



HILLWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL EXCURSION ON THE 29TH APRIL 2022

The staff and principal of Hillwood Primary school would like to acknowledge our appreciation for the generous financial support we received from the Global Risk Governance programme, Law Faculty, University of Cape Town in partnership with The Mauerberger Foundation, for this environmentally focused educational initiative. By being sponsored financially we were able to introduce new knowledge to a group of 146 grade 4 learners at Hillwood Primary. The committed staff at Hillwood Primary is serious about developing our learners holistically by exposing them to an environment outside of Lavender Hill.

Covid-19 came with a whole new set of rules and restrictions. Learners had to keep their distance of 1,5m from their loving educators and friends. This meant no hugs and no sharing of food, stationary and sitting on one spot on their own. Sitting alone in a desk and keeping their distance from their friends during break really took its toll on our learners. Our learners had to cope with feeling isolated and alone. Some learners only attended two days a week every alternate day. They had to be responsible for their own learning on the day that they were at home. Lavender Hill is a community with its own challenges of poverty, gangsterism and violence. After the Covid-19 restrictions had been eased a bit after almost two years, and all learners are back in class we are faced with new challenges. Our learners lack motivation and hardly complete their homework. We as the educators need to fill a learning gap, because of the rotational roster that was followed for almost two years. What better way to get them all excited about school and learning than the outdoor classroom?

We took the opportunity to arrange an excursion to the Iziko Museum, planetarium and the Cape Town Company's Garden. The learners were so excited when they boarded the bus, they could not help but to chat and laugh all the way to their destination. Their first stop was the Gardens. They were surrounded by the peaceful atmosphere that was provided by nature and enjoyed being sheltered by the trees while being visited by a friendly squirrel running by or up a tree. Our learners were fortunate to see the world wide famous Egyptian geese and birds that brought so much joy to both old and young who visited this Historical landmark in Cape Town.

Sheldon, the tourist guide, had them face Table Mountain and pointed out the amazing Lions Head, Cable car and Signal Hill explaining why they were named that way. When some of the hidden gems in the gardens were pointed out they were amazed to discover that the oldest pear tree in the Company's Garden is also the oldest cultivated tree in the country. They had an opportunity to learn all about the vegetables growing in the garden.

They then moved on to the planetarium. Here they had a chance to learn all about the earth and how seasons changed. "I feel like I am in space", commented the learners. In the museum they were introduced to the prehistoric animals, huge mammals of today including the BIG FIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA and our amazing sea life. We had to assure them that the animals were quite harmless, as all looked so real to them. We also made sure that no learner returned to school hungry.



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They were fed a scrumptious meal with a delicious juice to quench their thirst. We all boarded the bus exhausted but filled with new knowledge and a mission that was accomplished. We as educators would like to allow more learners these outdoor learning experiences that would only be possible through funding from our sponsors and fundraising.

Shaheedah Raynard, one of the tourist guides who accompanied our learners on this excursion had the following to say:

A walk to remember through the Company's Gardens. We had an amazing time with the grade 4 learners from Hillwood Primary School in Lavender Hill. A walk these kids will never forget. The majority of the learners on this tour has never been to the Iziko Museum of South Africa, Iziko South African Planetarium Museum and the Company's Gardens. What a great experience they had.





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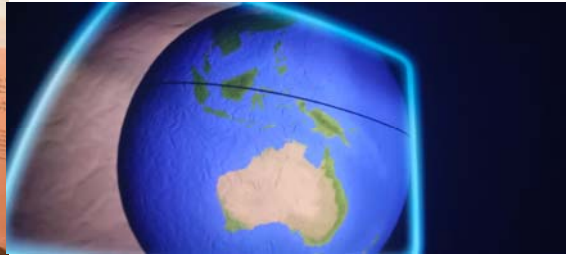


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