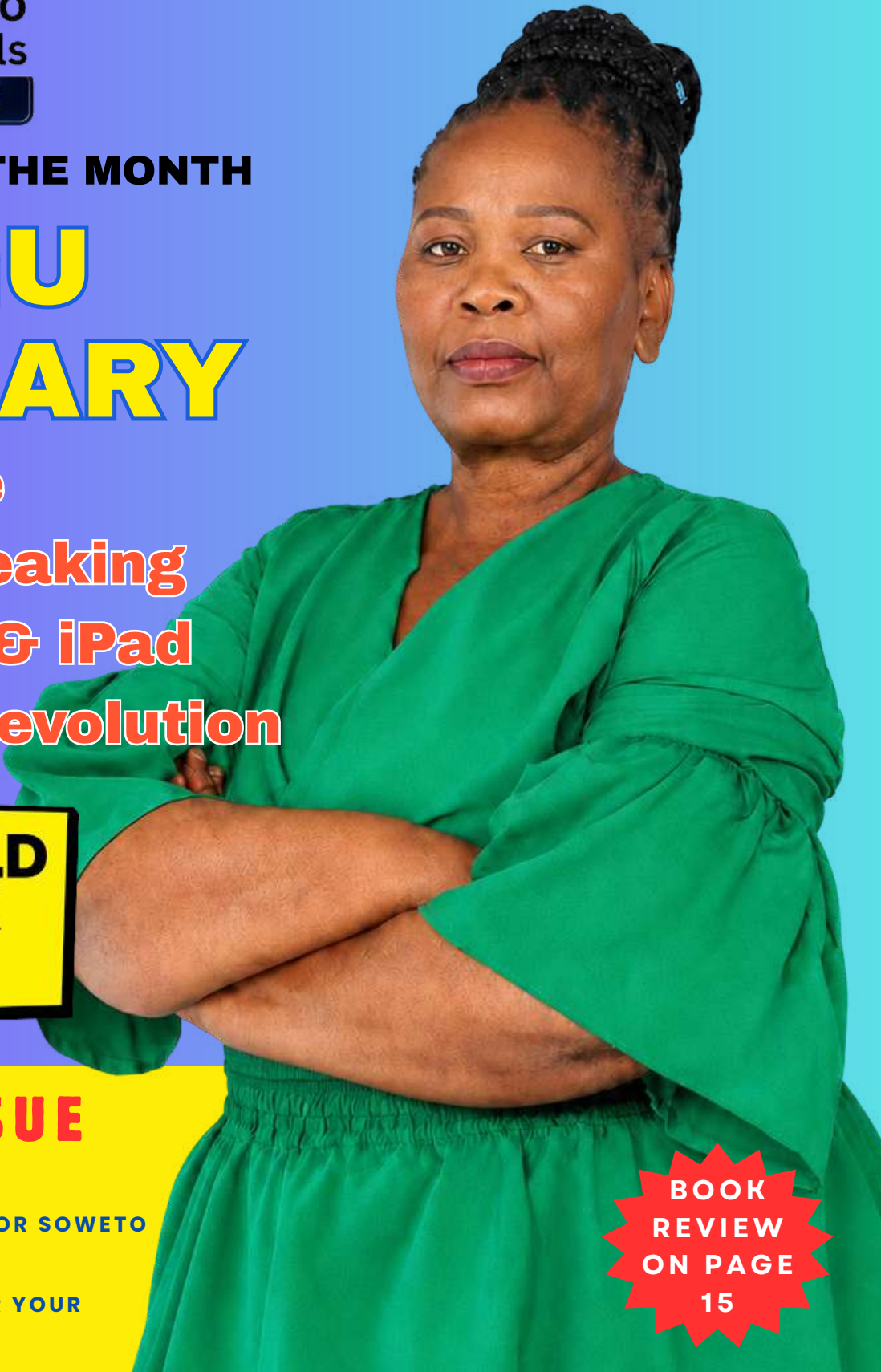
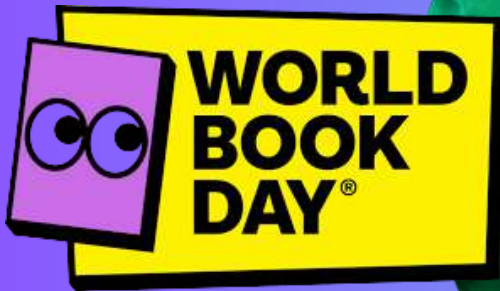




SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

IGUGU PRIMARY

**Inside the
groundbreaking
Robotics & iPad
learning revolution**



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- WORLD BOOK DAY
- WHY CODING MATTERS FOR SOWETO SCHOOLS
- HOW TO BUY SHARES FOR YOUR CHILD

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From Literacy & Numeracy to Robotics and Coding – how one Soweto school is preparing learners for the digital future with Apple technology and iSchool Africa.

Igugu Primary School: The Technology School Transforming Education in Soweto

Through its powerful partnership with iSchool Africa, Igugu Primary has become one of Soweto's leading digital schools — equipping learners with iPads, Coding & Robotics skills, and access to world-class Apple learning programmes.



In the heart of Soweto, Igugu Primary School in Mofolo South is proving that township schools are capable of delivering world-class education through technology, innovation, and visionary leadership.



Under the guidance of Principal Tshabalala, the school has become one of the most advanced technology-driven schools in Soweto, offering learners access to iPads, digital literacy programmes, Coding and Robotics, and internationally recognised Apple educational software through its long-standing partnership with iSchool Africa.



Since 2020, Igugu Primary has been running its successful iPad Club programme, where learners across all grades use iPads to improve Literacy and Numeracy skills.

What started as a digital learning initiative has now grown into a fully integrated technology programme that continues to transform teaching and learning at the school.

Through the support of iSchool Africa, the school's old library was transformed into a fully equipped technology lab, giving learners daily access to advanced educational tools and applications used by schools around the world.

The partnership with iSchool Africa has gone far beyond simply donating devices. The organisation has continuously invested in teacher training, curriculum support, technical guidance, and educational development.



Teachers at Igugu Primary have received ongoing professional development to ensure they are fully equipped to integrate technology into classroom learning. The programme also provides structured lesson plans, assessment tools, and coding curricula that help monitor learner progress and performance.

Now, the school has taken another major step forward with the official launch of its Coding and Robotics programme.

Through Apple's globally recognised Everyone Can Code curriculum and the introduction of the Swift coding programme – the same coding language used internationally by Apple developers – learners at Igugu Primary are being introduced to real-world digital skills from an early age.

The programme is designed to help learners think creatively, solve problems, and prepare for future careers in technology and innovation.

With assistance from Vumatel, the school has internet connectivity across classrooms, ensuring that learners can fully participate in coding and robotics lessons throughout the school day.

Mrs. Tshabalala says the school has already seen remarkable improvements in learner participation, confidence, Literacy, and Numeracy results since introducing iPads into daily learning. "This programme has truly changed the way our learners experience education.

Through iSchool Africa, our children are learning using the same programmes and software used internationally by Apple.



We are proud to be a technology school in Soweto, and we are excited about the future opportunities that Coding and Robotics will bring to our learners," she said.

She also praised the dedication of the teachers and the unwavering support received from iSchool Africa over the years.

"This is not just about devices. iSchool Africa has walked this journey with us step by step. They train our teachers, support our curriculum, assist with assessments, and ensure that our learners benefit fully from the programme. The support has been outstanding," added Mrs. Tshabalala.

Boepakitso Primary celebrates the joy of Reading on World Book Day

Boepakitso Primary School proudly celebrated **World Book Day** on the 30th of April 2026 with a lively and educational programme aimed at encouraging learners to develop a love for reading.



Learners and teachers came together to participate in various literacy activities, including storytelling, reading sessions, and book discussions.

The school was filled with excitement as learners explored different books and shared their favourite stories with classmates and educators.

The celebration highlighted the importance of reading in improving vocabulary, imagination, and academic performance among learners. Teachers encouraged learners to make reading part of their daily lives, both at school and at home. The event was not only educational but also enjoyable, reminding learners that books can open doors to knowledge, creativity, and endless possibilities for the future.



WHY CODING MATTERS FOR SOWETO SCHOOLS



As Soweto Schools Magazine, we believe that education must prepare learners not only to pass exams, but to solve real problems in their communities while they are still at school. The future belongs to learners who are creative, innovative, and technologically skilled.

That is why programmes such as Coding, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Digital Literacy are becoming so important in Soweto schools. These skills are no longer only about employment – they are about teaching learners how to think differently, create solutions, and become future innovators and entrepreneurs.

What makes programmes such as the iSchool Africa initiative so powerful is that they expose learners to world-class technology and opportunities from an early age.

Through Apple programmes such as Everyone Can Code, learners are not only learning how to use technology, but how to create with it.

They are learning skills that allow them to compete globally and participate in international technology campaigns and projects. This kind of exposure gives Soweto learners confidence and shows them that they belong in the future digital economy.



We want to see learners completing matric already tech-savvy, confident, and capable of bringing solutions to challenges facing our communities.

Whether it is developing apps, creating digital businesses, solving community problems, or pursuing careers in technology, coding and robotics can open doors that many learners never imagined possible.

Soweto schools are proving that with the right support, training, and partnerships, our learners can become the next generation of innovators, creators, and leaders.

**With gratitude,
Siphiwe Ngema
Editor**

WHO TALKS ABOUT MONEY AT HOME?

By Dr Boniswa Siwundla CA(SA)

When children begin to learn about money, they are not always taught in obvious ways.

They learn from people.

From who steps in.

From who explains, and who stays quiet.

These lessons begin long before anyone calls them “financial education”.

At home, children learn about money not only through what is said,

but through who says it, and who does not.

In many families, it is mothers, grandmothers, and aunts who step in when money feels tight, not because they have the most money, but because they are often the ones making sure the household keeps going.

They stretch what is available.

They decide what must come first.

They explain, sometimes gently, sometimes firmly, why certain things must wait.

Children learn from this.

They learn who to go to when they need help.

They learn whose decisions carry weight. They learn who is expected to “make a plan”.

At the same time, they also notice what is not shared with them.

Conversations that happen behind closed doors.



Decisions made without their involvement.

Questions that are left unanswered.

These moments teach just as much.

Over time, children begin to form a picture of money that is not just about earning or spending.

It is about people.

We learn about who holds it, who speaks about it, and who we believe we are meant to become in relation to it.

Who provides.

Who manages.

Who sacrifices.

And sometimes, who remains silent.

This is not about blame.



💡 Takeaway: What this means for Parents & Students

- Children learn about money through people, not just practices.
- Who speaks (and who does not) shapes children's understanding of financial responsibility.
- Including children in small, age-appropriate conversations builds confidence and belonging.
- Sharing responsibility helps expand who feels capable of managing money.



About the author

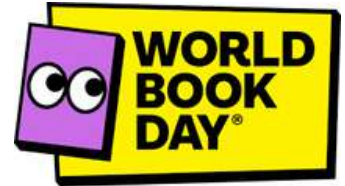
Dr Boniswa Siwundla CA(SA)

Boniswa is a financial literacy advocate, educator, and founder of FLIC_SA. As a Senior Lecturer at the University of Johannesburg, she brings over a decade of experience to her mission: helping families and communities understand how financial habits are passed down and how to shape them with intention.

**[CLICK HERE TO READ BONISWA'S PROFILE](#)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE**



Thembu Primary celebrates Reading and Environmental Responsibility



Thembu Primary School recently hosted two meaningful programmes that highlighted the importance of literacy and environmental awareness among learners. As part of the school's **World Book Day** celebrations on 23 April, learners and teachers came together during assembly to celebrate the joy of reading and the power of books.

The assembly area was beautifully decorated with colourful banners, handprints, and messages such as "We Love Books" and "Reading is Fun." Learners excitedly explored a display of storybooks and educational books, while a globe placed at the centre reminded everyone that books connect people from all around the world.

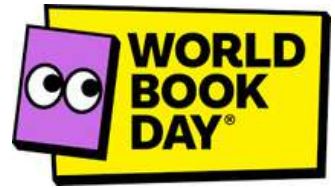
Thembu Primary also continues to make an impact beyond the classroom through its School Gardening and Environmental Clean-Up Programme, which took place on 12 May 2026. Learners worked together in the school garden, preparing soil, removing weeds, and planting seedlings while learning valuable lessons about teamwork and environmental care.



According to the principal, the gardening programme has become both educational and practical for learners. "The activity helps learners understand the importance of environmental care, teamwork, and food production. The school garden will also assist in addressing food insecurity by supporting the school nutrition programme and teaching learners sustainable gardening skills," said the principal.



Zithathele Primary brings Storybooks to life on World Book Day



Zithathele Primary School celebrated **World Book Day** with excitement, colour, and creativity as learners and teachers came together to promote the love of reading. The school was filled with joy as learners arrived dressed as their favourite storybook characters, bringing popular books and stories to life in a fun and educational way. The celebration created a vibrant atmosphere that captured the imagination of both learners and educators.

Throughout the day, learners participated in various reading activities, storytelling sessions, and book-sharing moments with their classmates. The event encouraged learners to explore different books, improve their reading confidence, and discover the joy that comes with storytelling and imagination.



Teachers also joined in the celebrations, making the day interactive and memorable for everyone involved.

The school emphasized that **World Book Day** plays an important role in promoting literacy, creativity, and a lifelong passion for learning. By celebrating books in such an engaging way, Zithathele Primary continues to inspire learners to see reading not only as an academic skill, but also as a doorway to knowledge, creativity, and endless possibilities.



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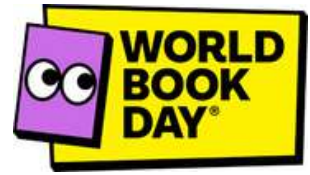


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A.B. Xuma Primary celebrates World Book Day with excitement

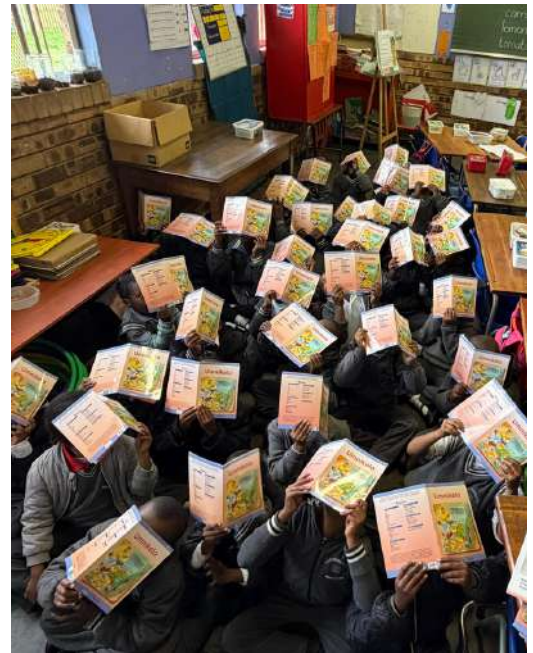


A.B. Xuma Primary School recently celebrated **World Book Day** with excitement and creativity as all grades participated in a variety of reading and literacy activities designed to promote the love of books among learners. The celebration created a lively atmosphere across the school as learners took part in read-aloud sessions, shared reading, and independent reading activities. Teachers and learners worked together to make the day educational, interactive, and enjoyable for everyone involved.

One of the highlights of the celebration was the book exhibition, where learners displayed different books and explored stories from various genres and cultures.

Learners also brought stories to life by enacting scenes and characters from books, showcasing their confidence, imagination, and understanding of the stories they had read.

Teachers actively engaged learners by asking questions based on the reading activities, helping them improve comprehension and critical thinking skills.



The school emphasized that World Book Day is an important opportunity to encourage reading from an early age and strengthen literacy development among learners.

Through activities such as storytelling, reading aloud, and drama performances, A.B. Xuma Primary continues to build a positive reading culture and inspire learners to see books as powerful tools for learning, creativity, and personal growth.

Ipolokeng Primary raises awareness against Bullying in creative school campaign



Ipolokeng Primary School recently hosted an educational and fun-filled awareness programme in partnership with Metro – Well Child South Africa, where learners were taught about the dangers of bullying and the importance of respecting one another.

The visit created an engaging atmosphere at the school as learners gathered to listen to important messages about kindness, discipline, and creating a safe school environment for everyone.

As part of the day's activities, the school also introduced a creative and entertaining "No School Bag, But a Bag Day" campaign. Learners arrived carrying their books in unique and imaginative items instead of traditional school bags, bringing excitement and laughter across the school grounds. Some learners used containers, baskets, and other creative objects to carry their books, making the day both memorable and educational.



Teachers at the school said the programme was designed not only to address serious issues such as bullying, but also to encourage learner participation and school spirit through fun activities.

The event was well received by both learners and educators, showing how schools can use creativity and community partnerships to promote positive values and learner wellbeing.

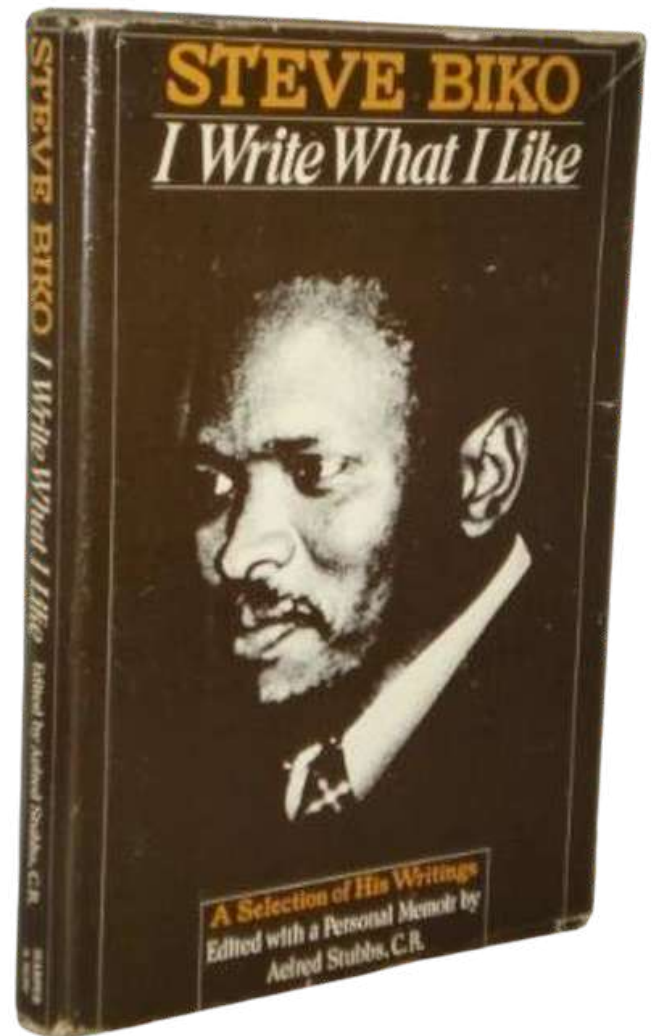


Book: I write what I like

Author: Steve Biko

I Write What I Like is a powerful and inspiring book by Steve Biko that encourages young people to believe in themselves, value education, and think independently. Through his writings, Biko speaks about leadership, identity, confidence, and the importance of standing up for what is right. Although the book was written many years ago during apartheid, its message still speaks strongly to today's youth.

This book is especially important during Youth Month because it reminds learners about the role young people played in shaping South Africa's future. It encourages readers to use education, discipline, and knowledge to build stronger communities and create opportunities for themselves. It is a thought-provoking read for both learners and parents.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steve Biko was a South African student leader, activist, and founder of the Black Consciousness Movement. He became one of the most influential voices against apartheid during the 1970s, inspiring thousands of young people across the country to fight for equality, dignity, and justice. His legacy continues to inspire generations of South Africans today.

Steve Biko strongly believed that young people needed to free their minds from fear and believe in their own potential. Through his speeches, writings, and activism, he encouraged Black South Africans to take pride in their identity and work towards building a better future for themselves and their communities.

Although his life was tragically cut short in 1977, his message of self-confidence, education, leadership, and empowerment remains relevant and powerful, especially for young people today.

[CLICK HERE TO BUY THE BOOK](#)

HOW TO BUY SHARES FOR YOUR CHILD

Many parents dream of giving their children a better future, but few realise that it is now possible to start investing for your child with as little as R100 per month.

Thanks to modern investment apps such as [EasyEquities](#) and Shyft, buying shares and stocks has become simple and accessible to ordinary South Africans. Parents can now invest small amounts regularly into companies and shares that grow over time, creating long-term wealth for their children.

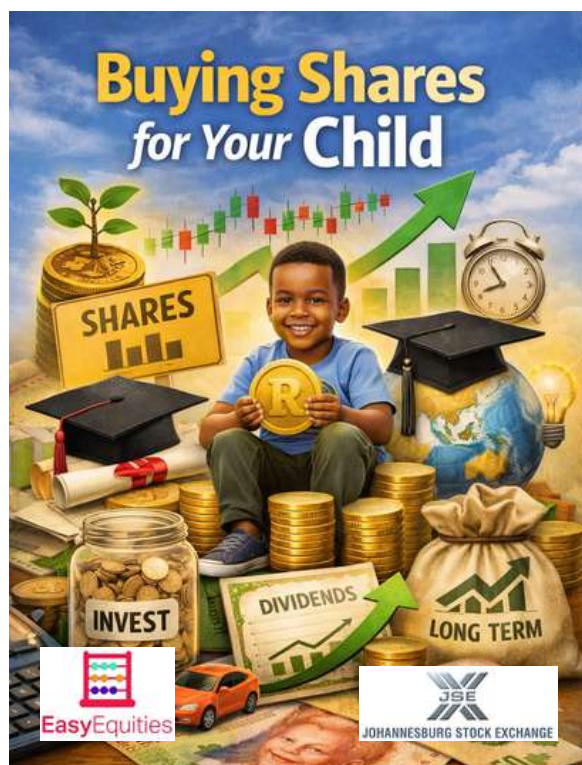
The advantage of investing in shares is that over long periods, shares have historically grown more than many other types of investments. By the time a child finishes school, the investment could help pay for university studies, start a business, buy a car, or even contribute towards a home.

Unlike some savings products, these investment platforms are flexible — parents are not penalised if they skip a payment, and they can increase or decrease contributions at any time depending on their financial situation.

Starting is easier than many people think. Parents simply download an investment app, open an account, and choose shares or investment bundles to invest in monthly.

The most important thing is not the amount you start with, but the habit of investing consistently over time. Even small monthly contributions can grow into something meaningful in the future.

By planting this financial seed early, parents can begin building generational wealth and giving their children a stronger financial foundation for life.





INTSHA YETHU MAYIFUNDE EMLANDWENI

Pastor Nkosi

Njengoba sibungaza iNyanga Yentsha kanye noSuku Lwentsha ngoJuni, ngithanda ukukhuthaza abazali ukuthi basebenzise lesi sikhathi ukufundisa izingane ngomlando wezwe lethu kanye neqhawe lentsha yango-1976.

Intsha yalwela imfundo, isithunzi nekusasa elingcono ngaphansi kwezimo ezinzima kakhulu. Namuhla izingane zethu ziphila ngesikhathi esingcono ngenxa yemihlatshelo yalabo bafundi ababelwela amalungelo abo.

Kubalulekile ukuthi izingane zazi futhi ziqonde ukuthi inkululeko nemfundo esinayo namuhla ayizange ifike kalula.

Ngiyakhuthaza abazali ukuthi baxoxe nezingane zabo ngomlando, izimfundiso kanye nezimilo ezinhle esingazifunda kumaqhawe esizwe sethu. Intsha yanamuhla kufanele ifunde ukuhlonipha, ukusebenza kanzima, ukuziphatha kahle nokubeka imfundo phambili.

Siphila ngesikhathi lapho izingane zibhekene nengcindezi yezinkundla zokuxhumana, kodwa kufanele sizikhumbuze ukuthi ikusasa lakhiwa ulwazi, ukufunda nokuzimisela empilweni.

Njengabazali nomphakathi, masiqhubeke nokuhola izingane zethu ngendlela efanele. Masizikhuthaze ukuthi zifunde izincwadi, zibe namaphupho amakhulu futhi zisebenzise amathuba emfundo ngendlela efanele.

Intsha yethu iyikusasa leSoweto neNingizimu Afrika — futhi ikusasa eliqinile liqala ekhaya.



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TV STAND

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DRAWER

R 800



DRAWER

R 800



Let's change the norm and protect childhood

Childhood, including adolescence should be a time of curiosity, play, connection and developing life skills.

Smartphones too often steal that space by replacing real-world exploration and exposes them to an adult world of sex, anger, violence and unrealistic expectations through social media



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