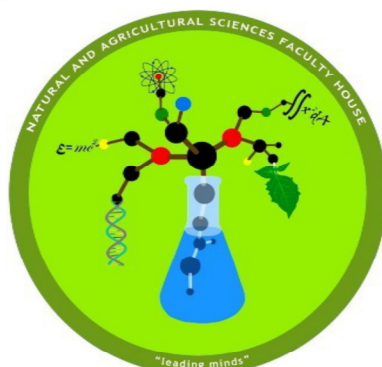




UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



NATHouse - Faculty house of the Natural and Agricultural
Sciences' Faculty

INTERSCHOOL RECYCLING COMPETITION FULL REPORT

Compiled by: Yenziwe Shembe – *NATHouse community
project facilitator*

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page no.</u>
1. Introduction	1
2. Aim of the project	1
3. Vision of the project	1
4. Competition timeline and procedure	2
5. Results	4
6. Prize structuring and prize-giving ceremony	10
7. Challenges faced and lessons learnt	10
8. Future prospects and wishes	11
9. Acknowledgements	12

Introduction

It is an unmistakable fact that the world's population is growing at an increasing rate and it does not seem as if it will stop any time soon if no major disturbances- natural or otherwise- occur. Thus there is the growing concern that the earth's natural resources and raw materials are being rapidly used and their rate of replenishment or recovery is not matching up to the depletion rate. In response to this concern there have been many campaigns and initiatives to encourage the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources. Recycling is just one of multiple ways to answer to the call to "save our planet" and effectively does so when done in large numbers. The phrase "Recycle, reduce and re-use" has been one of the most used phrases to capture the essence of recycling campaigns.

Recycling is one of those good practices that is easy to do and rewarding to the recycler. It is therefore important that it be practised at every level of society- in each home and household and all the way to large private and public institutions, from young people to elderly folk. NATHouse- a student-run structure (faculty house) within the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria – decided to run a recycling competition for primary schools in Mamelodi in order to raise awareness about the importance of recycling in township schools, where most people either do not know how to go about it or just do not pay attention to it because it has never been made to matter to them before.

This document is a report compiled to highlight the events before, during and culminating the rolling out of this competition to the eleven participating schools. It is our hope as NATHouse that the report will give meaningful information about the initiative we undertook and that it will also land in many more hands that will take it, read it and respond to it as sincerely and seriously as we have approached this competition.

Aim of the competition

The aim of the interschool recycling competition is to raise awareness about the state of the environment that township school learners are living and learning in. It is to encourage recycling as a simple but important, fun and rewarding habit to be undertaken by all people at home and at school – everyday. It is our aim to educate the young learners from the participating schools about the value of preserving their natural resources, by recycling and re-using the products made from natural resources.

Vision of the competition

The vision of this project is to establish a culture of caring not only for yourself now but to look into the future and consider the well-being of generations to come - a culture of Ubuntu (caring for those you live with) - at grass roots level, i.e. in young children and teenagers who are still very receptive to many influences. Instilling the principles of conservation and general consideration for others now will allow these children to grow with and in these

values and principles. We also wish to see the project grow and evolve to incorporate many more schools such that recycling is not just a way for a school to make extra money but it becomes a lifestyle and common way of life to all who participate in it.

Competition timeline and procedure

- Week of 21/02/2011: Posting of letters to announce and invite schools to participate in the recycling competition.
- 01/03/2011: Proposed starting date for the competition.
- 02 /03/2011: Meeting with Mr Phillip Leremi (Rirothe Recycling) to discuss collection dates and related details.
- 25/03/2011: Schools close for Easter recess. Found out that schools had not received the posted/faxed letters to invite them to participate in the competition therefore they had not even started collecting.
- 30/03/2011: First scheduled collection date. Cancelled because schools were closed and some had not collected anything.
- 07/04/2011: Delivery of letters of invitation to participate in competition and explaining of competition details to schools.
- 11/04/2011: Schools re-open and competition starts.
- 27/04/2011: Second scheduled collection date. Postponed because it was a public holiday and schools had closed again for that week because of the many holidays that fell within it.
- 23/05/2011: Postponed second collection merged with third scheduled collection (which was to be on the 25th) is done. The recyclers did not make it to all the schools because they got into an accident along the way.
- 26/05/2011: Collection by the recyclers resumed and completed.
- 22/06/2011: Fourth and final scheduled collection done. Completed on the 23rd for schools that were left over from the day before.
- 22/07/2011: Prize-giving ceremony at the Mamelodi Campus of the University of Pretoria.

Procedure

The competition was designed to be a paper and cardboard recycling initiative for schools in and around targeted places in Pretoria. The competition was initially aimed at both primary and secondary level schools. After a lengthy search for a recycling company Rirothe Recycling decided to offer their services without charge to the schools or NATHouse and soon thereafter a meeting was scheduled to discuss the finer details, including collection dates. Letters (and emails) announcing the competition and inviting schools to participate were sent out to many schools in and around Hatfield and Mamelodi. Unfortunately there was no interest from the high schools to participate. Some of them stated that they already had recycling programmes running in the school. Having tried long and hard to get schools on board we ended up with 11 final primary schools from Mamelodi as participants. The schools in alphabetical order are: Balebogeng Primary, Bohlabatsatsi Primary, Bula-Dikgoro Primary, Lompec School, Meetsi A Bophelo Primary, Moretele Primary, Ramahlale Primary, Rethakgetse Primary, Tshimollo Primary, Zakhele Primary and Zamintuthuko Primary School.

Although the timeline has given much of the framework of how certain things were planned out it is also important to mention that there were finer details to be taken care of. These finer details included calling and reminding the schools of collection dates, compiling the results from the collections and uploading them onto the NATHouse website, organising a venue, food and catering and a guest speaker/s for the prize-giving ceremony, getting sponsorship for the prizes and other services pertaining to the whole competition and final ceremony and making and printing (and distributing) the invitations to the ceremony. Certificates and the cheque templates had to be made and printed as well. All this had to be done between the major dates stipulated on the timeline. One should also consider the unexpected turn of events or, put more positively, surprises that suddenly arose ever so often. These however were merely areas that had been over-looked and not considered but posed major threats.

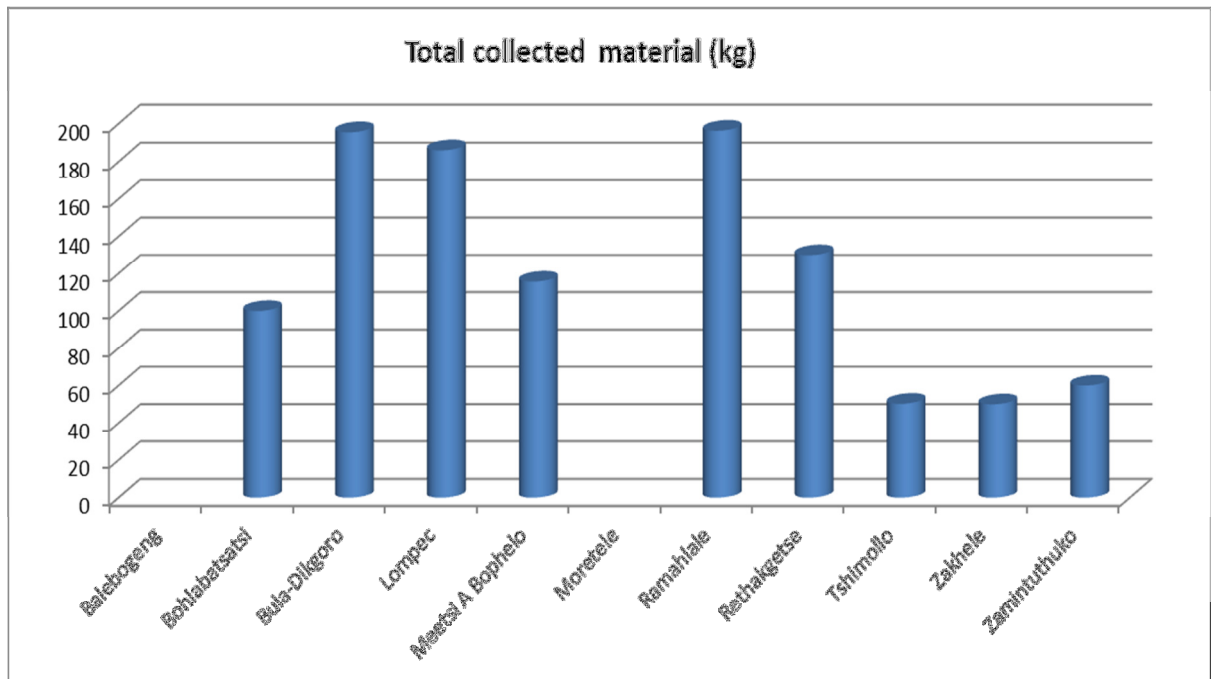
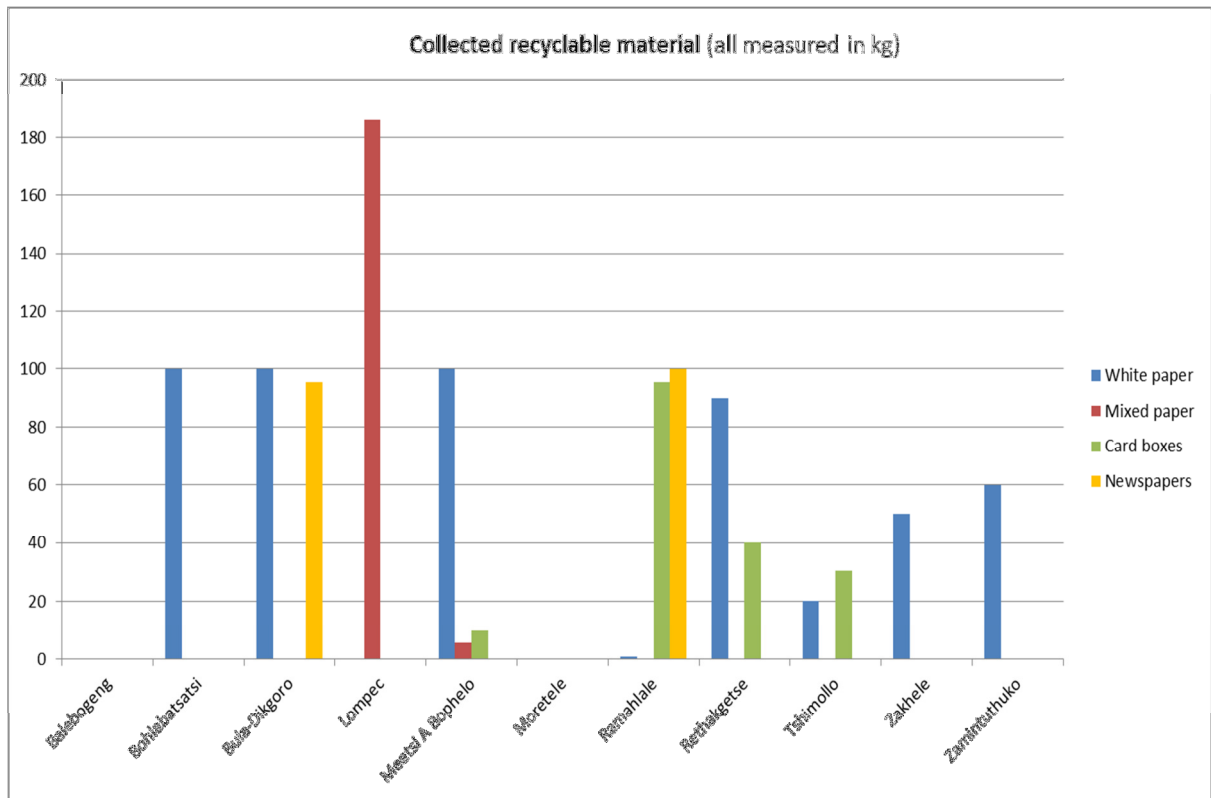
One cannot stress enough the importance of keeping scheduled dates and deadlines as this largely determines the amount of control and success one will have in executing the tasks at hand and those that arise unexpectedly.

Results

Following the collection on the 23rd and 26th May, the results were as follows:

School's name	White Paper	Mixed Paper	Card boxes	Newspapers	Total	Position of school on the log
Balebogeng Prim.						10
Bohlabastasti Prim.	100kg				100	6
Bula-Dikgoro Prim.	100 Kg			95.5kg	195.5	2
Lompec School		186			186	3
Meetsi A Bophelo Prim.	100 Kg	5.7kg	10kg		115.7	5
Moretele Prim.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		10
Ramahlale Primary School	0.8kg		95.5 kg	100kg	196.3	1
Rethakgetse Prim.	90kg		40kg		130	4
Tshimollo prim.	20kg		30.3kg		50.3	8
Zakhele Prim.	50Kg				50	9
Zamintuthuko Prim.	60kg				60	7

Graphed results of first collection- 23 & 26 May 2011



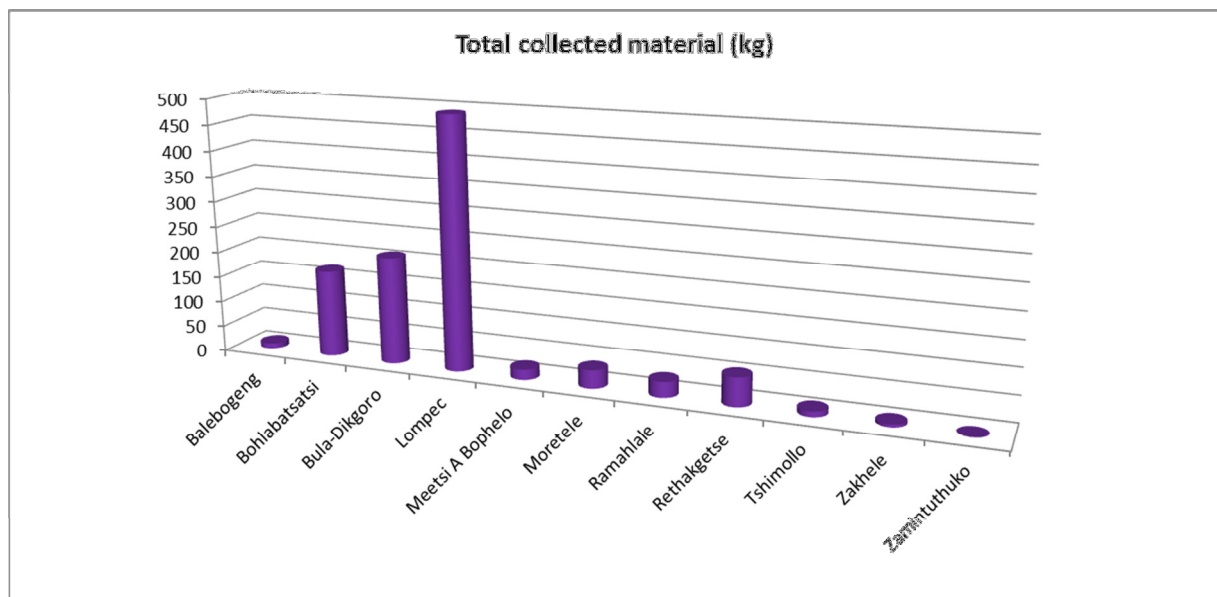
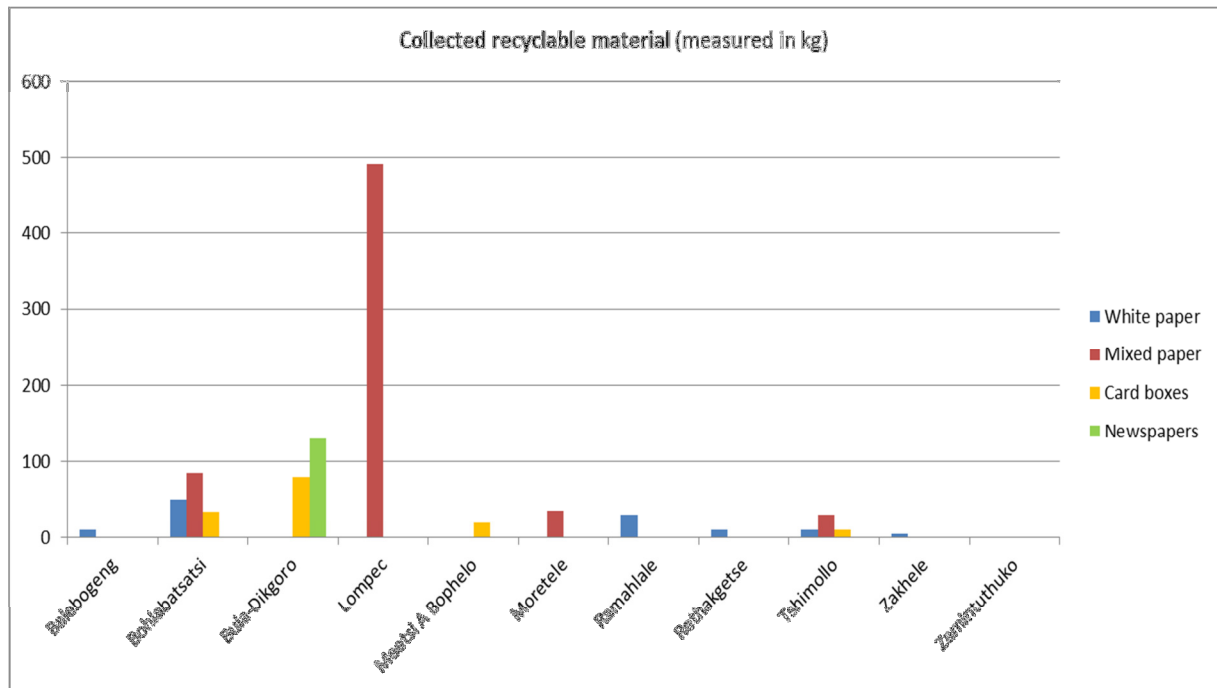
School positions according to the category they fall in

Category (no. of pupils)		1000 and above	500 to 999	499 and less
Position	1.	Ramahlale Primary	Rethakgetse Primary	Lompec School
	2.	Bula-Dikgoro Primary	Balebogeng Primary	Bohlabatsatsi Primary
	3.	Meetsi A Bophelo Primary		Zamintuthuko Primary
	4.			Tshimollo Primary
	5.			Zakhele Primary
	6.			Moretele Primary

Following the collections of the 22nd and 23rd June the results looked like this:

School's name	White Paper	Mixed Paper	Card boxes	Newspapers	Total	Position
Balebogeng Prim.	10kg	-	-	-	10kg	10
Bohlabatsatsi Prim.	50kg	85kg	35kg	-	170kg	3
Bula-Dikgoro Prim.	-	-	80kg	130kg	210kg	2
Lompec School	-	677,2kg	-	-	491,2kg	1
Meetsi A Bophelo Prim.	-	-	20kg	-	20kg	8
Moretele Prim.	-	35.5kg	-	-	35.5kg	6
Ramahlale Prim.	30kg	-	-	-	30kg	7
Rethakgetse Prim.	10,5kg	-	-	-	10.5kg	9
Tshimollo prim.	10,5kg	30kg	10kg	-	50.5kg	5
Zakhele Prim.	5,3kg	-	-	-	5.3kg	11
Zamintuthuko Prim.	Mondi	Is	collecting	here		12

Graphed results of the second collection- 22 & 23 June 2011



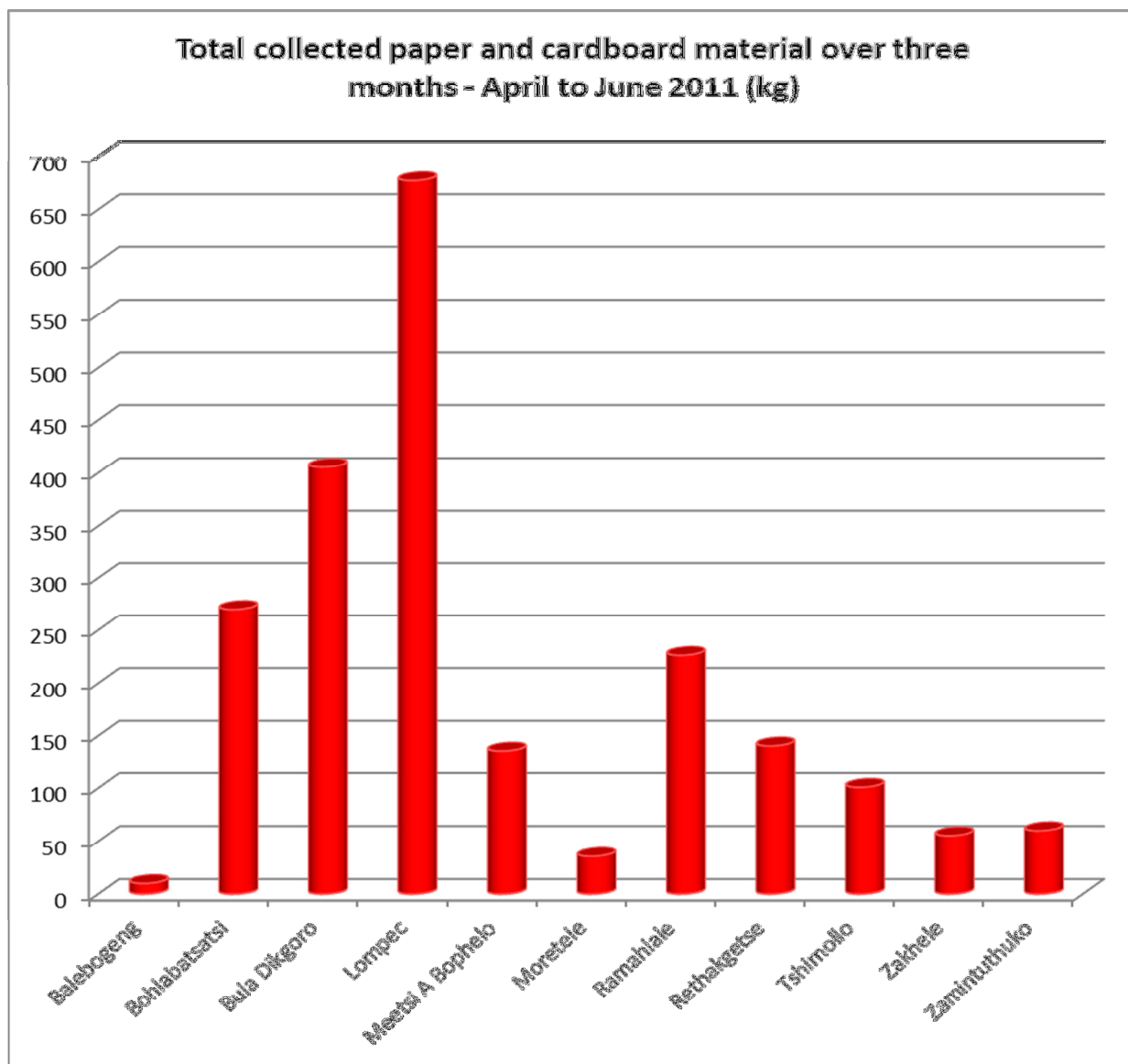
School positions according to the category they fall in

Category (no. of pupils)		1000 and above	500 to 999	499 and less
Position	1.	Bula- Dikgoro Primary	Rethakgetse Primary	Lompec School
	2.	Ramahlale Primary	Balebogeng Primary	Bohlabatsatsi Primary
	3.	Meetsi A Bophelo Primary		Tshimollo Primary
	4.			Moretele Primary
	5.			Zakhele Primary
	6.			Zamintuthuko Primary

The final results were obtained by adding the first and second round collection totals for each school. The results came out thus:

OVERALL CUMULATIVE RESULTS OF THE NATHOUSE RECYCLING COMPETITION

School	1 st round total collection (kg)	2 nd round total collection (kg)	Overall cumulative total (kg)
Balebogeng Primary	-	10	10
Bohlabatsatsi Primary	100	170	270
Bula-Dikgoro Primary	195.5	210	405.5
Lompec School	186	491.2	677.2
Meetsi A Bophelo Primary	115.7	20	135.7
Moretele Primary	-	35.5	35.5
Ramahlale Primary	196.3	30	226.3
Rethakgetse Primary	130	10.5	140.5
Tshimollo Primary	50.3	50.5	100.8
Zakhele Primary	50	5.3	55.3
Zamintuthuko Primary	60	-	60



Final positions

Position	1000 and above	Between 999 and 500	499 and less
1.	Bula Dikgoro	Rethakgetse	Lompec
2.	Ramahlale	Balebogeng	Bohlabsatsi
3.	Meetsi A Bophelo		Tshimollo
4.			Zamintuthuko
5.			Zakhele
6.			Moretele

OVERALL WINNER:

Lompec School

Prize-structuring and prize-giving ceremony

Initially it was planned that there would be one winning school and the winner takes all-R5000.00. However when the schools were approached on the 7th April (when delivering the letters) there was a concern raised by some school staff members that a school with more learners than another would have an unfair advantage over the school with fewer pupils. Out of this concern came the idea to place schools in categories according to the number of pupils in each school. The resulting categories are those seen on the results tables giving the schools' positions. Following this restructuring of participating schools the prize money had to be restructured as well to accommodate the winners in each category. From there it was decided that the winning schools in each category would receive R3000.00 each and the runner-up schools for each category would receive R1500.00. The overall winning school was to get an additional R1000.00.

The prize-giving ceremony was held on the 22nd July 2011 at the Mamelodi Campus of the University of Pretoria. Most of the schools were able to attend the ceremony with staff members and pupils (ideally two of each) representing the schools. [Please find attached a copy of the invitation to the ceremony and a programme for the day's proceedings]. Some of the highly-esteemed guests that were able to make an appearance were:

- Mrs Prudence Oliphant from the Tshwane South District office of the Gauteng Department of Education
- Mr Elijah Masondo, Public Affairs Officer from Sappi
- Mrs Mia Badenhorst, Head of organised student life in the Department of student Affairs at the University of Pretoria.

It was a successful and joyous event with many of the staff and pupils walking out with big smiles on their faces and goodies in their hands. Much learning also took place as the guest speaker, Mr Elijah Masondo from Sappi, gave a highly informative presentation about the state of our natural environment and the importance of natural resource preservation initiatives such as recycling.

[See attached photos from the event].

Finally, the runner up and winner schools emerged as follows:

The runner-up schools in each category which received a certificate and a prize of R1500 each to acknowledge their efforts made in this competition.

- In the category for schools with 1000 pupils and above:
 - Ramahlale Prim. School
- In the category for schools that have between 999 and 500 pupils
 - Balebogeng Prim. School
- In the category for schools with 499 pupils and less
 - Bohlabatsatsi Prim. School

The winning schools in each category. Each school received a certificate and R3000 each and the overall winner got an additional R1000.

- In the category for schools with 1000 pupils and above:
 - Bula-Dikgoro Prim. School
- In the category for schools that have between 999 and 500 pupils
 - Rethakgetse Prim. School
- In the category for schools with 499 pupils and less. This school is also overall winner of the competition with 677.2kg total collected recyclable material and approximately 350 pupils.
 - Lompec School

Challenges faced and lessons learnt

The major challenges faced and the insights NATHouse gained from them in organising the whole project were:

1. Miscommunication or lack of efficient communication between NATHouse and the schools.

Most schools did not have an email address, which is the fastest way to communicate in writing, or they had problematic fax numbers and postal addresses. Thus, whenever NATHouse had to communicate something in writing the letters had to be delivered physically. Not only was this extremely time-consuming, especially being students, but it also had unanticipated financial implications for NATHouse. Having at least one staff member's cellular phone number helped to make communication easier to a certain extent.

2. Inappropriately scheduled collection days.

This was largely due to negligent and haphazard planning and the lesson was definitely taken to note that one should always check, double-check and check again long in advance.

3. Lack of knowledge about certain procedures, protocol and legalities to be observed when undertaking an initiative of this nature.

The greatest example of this was when it was discovered that NATHouse should have first approached the district office of the Gauteng Education Department before even communicating with the schools at all. The over-looking of this process posed a major threat to the success of the prize-giving ceremony because the learners and staff were not allowed to have any other thing to do during contact time (school teaching and learning hours). The ceremony, bear in mind was scheduled to run from 11:00 to 13:00 on the 22nd. NATHouse only discovered this rule just a bit less than a week before the 22nd July event. However, being driven and determined to make a success of the whole initiative right through to the end, NATHouse stepped up to the matter with the utmost urgency and perseverance (because we were constantly being referred from one person to the next within the Department), requested permission and was finally given consent to go ahead on Thursday, 21 July, afternoon. After this drama NATHouse is sure to have learnt its lesson and will ensure to take the utmost precautions when working with any other organisations, companies and institutions etc. in future.

4. Poor budgeting

Many financial needs were either under-estimated or not considered when drawing up the budget for this project. Thus NATHouse learnt that one must consider everything that may need to be provided for- big and small (or seemingly unnecessary) details and items as well as good and bad situations.

Future prospects and wishes

It is our sincere wish as NATHouse to see the vision of the initiative fulfilled. This can be achieved by continuing to roll out the competition and making it an annual event.

Furthermore we wish to see it expand in terms of the materials being recycled, e.g. Tins/cans, glass being included, the number of schools participating and the geographical distribution of the participating schools, i.e. Involving township schools from different townships around Pretoria and even Gauteng province. It is inevitable that the expansion of the competition would require more governmental and corporate support in terms of stronger and longer-lasting partnerships, financial support and ease of communication with stake-holders. We hope that all those concerned and involved will not see this initiative and recycling as a whole as just money being thrown around but rather as an educational initiative that is practically applicable in the world that we live in and enhances the knowledge gained from the closed-classroom learning environment.


By having this competition annually we believe that the vision of the project will gradually be realised as the children grow up with it and take the valuable lesson of recycling into their teenage (high school) and adult lives and hopefully influence those who are not recycling to do so- be it at home, at school or at work. Ultimately through this initiative we can cultivate a generation of socially, economically and environmentally conscious and caring citizens and leaders.

Acknowledgements

As NATHouse our most sincere and humble thanks go out to:



for their generous donation of R10 000.00 for the winning schools' prizes.

 The Gauteng Department of Education- Tshwane South District authorities for allowing us to host the event.



for offering their recycling services and facilitating the collections of material.



and **Good For You HATFIELD**

for the drinks and platters sponsored for lunch on the 22nd July.

- ✚ Mia Badenhorst for the Tuks branded squeeze bottles and key-rings given as freebies to the school staff members and pupils in attendance.

Without all the sponsors and service providers the whole competition and prize-giving event would not have been a great success. For your assistance, generosity and co-operation NATHouse is eternally grateful.