



Science Café Series Begins

Talking about science can be fun!

On June 30, forty-eight Mae J members chatted about **climate change** with Maesela Kekana, a policy analyst on International Climate Change from the SA Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.



Maesela Kekana kicks off the Science Café series

Mr. Kekana encouraged the students to share ideas around prevention, to ask difficult questions about the role that governments should serve in this international issue, and to make changes in their personal lives.

On July 9, fifty Mae J members discussed the **science of music** with Rudi Horak, director of University of Pretoria's Sci-enza.

Ms. Horak gave an overview of sound waves, explaining that they vibrate in the inner ear and change to nerve signals we can sense.

The Science Café series is a joint initiative of Sci-enza and University of Witwatersrand's Marang Centre for Mathematics and Science Education.

Celebrating Mandela Day

On July 19, U.S. Mission volunteers helped twenty students with their homework.

The students signed up in advance to work on homework tasks, including projects on careers, cell biology, alcohol abuse, fossil fuels, and water purification.



A U.S. Mission volunteer helps students research careers

Grade 11 student Pieter Sathekge said, "These people really helped us to understand our work. This was one of the best days ever!"

July/August Events

All programs begin at 3 pm and are free

Wednesday July 7

DVD Screening: *Goal! Soccer for a Better Future*

Friday July 9

UP/Wits Science Café: The Science of Music

Friday July 16

Essay competition: "What is the best way to celebrate Nelson Mandela's Birthday?"

Friday July 23

Girls' Club with Natalie

Wednesday July 28

DVD Screening: *A Crude Awakening*, followed by question/answer session with John Griffiths, Environmental Officer at the US Embassy

Wednesday August 4

Hands-on Demonstration: The Shocking Truth about Electricity

Wednesday August 11

Women's Health Discussion

Friday August 13

Guest speaker, US Navy Admiral Wendi Carpenter

Wednesday August 18

Hands-On Geometry Lesson on Angles

Wednesday August 25

Sci-enza Presents ... Everything You Need to Know about Natural Disasters

June Statistics:

114 books checked out.

590 visitors.

Madiba Essay Competition

To celebrate Nelson Mandela Day, 22 students at Mae J entered writings on the topic "What is the best way to celebrate Madiba's birthday?" Below are excerpts from some of our favorites:

We have to help those who need help: to give love and brighten others' faces by visiting our HIV/AIDS patients; by singing our national anthem; by volunteering to help those who suffer from disease and poverty; by visiting home-based care and crèches; to love all South Africans. - **Happiness Mphahlele**

To celebrate Nelson Mandela, I could be with children who are homeless and do not have mothers. I could spend the whole day with them, making them a bath, giving them something to eat, and reading with them. I would do this for our Father, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. - **Tinyiko Ndlovu**

Let's all be happy, South Africans;
Let's all make South Africa a rainbow nation;
Let's all say happy birthday to the father of the nation;
All South Africans, let's celebrate this day with happiness, love, and joy.
A man of freedom made the whole world happy. - **Koketso Ngobeni**

The best way to celebrate Nelson Mandela's birthday is to volunteer in the community. We must look at what he did for us. We must wave a South African flag on Nelson Mandela Day. We must raise our hands and sing for him. Happy birthday, Mandela Tata. - **Evelyn Mokwa**

We could go clean our street making it a cleaner environment. We could try to make our sports grounds safer. We can come together with kids who don't attend school and encourage them. - **Thabang Molege**

Each of the five winners received a book on the life of Nelson Mandela! Congratulations — and thanks to all who participated!

Featured Resource: *TEEN HEALTH & WELLNESS* online database



Teen Health & Wellness, Real Life, Real Answers is an online resource created specifically for teens with their unique concerns and perspective.

Teen Health & Wellness is designed to provide research support and self-help on topics including diseases, drugs, alcohol, nutrition, fitness, life skills, work readiness, mental health, family life, and more.

Information is presented using a sensitive, respectful, and age-appropriate approach and gives insight into the teen experience—crucial for parents, teachers, friends, and caregivers who are part of teens' lives.

All content is reviewed by a team of leading professionals across fields including medicine, mental health, nutrition, substance abuse prevention, guidance, and career counseling.

Each of the Mae J computers has a desktop link to this fantastic online resource. Use it today!



US Embassy Reading Room Program Coordinator Sara Shumway with one of the Madiba essay competition prize winners