

# Tereo School goes from strength to strength

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Spring is here and we are heading into the final stretch of 2021, but sadly the pandemic continues to consume our lives... and at times like this we often forget the blessings that abound.

For Tereo School, a school for street children and children at risk in the Helderberg, who for some social/traumatic event or circumstances, fell out of the formal education system or have never been part of it, 2021 has stood out as a year of abundant blessings.

We have had 100% pupil attendance throughout this year due to our small classes, which has ensured that children have been able to keep up with teaching schedules, and we can see it in their assessment results.

With our personalised teaching approach, along with the individual support provided to our slower pupils, all have managed to maintain test results similar to that which we encountered pre-Covid.

To date we have also had no Covid cases at our school, which has ensured that there has been no additional lost learning time. In lockdown it can become so easy for us to throw in the towel or sit back and do nothing.

Hats off to all those who are working to keep our schools open through sanitising and vaccinations. All our staff took part in the Education Department initiative

to vaccinate.

We are indebted to our loyal donors and partners who believe in and support us both financially and in kind. We can never thank you enough for being committed to our cause.

This has enabled our pupils to go on some incredible outings including the planetarium, the aquarium, Pets' World and the stage shows *Annie* and *Alice in Wonderland* at our local Playhouse theatre.

The impact of our extra mural activities is evident in the way pupils interact with each other, demonstrating more care, confidence and self-esteem as the year progresses.

Currently each child attends one of the following classes per week: drama, hip-hop dance, music, pottery, art and lego play.

We also have an amazing success story – a pupil who started school in Grade 1 in 2020 at age 11 (having no previous schooling) has excelled. He was assessed in January 2021 and was promoted to Grade 4, and again promoted to Grade 5 by Term 3.

This is an exceptional situation but one that we at Tereo are so proud to be part of.

His dream is to become an author, and we have enrolled him on the Gifted Programme at Imibala to ensure that a pupil with such talent will be supported throughout his schooling.

Thanks to a generous donation of computers, computer

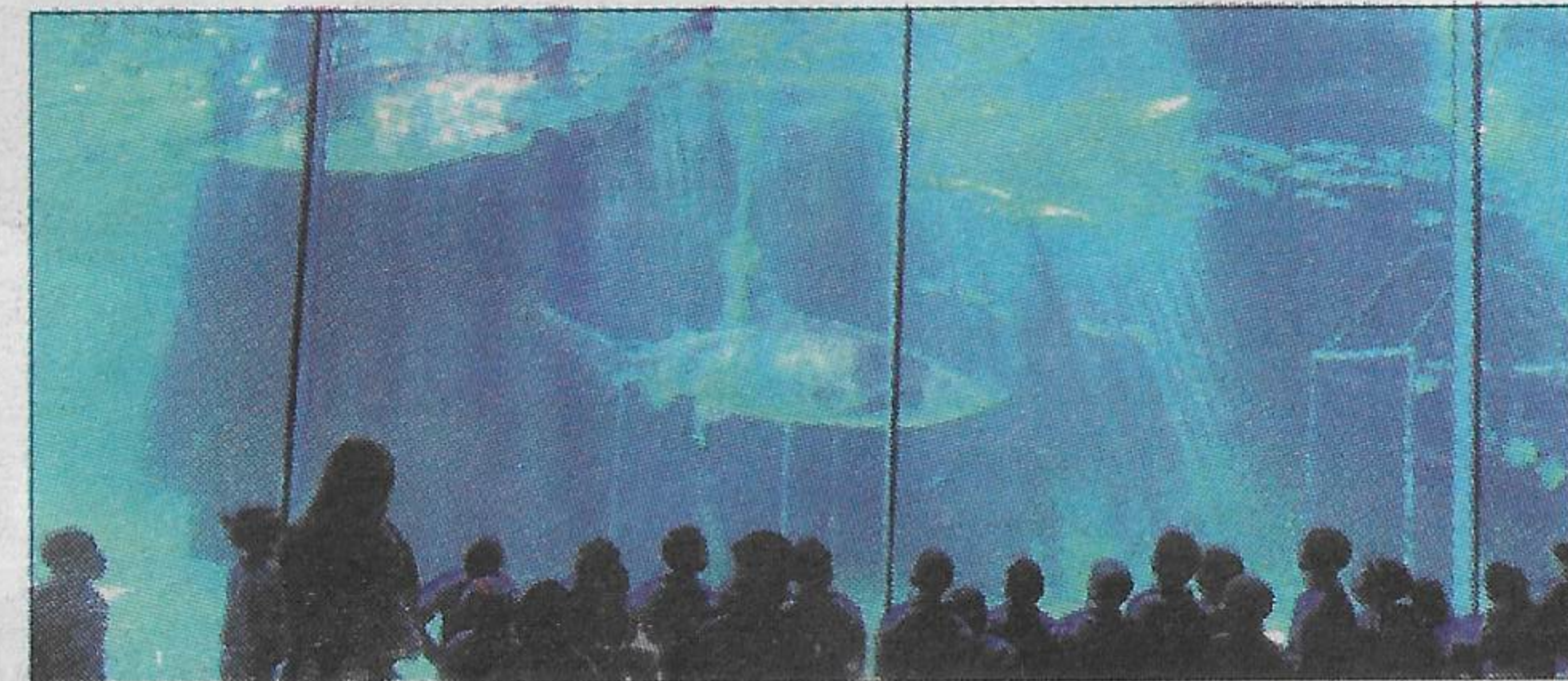


■ De-ann Maarman and Natania Wynand at the Hali Trust birthday party.

classes began in May 2021 using Stimu-zone (a software programme aligned to CAPS), to ensure that not only do the children become computer literate and prepare them for the move to mainstream schooling, but that technology starts forming part of their learning process and equips them for the 21st century.

All 81 children attend computer classes weekly. For most of our children this was their first encounter ever with a computer. Their excitement and joy at using technology is a delight to behold.

Thanks to an amazing sponsor we were able to take the whole school to the aquarium.



■ Left: The children visited the aquarium on an exciting trip to the Mother City.

■ Right: The pupils in the computer class.



What excitement and wonder at the incredible sights.

For some children this was their first time on a large bus, and their first time ever going into Cape Town. So not only were the fish, sharks, divers, and penguins an experience, but the actual drive into Cape Town.

While poverty and hunger still stalk many of our children and their families on a daily basis, our sponsors have ensured that we can continue to provide two full meals a day to each child (currently 81 children), along with a snack and each family also receives a monthly food parcel. We currently feed 70 families.

While I have shared the good news there are always challenges, these include:

Transport costs: we transport children to and from school, outings, doctor and clinic visits and with constant rising fuel costs this is an area requiring support.

Clothing: many of our children struggle with not having underwear, shorts and tracksuit bottoms for girls and boys ages 6 to 14.

Software licenses still need to be purchased so if you would like to sponsor a pupil – R450 will provide computer learning for a child for one year.

To support Tereo, contact Ann Coetzee on 082 678 9077, email [ann@tereo.org](mailto:ann@tereo.org) or visit [www.tereo.org](http://www.tereo.org)

● Tereo School is a registered NPO and PBO, and all donations are fully tax-deductible.