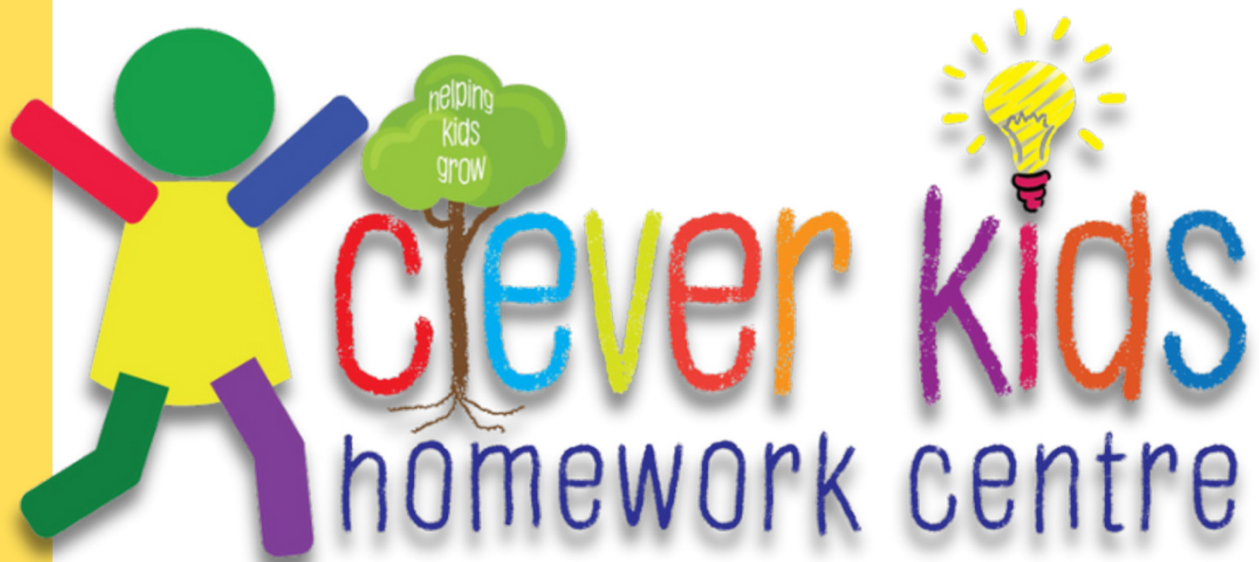




Annual Report

April 2023 - March 2024





Table of Contents

01 Chairperson Report

02 About Clever Kids
Homework Centre

04 All Things New

07 Grade 1 - 7

08 Grade 8 - 12

09 Events

10 Testimonial

11 Thank You!

Chairperson Report

Karin Drescher

Dear friends,

We want to express our deepest gratitude to all the donors who contributed to Clever Kids Homework Centre. Your support has been crucial in our ability to fulfill our mission of providing educational assistance. Whether through financial contributions, in-kind donations, or volunteering, each contribution has made a meaningful difference in the lives of our children.

Your generosity has enabled us to expand our programs, enhance our facilities, and provide essential resources to our students. From funding academic support services to renovating our buildings, every donation has played a vital role in creating a more conducive learning environment and empower our students to succeed academically and personally.

Thank you to our dedicated team of staffs, tutors and volunteers which poured their hearts into tutoring sessions, homework assignments, and encouraging words, helping our students not only to thrive academically but also believe in themselves and their potential.

Our commitment to supporting our children extends beyond learning assistance. We have been able to provide comprehensive support in various aspects of their lives. This includes help with school uniforms, school supplies, food security, access to essential resources, and guidance on personal and family matters. By addressing the diverse needs of our families, we aim to create a supportive environment where our students can thrive emotionally.

In closing, we acknowledge the many blessings that God has bestowed upon us. We recognize God's hand at work in the lives of all who contribute to our mission. Each blessing is a reminder of His faithfulness and grace, inspiring us to continue our work with renewed passion and purpose.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in us, and for being a part of our family.

With heartfelt gratitude and warm regards,
Karin Drescher



About Clever Kids Homework Centre

Our Mission

To empower children to break the cycle of poverty by providing after-school access to quality education. We accomplish this by offering individualized homework assistance, tutoring, and educational resources. The cornerstone of our work is a nurturing family atmosphere where learners are encouraged to overcome academic challenges, cultivate a passion for learning and build self-confidence.

Our History

Due to the many challenges that come with poverty, parents in the township of Masiphumelele, South Africa, have little to no time or resources to help their children with their education. The schools in the township are underfunded and overcrowded, which leads to poor educational outcomes. Many of these vulnerable children lack parental involvement, basic needs and health care. Unfavorable educational outcomes in the township often leads to a lifetime of poverty.

Karin Drescher saw a need for educational and family support while working with children and their families in the poorest parts of Masiphumelele. As a response to this need, she founded Clever Kids Homework Centre, a nonprofit and public benefit organization located in Masiphumelele. At the centre the main focus is underprivileged primary and high school students who need extra help with homework and a safe place to go in the afternoons.

Clever Kids Homework Centre was established in 2015 with a handful of volunteers and only 7 children. It has grown to now employ 8 local staff members, professionally trained tutors and South African volunteers and serves over 65 children between the ages of 6 to 21, who regularly attend.



Source: Google Earth, 2024 (Image: Maxar Technologies, Airbus)

What we do

Clever Kids Homework Centre offers children access to better education and the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

- We provide a safe place to study while creating a positive family atmosphere.
- We offer individualized homework help and learning support in a loving environment.
- We offer tutoring, by qualified staff, in all relevant subjects and teach based on the textbooks used in school.
- We provide a hot nutritious lunch daily, computer access for research projects, online learning programs, and computer literacy programs.
- We offer financial help with the purchase of school uniforms, school supplies, hygiene products and provide health care.
- We celebrate each child's birthday, go on various outings, enjoy playtime and explore their creativity with crafts.
- We also offer family support by providing food parcels, aid after house fires or other disasters, and other support evaluated on an individual basis.

Additional
classroom



Main House



Second House

All Things New

Additional classroom



At the rear of our new house there are four more one-bedroom flats, one of which we have been renting since August. Much to the delight of our eight seventh-graders, who finally have their own classroom.

Modifications to the house



Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the renovation and optimisation of the kitchen as well as the purchase of new kitchen equipment. It was urgently needed as the old kitchen did not meet the health regulations or the technical requirements for the preparation of such a huge amount of meals. Now the large pots also fit in the sink and cooking and cleaning has become much easier. The children are happy about the varied and delicious meals!



Before construction



After construction

Our large room in the main house was previously quite dark, especially in the winter, and we had to rely on artificial light - the frequent power cuts, which often lasted for hours, intensified the problem. We were able to have two more windows installed during the Easter holidays and now have enough natural light and much better ventilation in the hot summer. For security reasons, we also installed burgler bars to protect the house.



We were blessed by a company that paved the area around the house for us free of charge, repaired our outside wall, which had cracks, and also carried out other repair and maintenance work on the house. Afterwards our wall was repainted and decorated with colourful paintings by an artist friend.

New acquisitions



A new study shows that 81% of Grade 4 pupils in South Africa cannot read in any language. Books are expensive and a luxury item. Yet reading is very important for learning, language acquisition, creativity and development in general. From Year 1 onwards, we emphasise learning to read in IsiXhosa and English. We were very happy about several donations of books in both languages.



January, the first month of the South African school year, is always associated with a lot of work and excitement. We have purchased new school materials for the children, bound at least 450 school books and workbooks and bought new school uniforms.



We are also incredibly grateful for the donation of three brand new laptops and five used computers. The children often need these for research assignments and also for independent learning with IXL. This is a programme that is adapted to the South African curriculum in the subjects of English and Maths and provides tasks on all topics for each year group. In addition, computer literacy is an essential skill in today's world of work. Also, we are overjoyed that we have been donated an generator (inverter) so that the children can continue to work on the computers during loadshedding. It makes such a difference!

Grade 1 to 7



Our first- (now second-) graders are such a bright group! It's fun to see how eager and cheerful they are to do their schoolwork and practise Maths, English and IsiXhosa. We are always amazed at the great progress they make and celebrate the very good grades in their school reports together with them.



Grade 7 - Rita Low from South Africa

It is such a privilege to be part of the development of young minds and to help them grow academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. It is wonderful to follow their journeys in school, home and at Clever Kids. We have 8 lively youngsters in the grade 7 group.

As we spend more time together, I can see that they become more confident in speaking English. They also share more about things that happen at school and more personal things. It is wonderful to hear how the children see and experience life every day. It is a joy to assist them with homework and an even bigger joy to teach them new and different methods to do things. They especially enjoyed the lesson on how to remember facts by making simple pictures. The learners are now at the stage where they must decide on which High School to attend next year.

When I look at these children with their different personalities and abilities, I am reminded that God has a unique plan for each and everyone of us and I am just grateful that I can play a part in it.

Grade 8 to 12



If you think back to the beginnings of Clever Kids, it was not initially planned to also cater for high school students. However, especially in the progressing classes, a quality education that helps our children and young people achieve their ambitious goals cannot be underestimated. Over the years, the number of children reaching high school has grown and now stands at 23 students. Trained local teachers and former graduates who were themselves at Clever Kids are at their side. The 12th graders meet independently in the house almost every day of the week and study intensively together. We are proud of our older pupils and are amazed when we are able to observe the development of the young people over so many years.



Events

Beach outing



Our beach outing has become a tradition and is the highlight of the year for many of the children. Although Masiphumelele is only a few kilometres away from beautiful sandy beaches where many tourists go on holiday, the children usually never get to see them as they don't get out of the township. At our beach outing this year, we not only enjoyed the water and the sun, but the children also each got an ice cream and we ordered a special meal for everyone. The children were still excited about this special day weeks after the outing.

Christmas Party

This year at Christmas, we received a generous donation and were able to hand out loads of presents and nice youth bibles to the children. We had a wonderful celebration with worship, games, a festive meal and community.



Testimonial

My year with Clever Kids - Andrea Scheepers from South Africa

I was lucky to work with Clever Kids for just under a year and during that time my heart grew bigger and bigger for the kids, staff and program. The first time I went to Clever Kids I was so incredibly impressed by how well the staff and kids knew each other, how well the systems that were put in place were running and how easy it was to find a spot for myself there. Everyone was so welcoming and truly made me feel part of the family.

I worked with the grade 5 class and only had 4 students. I loved having a small class and really getting to know each individual and their strengths and weaknesses at school but also in life.



We spent a lot of time reading stories, playing word games and testing our math skills. It was really important to me that outside of the traditional classroom, they can learn by having fun. This is the beauty of Clever Kids, there was always room, resources and new ideas for the kids to learn through fun activities.

Spending time with my grade 5s everyday was such a highlight in my year and I learned so much from them. They taught me patience, kindness and how to always laugh when things get a little too serious. I am extremely lucky that my path crossed with Clever Kids, but most importantly that I was able to spend time with kids truly eager to learn and grow and become the best versions of themselves.

Thank You!



We would like to thank all our donors, our partners, our volunteers, our tutors, our supporters, our staff, our students and our community for supporting us all these years!

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