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education
South Africa

Macmillan Education celebrates World Read Aloud Day



World Read Aloud Day is celebrated on the first Wednesday in February and took place on the 1st of February this year.

This is a day dedicated to reading and the art and practice of reading aloud. It also highlights the importance of sharing stories and encourages people to grab a book and read it aloud to an audience.

The Macmillan Sales and Marketing team took up this challenge and read stories to children all over the country. The Macmillan Reading Corner, an online world of stories, was also launched to celebrate this special day.

Macmillan Reading Corner!

An online magical world of stories



In celebration of **World Read Aloud Day**, Macmillan Education is proud to have launched the Macmillan Reading Corner.

The aim of this project is not only to encourage children to read but also to promote our Readers and the Reading Corner components.

The project launched with eight stories in three languages, and you might just be surprised to see who our very talented storytellers are!

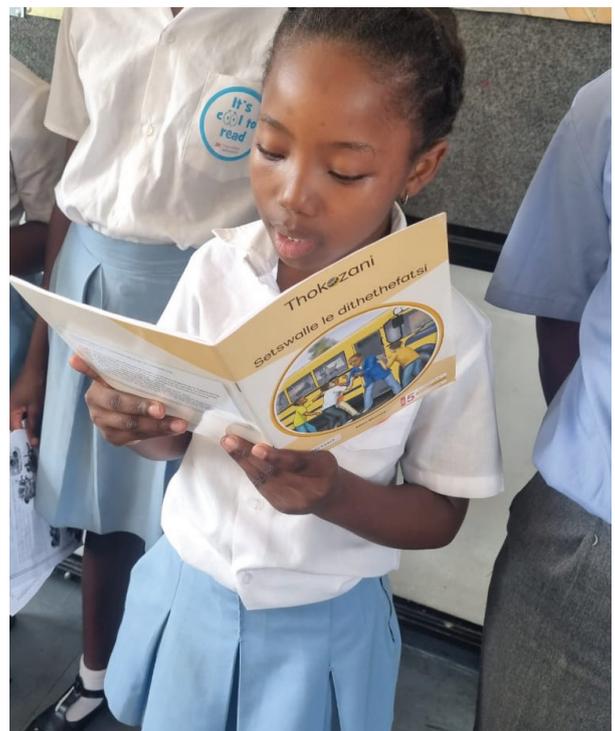
We aim to add at least four stories every second month in various languages.

FREE STATE

A fun day at a farm school

Macmillan Education, in collaboration with a School Library Services (ELITS) official from Motheo District, celebrated this special day at **Dr Bethuel Setai Primary School**, a very neglected farm school on the outskirts of Bloemfontein.

All the learners gathered in the school hall where reading was done per grade, starting with Grade 7 down to Grade R from books donated by Macmillan Education. To contribute to the fun and excitement of the event, each learner received a sticker of his/her choice from the Macmillan sales rep, Peter Ledwaba, to encourage them to read every day.



The Macmillan Reading Corner shines

In celebration of World Read Aloud Day, the Gauteng Department of Education hosted a reading festival at **Westridge High School**. The objective of the Reading Festival was to increase the level of participation of learners in reading activities and programmes with a view to promoting a culture of reading in schools and communities. Approximately 300 learners from 20 schools participated in this event.

The Macmillan Education team displayed our beautiful Reading Corner and held story-telling sessions where mother-tongue speakers read stories to the learners and engaged them with interactive activities. Each learner who attended one of our storytelling sessions received a Macmillan branded string bag, activity sheets linked to the stories, stickers to encourage them to read and some lollypops.

This was also an excellent opportunity to promote the launch of the **Online Macmillan Reading Corner**.



Shree Bharat Sharda Mandir Junior School joins in the fun!

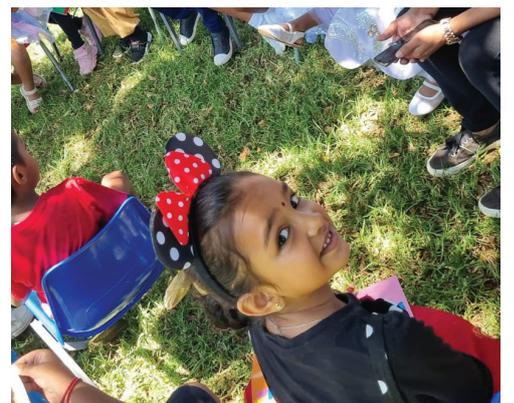
Shree Bharat Sharda Mandir Junior School (SBSM) joined the masses to commemorate World Read Aloud Day on Tuesday, 7th February 2023. Our learners explored the magic of literature and paid tribute to their favourite characters!

Needless to say, we were spoilt for choice... Dr Seuss, Damsels and Disney Princesses, Peter Pan, Marvel Heroes and Puss-in-boots were a few show-stopping costumes to be seen. Classroom libraries came to life, and our kids brought tons of tales to share with their peers.

The day's activities included:

- shared and independent reading experiences
- discussions around the importance of this special day
- the reading of various books
- related crafting experiences.

SBSM extended gratitude to Mrs Asheena Patel and Macmillan Publishers for popping up and further kindling a love of reading in the hearts of avid bookworms. We look forward to many more adventures in education through reading!



Joy to the sick, the young and the elderly!

Lilian Vuma, our sales rep in Mpumalanga, used this special day to bring joy to different groups of people. Her first visit was to the children's ward at the **Tonga Hospital** in the Ehlanzeni district, where she read a story to the children and gave them a few words of encouragement. Listening to the story helped them forget their pain and sorrows for a while.



Lilian's next stop was **Tonga View Primary School**, where she read stories in Seswati to the Grade 3 classes. Learners were also given the opportunity to read aloud and received a reader to take home with them.

The highlight of Lilian's day was a visit to **Kamhlushwa Old Age Centre**. "I chose this centre because so many elderly people are lonely and neglected, and they are involved in very few activities."

She read a story relevant to the grannies and asked a few questions they answered very eagerly. She also gave them a motivational talk and reminded them of their important roles as grannies to read to their grandchildren or tell stories about their family history or folktales.

A shortened version of 'Long walk to freedom' in Siswati was donated to the centre for the grannies to read at their leisure. She also treated them to some refreshments. This was a day that the grannies will remember!



Macmillan caused a big buzz

Buzzi Bees Pre-Primary School, in Monte Vista in the Western Cape, opened their doors in 2001 and is a diverse low-enrollment institution allowing educators to focus on each individual's development.

The school prides itself on getting kids to find the fun and passion for reading from a very young age.

On arrival, the reading corner was set up to create an atmosphere where reading is fun.

The teachers selected four kids (by the show of hands) to come forward and choose a big book. They were extremely excited when their chosen book was read out loud in front of their classmates. Before starting to read, the children choose a sticker to place on their arms or t-shirts, which was great fun.

Tania read two books, followed by Liezl, and whilst reading, they asked the children some fun questions and did a few body stretches to promote a Big Book titled 'How to be healthy'. The session ended by gifting the teachers with our famous year planners and a set of HWG BB English.



KWAZULU-NATAL

Each child felt special

Rainbow's End Creche & Pre-Primary, situated in Queensburgh, is a multi-racial, warm and welcoming school.

Sane, our sales rep in KZN, visited the school before World Read Aloud Day and provided the teachers with Big Books in preparation for this special day.

On World Read Aloud Day, Sane did some post-reading activities with the kids, and each child also received a lollypop as they answered questions about the stories.

The story that the children enjoyed the most was 'I am Special'.



EASTERN CAPE

Joined forces with the DOE

Macmillan Education, in partnership with the Eastern Cape Education Department, joined forces in celebrating World Read Aloud Day at **Nompumelelo Primary School**, located in the heart of Duncan Village, in the East London area.

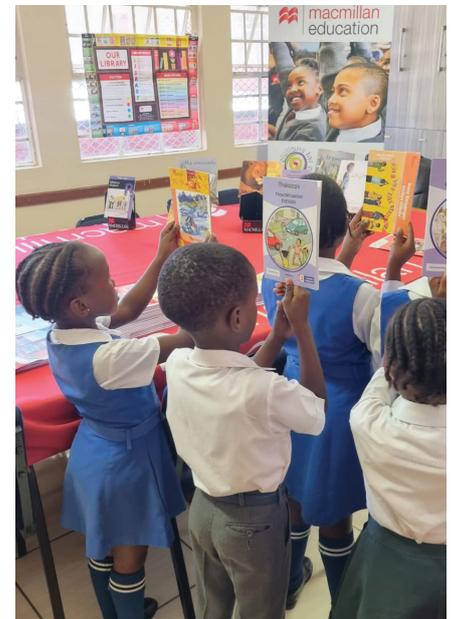
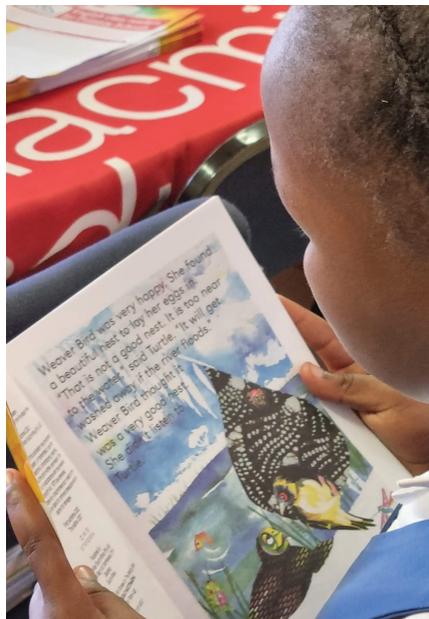
The school's multiple accolades and exceptional ratings from the community that it serves, as well as from the EC Education Department, made it the perfect choice to celebrate this special day.

The school also thrives in participating in community-/corporate-based rewarding activities by taking part in competitions that are curriculum driven.

Grade 3 and Grade 4 classes participated in reading aloud while being adjudicated by the Foundation Phase HOD, the deputy principal, the subject advisor and an MSA representative. Participants picked their own choice of Reader from various MSA Readers on display.

Gifts were given in the form of a Macmillan Reader with a Reading Sticker of the learners' choice. It was a morning filled with fun and excitement, and everybody enjoyed it thoroughly.

The subject advisor expressed her gratitude to Macmillan for joining forces with the Department of Education in its endeavours to better education.



NORTH WEST

Sharing the joy of reading

G.J. Podile Primary School, situated in the Mahikeng area, is one of the pilot projects of the Department of Basic Education's initiative of an 'Enabling Rural School Project' (ERSP), which will be launching a mini-library to improve the quality of learning in rural schools. This project will soon be rolled out by the Farm & Rural School Directorate in the province.

Because of Macmillan's close relationship with the Farm & Rural School Directorate and to enhance our stakeholder relations, the sales manager in this province, Mmaabo Modisane, decided to choose a school that is part of the ERSP project.

Mmaabo visited a Grade R and a Grade 2 classroom where she read stories from our Grade R & Grade 2 Big Books respectively. The learners were asked some questions to check whether they had listened attentively to what was read to them. The learners enjoyed Mmaabo's visit to their classroom.



Reading “Lethabo la Lesedi” in Limpopo

Mapaana Primary School, situated in the Modjadjiskloof Ga-Kgapane Township, nominated for a Global Read-Aloud commemoration on the 1st of February 2023 by the Senior Educational Specialist - Foundation Phase in Mopane East District.

The target class for the commemoration was Grade 3. The focus of the reading was on Sepedi, the home language in Ga-Kgapane village. The Grade 3 Thokozani Big Book “Lethabo La Lesedi” was read.

The book is part of the collection of lively original stories that help develop literacy as well as the love of reading. The Reader has three levels - Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced, that ensure that learners progress in their reading abilities. Learners were given the readers from that pack to read aloud to other learners and the teacher. It was great to see children beaming at the pictures that are found in Thokozani books.

The day’s activities included:

- the importance of learning to read indigenous language
- shared reading
- listening while the other person reads and silently reading along to follow the reading
- reading aloud
- post-reading activities
- quiz question
- re-telling the story and sentence framing
- poetry - learners did a poem about the importance of reading, and looking after the books.



Learners were fully engaged in the reading and post-reading.

Foundation Phase reading pack donation

In celebration of and acknowledging the importance of reading, a pack of Thokozani Readers were given to the school. This included the Big Books and Readers are Leaders for Grades 1 - 3, and posters and birthday charts for each of the three classes in the Foundation Phase.

LDoE partnership

Macmillan Education partnered with Mopani East District- Rakwadi 2 circuit. The Senior Education Specialist joined MSA for the event. She also encouraged children to read, and to read aloud at school and at home. The teachers and principals received the MSA pack that included the year planner and calendar.

