



Committed to leveraging change...

January 2024 Newsletter

Greetings and best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous 2024! We have much wonderful news to share, especially seeing that this year marks 20 successful years since the establishment of the first LEAP Maths and Science School.

In this newsletter you will find exciting news about LEAP Science and Maths Schools and the LEAP Institute, where we continue to meet the growing demand for access to quality education.



Photo: S. Madikane

Opening new doors of learning!

New LEAP Science and Maths Schools:

The LEAP Science and Maths School (LEAP) is delighted to announce that after 20 years of running schools in various parts of South Africa, we will be expanding our network of 6 schools to a total of 8 schools from January 2024. The schools will open in Paarl (LEAP7) in the Western Cape and Kuruman (LEAP8) in the Northern Cape – both communities faced with a myriad of economic, social, and education-related challenges.

LEAP 7 Paarl:

The new LEAP 7 school based in Paarl will be financially supported for at least the next five years by the Retief Family Trust. The school will work closely with other social change organisations in Paarl and with the LEAP Institute, to serve as an outward-serving educational hub reaching into all schools and social service entities to fulfil the vision of a reimagined community providing quality access and opportunity to all children and youth in the community.

The LEAP 7 School Leader, Alinane Phiri, leaps into leadership after five years of caring service in LEAP 5 school in Janes Furse, Limpopo where she taught Life Orientation to Grade 8 to 12 students. She is passionate about transformative and self-liberation education and is well supported to be able to build a strong and caring LEAP 7 staff team.

LEAP 8 Kuruman:

The Boleng Trust has partnered with LEAP to establish the new LEAP 8 school in the Kuruman community located in the region of the Assore Group's mines. The LEAP 8 School Leader, Nosipho Qongo, is a LEAP graduate, a Global Teachers Graduate, with seven years of teaching and leading in the Crossroads LEAP 2 School. Nosipho now steps up to take the lead in Kuruman at the beautiful Kuruman Moffat Mission Station. Nosipho's lived experience has given her the deep conviction and commitment required in this pioneering role of opening a new school.

School Development Plan:

The new LEAP 7 and LEAP 8 schools will each accommodate 90 students in 2024 and initially focus on Grade 8 and 9. Each of the schools will grow by one grade per year to be a school with 300 students in 2028 with 60 students per grade.

The new schools will ensure that teaching and learning centres around the needs of each child and will activate the self-liberating approach of consciousness-raising education that has been the hallmark of LEAP's success for the past 20 years.

A very special thanks to Solomon Madikane and the team for arranging all of the necessary renovations to make these spaces inviting and ready to accept our new students and staff! The team worked tirelessly on short notice and have done a remarkable job!

Celebrating our national prize winning entrepreneurs – congratulations!

Celebrating the remarkable success of our students from LEAP 6 in Garankuwa - first place achieved in a national youth entrepreneur competition. This Primestars “Step-Up 2 a Green Start” had over 12 000 students participating, and LEAP Science and Maths Schools won the day.

This innovative solution – The Green Brick Innovators – produce low cost bricks from recycled material to address issues of poverty, housing and pollution in our country.

Innovation the product of raised consciousness! Well done to all involved!

Watch the clip here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnJLh57qiOA>



Watch this reel for more:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1028953753812069/permalink/24773999328880845/?sfnsn=scwspmo&ref=share&mibextid=VhDh1V>

Piling up the celebrations



Over the past year the Schools Star Programme, founded by BlackBark Productions and the Gauteng City Region Academy have worked together in finding the most adaptable, curious, resilient Grade 12 learners in Gauteng.

Schools Star has over 2 900 Grade 12 learners registered on the Schools Star programme which includes not only recognising the most promising but also assisting them with setting up email accounts, university advice, university applications etc.

Upon registering for Schools Star, all learners were required to complete a self-assessment test. The self-assessment tested the following characteristics:

- Curiosity
- Adaptability
- Learning Agility
- Growth Mindset
- Change Resilience
- Connectedness

The learners who scored the highest in the self-assessment were the learners who made it through to the Top 500!

“Schools Star would like to say Thank you! And congratulations for **LEAP SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOOL** entries”!

LEAP SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOOL has **Twenty One** learners in the Top 500!

Schools Star Top500 - Top 5 Schools Leaderboard

	School	Total Entries
1	LEAP SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOOL	27
2	Chrystal Springs Secondary School	21
3	Curro Serengeti High School	19
4	Providence Academy	13
4	Elzshaddai secondary school	13
5	Abbotts College Johannesburg South	11
5	Watershed Secondary School	11

Student feedback

Good day Sir,

I trust this finds you in good spirits 🙏👨🏻🌟 I truly appreciate you checking in, it really keeps me going.

I am almost done serving my Articles at the law firm, so I can open my own firm. I can't wait to embark on that journey, I feel ready to spread my wings and fight for justice.

My little sister is also back from UCT, she was showing me her results next year she'll be in 4TH year MBCHB Medicine. She too was a LEAP student at Diepsloot. I'm forever grateful for the opportunity you afforded to us Mr Gilmour, our future looks promising, albeit the challenges I'm facing at the law firm. Law firms can be toxic and too much for one's mental health, but I'll soldier on, 2 more months to go 🙏🙏👨🏻🌟

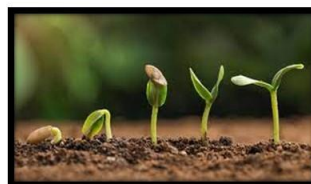
Felicia Monyepao

Look out for matric results in our next newsletter!

For many of our LEAPSA's and supporters, the newly formed LEAP Institute is largely unknown. Our analogy is that of the LEAP schools being the mother tree with the LEAP Institute being a seedling now, aiming to develop communities (hubs) into full-fledged forests of abundance.



LEAP Schools (Mother tree)



LEAP Institute



LEAP Hubs

About the LEAP Institute

The LEAP Institute is a transformative educational initiative building on the success of the LEAP Science and Maths schools over two decades.

Rooted in the values of Ubuntu, this institute seeks to create profound change in marginalised communities. It believes that liberation is a mindset and aims to empower learners to take control of their lives through learning, being, and connecting in order to trigger exponential positive transformation. The institute's values are centred on continuous learning, empowerment, community-centred engagement, collaborative excellence, ethical leadership, and respect for diversity and inclusion.

We have identified six key levers for exponential change to equip African youth with 21st-century values, skills, literacies and character. These levers include: digital transformation, the Ubuntu Maths Institute, living and learning labs, transformational leadership, conscious connections through healing circles, and 'make your moves' programs for workplace skills and entrepreneurship.

The institute operates on developing and driving a hub-and-spoke model where community hubs serve as central spaces for various activities, fostering social interaction and community growth. This model aims to shift community mindsets from surviving to thriving, enabling responsible and regenerative choices that can unlock exponential radical transformation one community at a time.

The LEAP Institute aspires to be an Exponential Organization (ExO) unlocking exponential community transformation. ExOs leverage technology, external resources, community engagement, and data-driven decision-making to achieve rapid and exponential growth. This approach enables us to address global challenges effectively.

In summary, the LEAP Institute's vision is to transform education in marginalized communities by combining a values-based approach with innovative pedagogy and a commitment to collaboration. Through its unique levers for change, hub and spoke model, and aspirations for exponential growth, it aims to make a lasting impact on education and community development.

- The LEAP Institute is founded on the principles of Ubuntu, which asserts "I am because we are" and pivots values on the interconnectedness and interdependence of becoming fully human. In the West we can understand this as re-establishing right relationships.
- The Institute believes that education should be regeneratively transformative, not just transactionally focused on sustaining and improving.
- The Institute's programs are designed to help young Africans develop their intrinsic values, critical thinking skills, emotional intelligence, and their sense of agency, preparing them to become global citizens for the 21st century.
- The Institute is committed to working with communities of the willing and able to create a more just and regenerative world.

LEAPSA Research

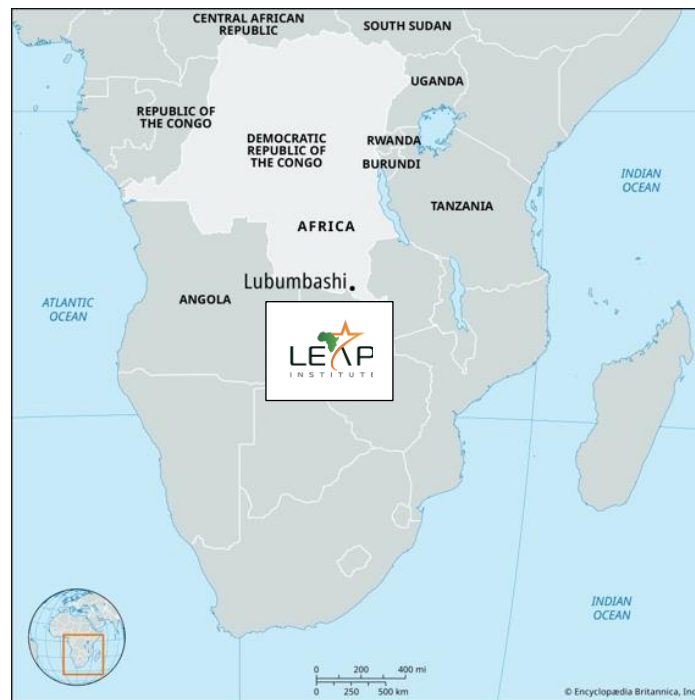
To assess the impact that LEAP Science and Maths Schools have had on the lives of LEAPSA's, the LEAP Institute conducted research on a matched sample of non-LEAPSA's in November and December 2023.

During the course of the year, we will share these findings that clearly indicate that LEAPSA's are great achievers compared to their peers!



Lubumbashi – LEAP Institute office opening January 2024!

The LEAP Institute is very proud to announce our first expansion into Africa. This office in Lubumbashi in the DRC is headed by Paul Mumba, with over 15 years of working in the LEAP Science and Maths Schools. He worked at LEAP 1 and LEAP 2, helped to open LEAP 5 in Jane Furse and LEAP 4 in Diepsloot – served as principal of LEAP 5, 4, and 1. Taking his experience and the desire to share the work of LEAP in Africa to open a field office in Lubumbashi, we wish Paul every success!



How to support LEAP:

Look out for our next newsletter, in which we will examine the 2023 matric results!

Contact us: info@leapschool.org.za or call us on 021 531 9715

Bank Details:

ABSA

Account number 408 987 6888

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