



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**3rd Spelling Bee the biggest yet**

Approximately 85 learners took part in the Knysna municipal Library Services', third successful, annual Inter-School Spelling Bee competition on Saturday, 26 August at the Khayaletu Community Hall.

This competition that aimed at improving language skills and encouraging reading included competitors from Grades 4 to 7 who competed in the three official languages, IsiXhosa, English and Afrikaans.

Ward 7 Councillor, Mandla Matiwane extended a warm welcome to both the participants and spectators present, and highlighted the importance of the competition and the positive impact it has had on the learners in the past.

Mayoral Committee Member, Planning & Integrated Human Settlements Portfolio Chair: Cllr Shakespeare Arends addressed the participants on behalf of the Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies. "I do believe that it is still important for our children to learn the spelling rules that we were taught at school," he said and added: "This initiative is imperative as it strengthens reading habits at an early age. This competition further offers the competitors an opportunity to improve their confidence, better their communication and their comprehension."

Knysna Library Services invited all primary schools in the Greater Knysna to participate. This year the programme had the most schools participating than ever before. Schools such as Oakhill, Riverwood Primary and two schools from Pletternberg Bay, Kwanokuthula Primary and Phakamisani Primary Schools, entered for the first time.

All contestants who participated in the finals received certificates of participation, the winner and runner-ups in the various categories walked away with a trophy and gift.

**2017 Spelling Bee winners**

Afrikaans

	1st	2nd	3rd
Grade 4	Fernall Campher	Jade Hannie	Diego Appels

Grade 5	Logan Booyesen	Jayden Van Rheenen	Brooklyn Appels
Grade 6	Allison Manyamala	Keaton Savage	Ave Yenge
Grade 7	Esme Williams	Jasmeigh Kleinhans	Fredeline Pietersen

#### English

	1st	2nd	3rd
Grade 4	Daniel Arnold	Naquita Claasen	Thandai Sibiya
Grade 5	Achumile Mtha	Brooklyn Primo	Brooklyn September
Grade 6	Miguel Pieterse	Asiphe Fatuse	Connie Chorley
Grade 7	Caitlin McCall	Ashley Cairncross	Solam Silwana

#### IsiXhosa

	1st	2nd	3rd
Grade 4	Mabhija Esona	Silindokuhle Maqwili	Booi Liyema
Grade 5	Grootboom Lathitha	Nyaka Lithetha	Mhlauli Emihle
Grade 6	Lubone Ngqele	Diamond Alizwa	Yamkelani Gxavu
Grade 7	Thantsi Sisipho/ Okhule Mazondo	Unathi Qele	

#### **ENDS**

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