Dear Lalela Project Friends,

As the newly appointed COO at Lalela it gives me great pride, as we share the 7th edition of our student newsletter, Impact, written by Lalela Project journalists. We started the year with immense excitement, as we celebrated the fantastic pass rates of our Lalela learners in their 2014 Grade 12 exams. We are proud to announce that 12 Lalela students are now studying at universities and other tertiary institutions reading for degrees in Law, Nursing, Electrical Engineering, Radiography and Environmental Science.

We look forward to beginning the year with three new partners: Afrika Tikkun, Maboneng Precinct, and Tomorrow Trust. In March, we launched our programme at the Afrika Tikkun Art Centre in Mfuleni, Western Cape. With Afrika Tikkun, Lalela now provides arts education to Grade 1 through 4 students from schools throughout Mfuleni. Through our partnerships with Tomorrow Trust and Maboneng Precinct, we will expand our programs into Johannesburg and next month, we will launch the new Lalela Art Centre in the Maboneng Precinct in downtown Johannesburg.

Thank you to the active Lalela Boards and to Lalela friends for your continued support!

Gavin Joachims

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BY ELIE MABUNDA, GRADE 12

My name is Elie Mabunda and I was one of the 10 Lalela students who painted the Breakwater Steps, in a design by Lalela facilitators Hasan and Husain Essop. It was a great experience doing something that you love, not only for yourself but also for your city. It was fun even if it was hard; we managed to do it because we worked together. This is the picture of unity where different people unite and work on something that describes other cultures. This artwork (the Kwa Ndebele design that incorporates the colours of the rainbow) brought many cultures together.

In an ongoing relationship, the V&A Waterfront and Lalela have teamed up once again. Under the leadership of of Hasan and Husain Essop, the staircase leading up to Somerset Hospital has been transformed by Lalela students as part of the V&A’s focus on “place making”, which sees the spaces between buildings as just as important as the buildings themselves and aims to make the entire property a place for everyone to enjoy.

- V&A WATERFRONT.
He was a delight to be a part of the January holiday program with Jazz Art as our theme. We did artwork for the Cape Town International Jazz Festival. On the first day we were introduced to photography. With our cameras we went into the townships to take photos of random things that make sounds related to jazz music. It could be water flowing down the drain, or workmen breaking stones. Here we learned about angles and perspectives, which we had to remember for the entire workshop.

On day 2 we took photos of ourselves playing instruments that were brought in as props. Our facilitator Husain then converted the photos to black and white so we could make transfers, which we did the next day. Once the transfer was plotted onto paper we took water colour paint and finalised our art. It is a beautiful technique and I think we created top-notch art for the festival. I look forward to seeing it exhibited.

Lalela After School Program in Partnership with Amy Biehl

How do Lalela students feel about school? This photo, with our Lalela team and Langa artists, sums it up perfectly:

Arts education has been proven to increase student motivation and engagement, growing the diligence and confidence of students so they feel able to excel not just in the arts, but in any subject. This has led to increased school attendance. Lalela YEAH!

Sovereign Cheque Handover

Lalela was proud to receive a cheque for R15 000 from Sovereign Trust raised at the recent Quiz Evening held for Lalela. This donation will give six at-risk children the opportunity to take part in Lalela’s programs. Lalela looks forward to growing this collaboration with Sovereign in the future.

The Art of Jazz

BY MELIKHAYA MDUBEKI, GRADE 12

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Ryan Seacrest Comes To Town

BY SIMPHIWE BENDLE, GRADE 11

Meeting Ryan Seacrest was a real pleasure for me. Ryan is such a great guy and so friendly. Having him visit my community of Imizamo Yethu, as well as my home is a good thing. There is much gansterism in my community. But I think that for those who join gangs, when they see that I have an opportunity to walk the streets with a celebrity, to show them my home, it might inspire them in some way, that there is more to the world. There is this mentality that we are “stuck” here and that we don’t interact with other people outside this community enough. But with him coming to visit, I feel it has opened a door to a global mentality, an awareness of the world out there and other cultures.

Guggenheim Visit

BY ANTHONY LEGGETT, GRADE 11

On the 26th of February 2015, Lalela students were introduced to the Guggenheim Museum Board at Silikamva High Hall. The event started with our Lalela choir performing, followed by Husain Essop and Gavin Joachims, who spoke about the impact of Lalela programs. I had the special opportunity to interview Ms. Barbera Toll and Mr. David Stockman, to illustrate their life story in personalised heart maps. I also told them about my art and the importance it has on my life. The desire to create beauty through art, using my imagination makes me happy and allows me to express my feelings, my thoughts or even my goals for the future. The positive words of encouragement to keep creating from our guests made a great impact on me and allowed me to believe in myself, and to be proud of my art. To always inspire others with creativity.

Cape Town Art Fair

BY MARK OPPELT, STAFF

In February, the V&A Waterfront hosted the Cape Town Art Fair. Lalela was the only NGO at the fair and I was, for the second time, in charge of looking after the stall. I used to be a Lalela student, and in 2014 I joined as a staff member. I want to be a professional artist one day and the opportunities presented make me feel incredibly fortunate. I get to learn so much more about the art world. I had the opportunity to meet and interact with South African artists, like Sue Williamson, whose art was on display, as well as seeing all the different media and skills. My shift of manning our stall involved selling Lalela art and products and telling visitors about our project, which also helped me with my confidence when interacting with people. I am passionate about Lalela so I felt proud to tell people who we are and what we stand for.
The Stellenberg Lalela Open Garden Day

ATHENKOSI NGALO, GRADE 11

The Stellenberg Open Garden Day is a much anticipated bi-annual event in Cape Town, and once again Andrew and Sandy Ovenstone opened the gates of their home to allow visitors the opportunity to explore their internationally acclaimed four-acre garden. We were very appreciative that the February 2015 Open Day was in aid of Lalela Project, which saw many visitors to the magnificent gardens. As Lalela students we were in charge of serving tea and cake to visitors, as well as selling Lalela merchandise. Some of our artwork was also on display so that the guests could see the high level of art that we as students produce. We were delighted to have been granted this privilege and honour, the ongoing support shown by Andrew and Sandy Ovenstone towards Lalela is much valued and appreciated.

Being in matric stirred many realisations: it was “make it or break” time. Passing matric has brought me on a journey to adulthood. After my holiday job at the One and Only Hotel ended I was anxious to do something with my life. I couldn’t afford to sit at home and do nothing. I was given an opportunity to be an intern at Lalela. The skills Lalela has taught me in the past months have enhanced my chances of being accepted to study psychology. Working as a co-facilitator helps broaden my verbal and non-verbal communication skills and I am very keen to learn so much more. Everyone in the office is an energizer. They are reliable and always willing to assist whenever you need help.

SIMAMKELE BENANI, LALELA INTERN

Human Rights Day

KEYSHA OPPERMAN, GRADE 9

My name is Keysha Opperman and I live in Imizamo Yethu. I come from a poor background, but I know that I am lucky because I am free. People like Nelson Mandela and many others fought for our freedom and our rights. We all have a voice and a (human) right to be heard. I am proud to have been part of the mural painting for Human Right Day. On containers in the Hangberg community of Hout Bay, we painted: “Ek se, respek Hout Bay,” which translates to “I say, respect Hout Bay.” For me this means not only having respect for where we live but most importantly for all the people who live here. To not judge someone by the colour of their skin, their beliefs or where they live. To know that we are all equal.

Above & below: Human Rights Day mural by Lalela students and staff in the Hangberg Community of Hout Bay.

Three of our top matriculants: Mzuyeza Vanda, Gladstone Matshaya and Aphendule Sixishe.

Left: Tea time in Stellenberg Gardens.

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