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NGO Registration: 116-823NPO
SARS Ref No: 930 044 039

19-07-2023

Dear Shaista and SE Committee Members.

Sasfin has been instrumental in enabling us to continue developing the life skill of swimming in the lives of our vulnerable children in Plettenburgbay.

We are grateful for your commitment to our cause and your understanding of the impact that swimming can have on our communities.

Feedback Report:

On the 3rd July AAS in Collaboration with Plett Tourism and the Black Mermaid foundation, AAS participated in the Plett Ocean festival.

The event was opened by the Honorable Mayor Dave Swart, following an introduction by Louise Auersperg founder of AAS

25 children and 10 volunteers took part in an underwater workshop teaching the children about marine life.

We had 4 stations consisting of Plett Shark spotters, The Black Mermaid, Cape Nature, Claytons surf school and AAS.

The lagoon became a hub of activity providing a range of activities for our students.

1. Zandile the mermaid together with Louise taught the students how to breathe using a mask and snorkel, and have appreciation for marine life. Snorkeling requires focus and awareness of our surroundings including our own breath. This mindfulness can be carried into other areas of our lives, helping us to stay present and engaged. The children entered another world, seeing sea creatures like octopus, starfish, baby sole, pencil bait crabs and more.

2. The shark spotters; The children learnt about shark safety and how to spot a shark. They began to get a better understanding of them and realized they are beautiful creatures. There was definitely a mindset change.

Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much. (Helen Keller)

CEO: Louise Auersperg * Board of Trustees: Francois Geldenhuys, Clayton Bischoff, Peter Auersperg (honorary), John McCarthy (affiliate)



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Feedback report continued.

3. Clayton's development surf academy; The students were provided with fishnets which created a lot of fun. They caught small fish and other sea creatures and got to observe them close up, learning their habits, seeing the different colors, patterns and sizes. Clayton provided 3 SUP and 8 boogie boards. Plett surf had 3 Malibu's which created an amusement park on water. Our students were hooked. Our Senior Life guard and Swim Coach Alexander alongside 2 junior life guards Mathew and Cayden spent time teaching the kids to balance and paddle.

Fishnets are a great resource for introducing children to the beauty and complexity of the marine world.

4. Cape Nature; We had 3 very informative representatives that raise awareness about the environment, pollution and ocean conservation. They were given refuse bags and taken on a walk down the lagoon to do a beach clean-up.....4 bags later and more responsible about the importance of protecting our environment.

Lunch Time; Emily Moon Restaurant sponsored delicious fresh rolls baked by Raw Bakery served with fresh fruit and Juice.AAS added some extras and we managed to feed 50 hungry children, volunteers and our guests.

Special Moments;

We were humbled to have a new student to our programme Mivuy Tyanase known as Mivi join our event.

He is 12 years old and suffers from Arthrogryposis multiplex congenita which refers to the development of multiple joint contractures resulting in very limited movement in his arms and legs. He is permanently in a power chair.

Louise with the help of volunteers got him sitting on a SUP Board and off we went exploring. Our Mermaid Zandile put a mask and snorkel on which enable Mivi to experience the magic of seeing our under water creatures.

Mivi enjoys the water as he has the freedom to move around. His school brings him in the morning for private lessons. (He is unsponsored.)

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Challenges.

AAS have been approached to teach 14 shark spotters that operate in Plett. This is exciting, but we are in need of funding to make this possible.

Our vision and dream is to reach more children in our area and to have our own pool.

Up and Coming Events and News;

Boat trip to Robberg with Ocean Safaris.

Graduating celebration for 5 students.

NSRI Station 14 tour.

A swim and water wise lesson at Poortjies lagoon.

9th July our students participated in the Kids Shark Club which was hosted by the Cape Town Shark Educational Team. The morning consisted of Beach Activities and Shark education. AAS will be collaborating with Plett Shark Spotters to further educating our students about our Sharks and Ocean awareness.

Thank you to Sasfin for your unwavering support, we look forward to continuing our partnership towards promoting the importance of swimming in our community.

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