

Community outreach : Phendulani Literature Quiz

Phendulani is a nationally run reading project sponsored by Exclusive Books and co-ordinated by volunteer school librarians in some of the major centres of South Africa. The project came about after the success of the international Kids' Lit Quiz, which tests pupils' reading knowledge of every aspect of children's literature. The schools taking part in the Kids' Lit Quiz have a wealth of reading material available to them at home and in their school libraries. Phendulani brings books to children in schools which do not have libraries of their own.

St George's school librarian, Rosemarie Roth, is the co-ordinator of the quiz in Port Elizabeth. On 19th October 2011, the PE round of the Phendulani quiz was held at Swartkops Primary, with 8 teams of Grade 6 and 7 pupils taking part. The children were well prepared and enjoyed answering questions on themes such as Poetry and South African stories. Swartkops One were the winners, closely followed by Emafeni One in second place, and Empumalanga One in third place. Competition was so tight that second and third places had to be decided in a sudden death playoff.

St George's partnered Empumalanga Primary School and provided transport to the venue on the day of the quiz, as well as refreshments for the adults and participants. Thanks must go to Mr Bolton for driving the bus, Mrs Grainger for catering for the adults, and our Grade 5 mothers for arranging 55 snack packs, each with a bag of popcorn and two muffins, making sure that the contestants were well fed.