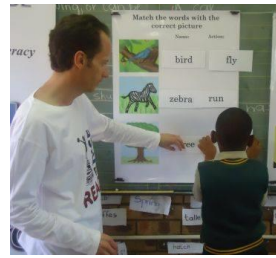


## OAKY THE HAPPY TREE PROGRAMME launched in Johannesburg

On 4 February 2016, READ to RISE launched the OAKY THE HAPPY TREE classroom programme for Grade 4s at **Thaba-Tshehlo Primary School** in Soweto. Thank you to **Sandown Motor Holdings** for sponsorship a new book for 74 of the Grade 4 learners. The learners and teachers were delighted to see the sequel to OAKY AND THE SUN.



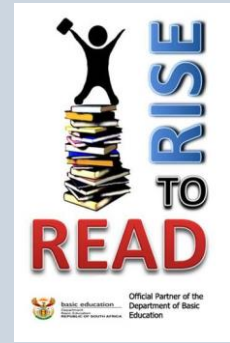
## READ to RISE celebrates World Book Day at Hillside Primary School on 6 March 2016

On 6 March 2016, READ to RISE celebrated World Book Day at **Hillside Primary School** in Rocklands, Mitchells Plain where they surprised 150 Grade 3 learners with OAKY THE HAPPY TREE books and pencils. It was an extra special day as Hillside Primary School celebrated their 36th Birthday. Thank you to **Greg and Karen Adkins** for joining Roscoe at the school. These learners were really interested in hearing what these two wonderful people had to say once they found out they were from America. Thank you to our amazing sponsors **Liesle Truter, Sean Campbell, Taryn Lock** and **Tyler Sutcliffe** for making all of this possible.



“OAKY THE HAPPY TREE... A book that leaves a smile on every reader's face as they learn to be happy the way they are and be the BEST.”

*Teacher, Seaview Primary School, Mitchells Plain*



### About us

- READ to RISE is a non-profit organization committed to promoting youth literacy in schools in South Africa's under-resourced communities.
- As the name indicates, we believe that children need to *read* in order to *rise* in their personal development and contribution to society.
- **Book Ownership** is important. We distribute new, high quality books that are educational, entertaining and inspirational.
- A **Mini-Library** is placed in classrooms, which is a book-shelf containing 50 new, age-appropriate, reading books.
- We do not just drop books and Mini-Libraries off at schools, rather, along with volunteer readers; we visit every class-room and have an interactive session.

To date we have visited  
**438 classrooms**  
and have given out  
**new books to**  
**23,647 learners**  
and  
**170 Mini-Libraries**  
(with 8,500 books)

# School visits to Soweto – 818 new books given out at 6 primary schools

During February, a total of **818 new books** were given out (including **5 Mini-Libraries and 568 OAKY books**).

On 2 February, we went back to **Mara Primary School** to reconnect with last year's Grade 3's (now in Grade 4). All 24 learners received their very own copy of OAKY THE HAPPY TREE, kindly sponsored by **Alettes Rusks**. We were amazed at how much these children have improved in their reading skills since last year!

On 4 February, our JHB team officially launched OAKY THE HAPPY TREE at yet another amazing visit to **Thaba-Tshehlo Primary School!** Thanks to our generous sponsor, **Sandown Motors**, we were able to give 74 Grade 4 learners their own brand new copy of our latest book OAKY THE HAPPY TREE.

On 11 February, **Elizabeth Cameron-Smith** and Steve Tsakiris visited an amazing group of Grade 4's at **Tshebedisanong Primary School** in White City, Soweto! They gave 45 learners a brand new copy of OAKY THE HAPPY TREE. Thank you to our sponsors, **Sandown Motors**, for contributing to the lives of these children!

On 18 February, the team visited **Emathefeni Primary School** in Soweto. Nontokozo, Siphamandla and **Rene Roberts-Patel** gave 74 Grade 3 learners each a copy of OAKY AND THE SUN. Thank you to our sponsors, **Sandown Motors!**

On 23 February, the team went to Thokoza in the south of Johannesburg to visit **Mohaung Primary School**. We were accompanied by our wonderful sponsors, **Henkel** and their mascot, Mr Pritt, we visited 3 Grade 3 classes and handed out 105 OAKY AND THE SUN books and 3 Mini-Libraries. Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and JHB team. This was a morning filled with fun! Also thank you to **Rene Roberts-Patel** for joining!

Our Johannesburg team together with our amazing volunteer **Elizabeth Cameron-Smith** visited 60 Grade 3 learners at **Siyavuma Primary School** on 25 February 2016 and gave them each a copy of OAKY AND THE SUN as well as a mini-library with 50 brand new books! Thank you to our sponsors: **Investment Solutions** and **Carolyn & Frank Einhorn!**



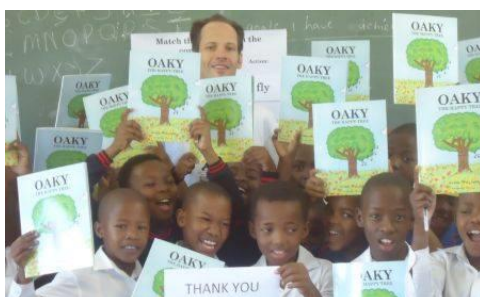
Tracy Mitchley of Henkel hands over a Mini-Library (with 50 new story books) to a Grade 3 class at Mohaung Primary School in Thokoza.



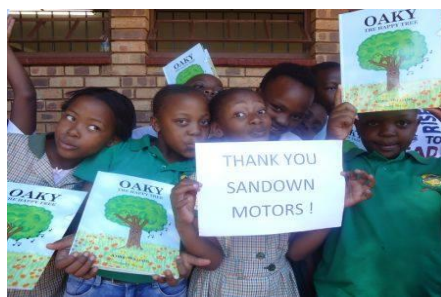
Visit to Emathefeni Primary School in Soweto (18 Feb 2016). The Grade 3 learners were so happy to get their own OAKY AND THE SUN book.



Happy Grade 4 learners at Tshebedisanong Primary School in Soweto on 11 February 2016.



Programme Manager Steve Tsakiris with the Grade 4 learners at Mara Primary School in Soweto on 2 February 2016.



Launch of OAKY THE HAPPY TREE programme at Thaba-Tshehlo Primary School in Soweto on 4 February 2016.



Volunteer Elizabeth Cameron-Smith and Siphamandla with the Grade 3 learners at Siyavuma Primary School in Soweto on 25 February 2016.

# 1560 new books given out at 6 primary schools in Mitchells Plain

During February, **1560** new books were given out at 25 classes at 6 primary schools in Mitchells Plain. This includes **11 Mini-Libraries** and **1010 OAKY** books.

On 4 February, the READ to RISE CT team visited **Ridgeville Primary School** in Westridge. Bethany Adkins and Roscoe Williams surprised the Grade 3 learners with the new book called OAKY THE HAPPY TREE. There were a total 139 very excited learners, who were very grateful for their books. Thank you very much to our amazing sponsors **Judi Holt, Margaret Smallpeice, Aidan Sullivan, Suann Smith** and **Alettes Rusks** for making all of this possible.

On 11 February, we visited the 5 Grade 2 classes at **Beacon View Primary School** in Beacon Valley, Mitchells Plain. Our Programme Manager Roscoe Williams was joined by **Nicholas Williams** (READ to RISE Director), **Heidi Edson** and **Justin Tantaal** (from Grand West Casino and Entertainment world) and **Dalin Oliver** and **Sandra Rosenberg** (from **Goodhope FM** breakfast team) who took the time out to come and read to these kids. We handed out 210 OAKY AND THE SUN books, 210 pencils and 5 mini-libraries. Thank you so much to our amazing sponsors, **Grand West Casino and Entertainment world, Athol Williams, Novatech** and **The Stephen's Family (Australia)** for making this all possible.

On Wednesday 17 February, READ to RISE visited the Grade 2 learners at **Huguenot Primary School** in Mitchells Plain. 240 OAKY AND THE SUN books and 6 Mini-Libraries were given out. Thank you very much to the sponsors - **Decordent Living, Zokwakha, N. Masella, Occuaid, Ebrahim Hyder, Church of the Good Shepherd, Alettes Rusks** and **Novatech**. Thank you to Warda, her parents and Nicholas Williams for joining Roscoe at the school visit.

On 24 February, we visited **Seaview Primary School** in Rocklands, Mitchells Plain to give a new OAKY THE HAPPY TREE book to the 143 Grade 3 learners. Thank you to the following sponsors: **Jason Smith (on behalf of Brand New Creative), Carmel Travel, Janet Van Eeden** and **Sean Campbell**.

We visited **Wavecrest Primary School** on 23 February, to give out 118 OAKY THE HAPPY TREE books to the Grade 3 learners. Thank you to the sponsors **Owen Lock, Glynnis & Max Schutte, The Department of Arts & Culture, The Atrium Foundation, Emma Jackson** and **Jade de Waal**.

On 25 February, Roscoe was joined by Louise Jones from the **Old Mutual Foundation**, to hand out 160 OAKY THE HAPPY TREE books to the Grade 3 learners. Each learner received a stationery bag from Old Mutual. Thank you Old Mutual!



Heidi Edson from Grand West Casino handing over a Mini-Library to a Grade 2 teacher at Beacon View Primary School.



Decordent Living / Shakier Foundation handing over a Mini-Library to a Grade 2 teacher at Huguenot View Primary School.



Happy Grade 3 learners at Ridgeville Primary School in Westridge.



US intern Bethany Adkins reading at a Grade 3 class at Wavecrest Primary School.



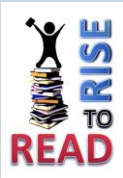
Roscoe with Grade 3 learners at Seaview Primary School in Rocklands.



Happy Grade 2 learners at Jamaica Way Primary School grateful to Old Mutual for their books and stationery.

## How you can help make a difference

- **Volunteer** - Become a READ to RISE Volunteer Reader and read to children in poor communities.
- **Sponsor** – Select a school of your choice and sponsor books and/or a mini-library for one or more classes.
- **Donate** – Make financial contributions towards the READ to RISE initiative which will be used to buy books.
- **Become a READ to RISE Ambassador** – Liaise with a school of your choice, raise funds for the books and organise volunteers to read the books to children.



### Contact us:

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First National Bank  
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Account no. 62460090443

## Our wonderful volunteers

READ to RISE is grateful to its wonderful volunteers who cover books every Wednesday at our office in Claremont. This month we are featuring these two lovely ladies:



Zelda McCance-Price

Zelda has been volunteering with **Read to Rise** since May, 2015. She loves covering books at Cover and Coffee because she knows her time is making a direct and positive impact on the community. Furthermore, loves meeting and engaging with the other volunteers at the Cover and Coffee sessions. Thank you for your contributions, Zelda!



Ruth Minnis-Naidoo

For Ruth Naidoo, volunteering at **Read to Rise** is all about giving back to her community. Ruth believes that it is important to give of her time and resources because she is in the position to do so. She appreciates the work that **Read to Rise** is doing and finds that it makes a real, lasting, and positive impact in the lives of underprivileged learners. Thank you for 1.5 years of dedicated service!

## Thank you to our Sponsors

- **Yolande Adams** for 4 books
- **Aidan Sullivan** for 3 books
- **Seam Campbell** for 1 book
- **Judi Holt** for 1 book
- **Liz Cameron-Smith** for 152 books
- **Alettes Rusks** for sponsoring 45 books
- **Anonymous** R50
- **Anonymous** R50
- **Carmel Travel** for sponsoring 12 books
- **Gauteng Round Table** for sponsoring 872 books
- **Westerford High School learners** for making felt lesson posters
- **Imtihaal Dawood and Old Mutual** – R15,000 towards 334 new books for Grade 2 and 3 learners at Springdale Primary School
- **Print Matters** for donating 20 copies of The Rainbows Heart
- **Roscoe's Argus Cycling Campaign**
  - Denise Steenveld R100
  - Lucille Kolbe & Aidan Macdecorney R200
  - Taryn Lock R90
  - Anonymous R6000
  - Jenny Barenbrug R100
  - Wendi Maxwell R500
  - Phumlani Malinga R200

**Wishing all our learners,  
teachers and principals a  
wonderful school break!**

## Coming up in March...

- **World Book Day** 6 March 2016
- School visits in Mitchells Plain - Hillside Primary, Liesbeeck Primary, Alpine Primary, Duneside Primary, Mitchells Plain Primary, Spineview Primary, Caradale Primary, Rocklands Primary and West End Primary Schools
- School visits in Soweto: Itekeng Primary School
- Weekly **Cover & Coffee** sessions in Claremont. Email madeneya@readtorise.co.za
- **Book Covering Session in Mitchells Plain** 12 March 2016 Email roscoe@readtorise.co.za
- **National Library Week 14 – 20 March**
- **School holidays** 18 March – 5 April