



### Prince Themba Mavundla joins the Mae J team



Thanks to Prince joining our team, we are now able to open our doors every day from Monday to Friday (1.30-5 p.m.).

Prince is a passionate supporter of school libraries. When not working at Mae Jemison, he helps run the library at Meetse A Bophelo Primary School, as well as working for the Mamelodi Trust.

### Mae Jemison & Sabinet Online in Math Tuition Partnership

In a public-private partnership between the Mae Jemison U.S. Science Reading Room and Sabinet Online, 30 primary school students from Mogale Primary School in Mamelodi will receive mathematics tuition each week.

Classes will be held at Mae Jemison on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, starting March 9.

The students were introduced to the Reading Room and the "SabiMaths" program at a special function on March 4, attended by Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs for the U.S. Mission Mary Deane Conners, Tshwane Libraries' Deputy Librarian Paulina Ndobe, and Shamila Duncan, Sabinet Online's Marketing Communication Manager.



Math teacher Mr. Chiloane addresses Mogale Primary pupils in the Mae J. auditorium. Looking on are Ms. Conners, Ms. Duncan, & Ms. Ndobe.

Ms. Conners emphasized the U.S. commitment to enhancing the educational experience of South African students, particularly in the math and science fields.

She also thanked the University of Pretoria, which hosts the Mae Jemison Reading Room. "This partnership is a model for how private organizations and public entities can work together to ensure South Africa's young people are prepared for the 21st century."

Ms. Ndobe identified grade 6 students from Mogale Primary School as the ideal candidates for this program. She also selected an experienced math teacher, Mr. Ratiloane Obed Chiloane, to lead the students.

Mr. Chiloane introduced himself to the group, saying, "I've learned over the years that math doesn't have to be difficult. I can teach you math if you let me, and you can pass matric with distinction. I'm here to help you achieve your goal."



### Sci-enza Interns Teach "Science in a Bottle"

That's right -- you don't need a laboratory to conduct experiments!

On February 24, interns from University of Pretoria's Sci-enza taught 80 Mae Jemison members simple rules of physics using recycled 2-liter coke bottles. In the photo, above, one of our students helps out an intern with an experiment.

## English Teaching Assistants Show How to Conduct Research



American English Teaching Assistants, Liz Coyne (*photo, above, standing*) and Natalie Ross (*seated*), guided 30 Mae Jemison members in a hunt for information about famous African American Scientists on February 26.

The pupils were divided into mini research teams. Each group had to use three internet sources and three reference books to answer key questions about one of the famous inventors and then prepare a presentation on their inventor.

One student, who researched George Washington Carver, said, "I learned that we must make an effort whether people criticize or not ... we must hold on to our effort and love what we are doing."

## Pupils Visit *Sacred Legacies* Exhibit



On Feb. 3, 2010, 30 high school students gathered at Mae Jemison to board a bus for the Pretoria Art Museum.

The teenagers were part of a three week course called "Photographing Your Environment," designed to coincide with the Edward S. Curtis *Sacred*

*Legacies* exhibit.

At the museum, the students learned about similarities between native cultures in North America and in South Africa.

At the end of the trip, each student received a single-use camera and the assignment to document their personal environment and culture with portraits, landscapes, and still life scenes.

## March Events

(All programs start at 3 p.m.)

### March 3

Film: *Planet Earth: Mountains*

### March 4

Launch of SabiMaths Program

### March 5

Photography Workshop, Week 3

For Photographing Your Environment students only; final workshop in the series. Your pictures will be distributed!

### March 8

Education students from UP provide one-on-one homework help

Students begin their 20 hour requirement for community projects by assisting students with homework (each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, ongoing)

### March 10

Film: *Planet Earth: Deep Oceans*

Celebrate World Water Week with us!

### March 11

Life Sciences Revision with Guest Teacher Mr. Moroaswi

Come do some extra test preparation with an expert teacher from Ribane-Laka Secondary School

### March 17

Lecture: Practical Applications of Advanced Math

Fulbright Scholar Eric Allendar from Rutgers University

### March 24

Sci-enza presents ... Working With Water

### March 26

Women's History Month research project

Liz and Natalie guide us through research on famous women in history

### March 31

Sci-enza presents ... Experiments on Environmentalism

## February Statistics

1359 visitors; 191 books checked out.