

# LEAP

Science and Maths School



A school of excellence

Intaka yakha ngeentsiba zenye intaka

A bird builds its nest with another bird's feathers

## LEAP Science and Maths School

LEAP aims to transform educationally disadvantaged communities in South Africa through maths and science focussed education initiatives.

The values-based framework of LEAP creates an empowering educational environment that enables each learner to develop fully as a human being with a positive, caring lifestyle and healthy work ethic.

LEAP consists of:

- ▶ 3 schools serving Langa, Gugulethu (Cape Town) and Alexandra (Johannesburg)
- ▶ Community Outreach Programme
- ▶ LEAP Teacher Training
- ▶ Programme The Learning Centre

LEAP actively seeks to share its innovation and entrepreneurial approach with other schools and contributes positively within the national education framework.



LEAP students with John Gilmour, LEAP Director

*“When I think about LEAP, I think about change. Since coming to LEAP, I have learnt how to take responsibility for my life, deal with my issues and communicate with others openly and honestly.”*

*Andisani, 2008 LEAP graduate and first year teaching student.*

## LEAP Schools

LEAP schools unlock the door to a bright future for children from South Africa's townships by preparing them for tertiary study, success in their chosen career path and to be socially responsible citizens.

### Leap in Context

LEAP started in 2004 with the aim of creating a model that could begin to address the inequalities in the South African education system.

In 2003, only 28% of South African black teenagers of matric age passed Grade 12 and only 5% earned university endorsements. In the same year, 69% of South Africa's white teenagers of matric age passed, with 35% earning university endorsements.

One in ten white learners also obtained an A-aggregate, while only one in a thousand black learners passed matric with an A-aggregate. In 2003 only 55 African language matriculants in the Western Cape achieved university exemption with Science and Maths.

### The Difference

It is our aim that each LEAP learner should pass Grade 12 with Physical Science, Mathematics and English Home Language at the highest grade.

LEAP focuses on whole learner development and rigorous academic training. This is achieved through:

- ▶ Values-focussed life orientation as the cornerstone of educational advancement
- ▶ A family-structure method of interaction within the school community
- ▶ Small class and school sizes
- ▶ Increased overall contact time between teachers and learners
- ▶ Double contact time in key subject focus areas (Science, Maths and English)
- ▶ An extended school day (08:15 to 17:15)
- ▶ Partnering with established successful schools
- ▶ A strong community outreach programme

**“LEAP is a beautiful school. It opens our hearts so that we can shine in the world.”**

*Siphokazi, LEAP 1 (Langa), Grade 10*

### Learner Statistics

- ▶ 100% of LEAP learners are black South Africans from economically disadvantaged households
- ▶ 68% of LEAP learners are girls
- ▶ 50% of our learners live in informal, non-permanent houses
- ▶ 20% of our learners come from homes where one or both parents are deceased
- ▶ Most of LEAP's learners come from homes where the academic qualification of their parents is Grade 10 or lower

### Achievements

LEAP's achievements are not only measured in terms of academic success but also through monitoring each learner's personal journey. It is our hope that each LEAP learner discovers their true identity and achieves their dreams.

The first class of LEAP learners wrote matric in 2005 and in just a few years LEAP has made a significant difference to the Western Cape learner results.

- ▶ In the past 4 years, 117 of the 125 learners who wrote Grade 12 passed (94%)
- ▶ 80 learners passed with university exemptions
- ▶ 100% pass rate in 2005 and 2008

### LEAP Graduates

After graduating from LEAP, our learners continue their journey to make their dreams reality.

- ▶ 30% are studying at university in science and business related courses
- ▶ 29% are studying at technology universities
- ▶ 10% enrolled in the LEAP Teacher Training Programme
- ▶ 6% chose to study courses at local colleges

## Community Outreach Programme

LEAP acts as a centre for a wide range of community activities. The aim is to enable people from all South African communities, as well as other countries, to meet and actively engage with one another.

## LEAP Teacher Training Programme

The LEAP Teacher Training Programme aims to create a teacher development model that addresses the severe shortage of qualified teachers in South Africa, particularly in the areas of Maths and Science.

### Teaching Training in Context

The number of students graduating with a teaching qualification has fallen from 70 000 in 1994 to 6 000 in 2006. An estimated 30 000 educators leave the profession each year.

### The Programme

The teacher training programme includes practical classroom training, dedicated mentoring and specialised tuition for students studying their Bachelor of Education degree through UNISA.

LEAP aims to recruit 10% of each year's matriculating learners for the teaching training programme.

## The Learning Centre

The Learning Centre was established in response to the need for quality tutoring in LEAP's partner communities. Its primary aims are to improve Grade 7 and 8 learners' understanding and competency in Maths and to share resources with community-based teachers. The centre runs in 15 township schools and 450 learners are enrolled in the Maths programme.

As many as 3 000 high school learners attend LEAP's Saturday classes. The classes are open to all learners and provide extra tuition in Maths and Science. The classes are taught by LEAP teachers, tutors and volunteers from the community.

**“I used to be a shy and insecure girl, but LEAP has taught me to find my own voice.”**

*Asanda, LEAP 1 (Langa), Grade 12*

## Join the LEAP Family

LEAP has a number of exciting opportunities available for individuals and companies to get involved and become a part of LEAP's success. These include sponsoring scholarships, volunteering, corporate social investment initiatives and BEE partnerships.

If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved, please contact us. We would love the opportunity to meet you and introduce you to the LEAP family.

We look forward to working together to help all South African learners realise their full potential.

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