be one of those schools which use smartboards in the classroom. Unfortunately, the school does not possess the finances to take on this project. It will investigate if LTSM funds could be used for this purpose.

The school is also aware of other schools that get to put textbooks required onto a laptop (purchased by the learners), to use for lessons. This system also allows interaction between the parent/ guardian/ caregiver and the educator. The school will make every effort to set this plan in motion in the near future. E-learning and e-books will also be investigated.

Finally, the school endeavours to build a new, bigger school hall, which could cater for a multi-purpose court inside. This hall could then be used for awards functions, end-of-term examinations, sport events and other recreational activities. The National Lottery will be approached for this.

Concluding sentiments from current Principal of Lenasia Model Primary School,

Mrs D. Abrahams:



For six incredible decades, our beloved school Lenasia Model Primary has been a beacon of learning, growth and community in Lenasia. Generations of bright minds have walked these halls, inspired by dedicated teachers, nurtured by caring staff, and supported by wonderful families.

As we celebrate this milestone, we reflect on the memories made, the friendships formed, and the countless achievements that make Lenasia Model Primary so special.

Here's to 60 years of shaping futures – and to many more years of excellence, joy, and success!

Thank you to everyone – past and present – who has been part of this amazing journey. Lets continue to shine together!

Mrs D. Abrahams