

## Focus on ... Mae J Girls' Club

On July 23 2010, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Natalie Ross inaugurated the Girls' Club -- a safe forum for young Mamelodi women to talk to each other and share ideas around health, culture, and career ambitions. Thirty-five girls attended the first meeting!

The club meets every Friday afternoon at Mae J, and new members are always welcome: it's a place to hang out together, and have fun!

On September 29 newly-appointed Coordinator of the Bureau of International Information Programs **Dawn McCall** visited Mae J and chatted in the spring sun with members of the Girls' Club. Thanks to the Club, Ms. McCall returned to Washington, DC with a very favorable impression of Mae Jemison!

The Club also ensured that another high level visitor, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Academic Programs Ms. Alina Romanowski, had a fun time when she visited Mae J on October 5. Go girls!



Dawn McCall (2nd row, far right) with members of the Mae Jemison Girls' Club and other US Govt. officers

## Mamelodi Chess Tournament

Mae J Chess Club Coordinator Themba Nene's next big project is the Mamelodi Chess Tournament, scheduled for **Saturday October 30**, starting at 9 a.m.

You can catch Themba every afternoon at Mae Jemison -- but be careful: he may infect you with a passion for chess!



## October Events

All programs begin at 3 pm and are free

### Wednesday Oct. 6

DVD screening with filmmaker Molly Blank: "Where Do I Stand?" — a film about youth and xenophobia in SA

### Wednesday Oct. 13

Special program with visiting U.S. space engineer "Gabe" Gabrielle

### Friday Oct. 15

Organic composting and the environment

### Wednesday Oct. 20

Science revision

### Friday Oct. 22

DVD screening of "To Kill a Mockingbird"

### Wednesday Oct. 27

Maths revision

### Saturday Oct. 30

First annual Mamelodi Chess Challenge

## Statistics:

### July

218 books checked out.

1281 visitors.

### August

210 books checked out.

984 visitors.

### September

142 books checked out.

834 visitors.

## Programs, Programs, Programs!

*Our Outreach Coordinator Sara Shumway has been working extremely hard to bring an exciting range of programs to our Mae J members -- every Wednesday, and other days as well! Don't believe us? Just look at what's been happening since our last newsletter:*

### July

7th: 15 students watched *GOAL! Soccer For A Better Future* and then answered a **Soccer World Cup quiz**, vying for the soccer ball prizes.

9th: 50 students attended a Science Café discussion on the **science of music**, featuring Sci-enza's Rudi Horak.

16th: 22 students entered the **Mandela Day essay/poetry contest**, writing on the best way to celebrate Nelson Mandela's birthday. The five winners each received a book on Mandela.

19th: **US Mission volunteers** provided homework and research assistance to 20 Mae J students on careers, cell biology, alcohol abuse, fossil fuels, and water purification.

28th: U.S. Embassy Environment, Science, and Technology Officer John Griffith spoke to 50 students on **energy and fossil fuels**, and showed excerpts from *A Crude Awakening*.

30th: Fulbright alumnus Dr. Edwin Moshia from the University of Pretoria's Department of Plant Production and Soil Science presented a practical session on **fertilization and soil** to 25 students.

### August

4th: 40 students were treated to a **hands-on physics session** with Professor Chris Theron from the University of Pretoria's Physics Department.

6th: U.S. Embassy staffer Martin Matlebyane led a discussion on **biodiversity** with 25 students.

11th: We celebrated **Women's Day** with a talk by the Girls' Club on important women in SA history, and a discussion on women's health by the U.S. Embassy's health officials Dr. Grace Ramafi and Ms. Yumnah Hattas. 45 students took part.

13th: **U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Wendi B. Carpenter** spoke to 50 young people on her career as the first female pilot to make Admiral rank in the U.S. Navy.

18th: Ginny Stone, from the SA Association of Science and Technology Centres, showed 40 students how to use paper folds to solve mathematical equations. Yes, **geometry can be fun!**

25th: Sci-enza interns gave a presentation on volcano eruptions and other **natural disasters** to 45 students.

### September

1st: Mr. Albert Tsipa, a Science Specialist at Osizweni Education and Development Centre in Secunda, Mpumalanga, gave a **hands-on physics demonstration** to 20 students. Mr. Tsipa was born and raised in Mamelodi.

8th: 50 students attended a presentation on **teen depression, academic anxiety, and suicide prevention** by guests from the South African Depression and Anxiety Group.

10th: Mr. Fred Swaniker and Ms. Lesego Sekano, recently returned from the **Presidential Forum for Young African Leaders (PFYAL)** in Washington, where they met Mr. Obama, gave a motivational talk to 50 students.

15th: A post-graduate University of Pretoria sports science student Mr. Rest Sikhwari spoke to 40 students on the topic, **"Champions: Are They Born or Made?"**. This was part of the Science Café series.

22nd: 30 students visited **Sci-Bono**, Johannesburg's famous science education center in Newtown.



Hands-on physics with Prof. Theron



PFYAL delegates Fred Swaniker and Lesego Sekano, with student Alton Mahlangu



Science educator Alfred Tsipa