



MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGO: Immediate

Arbor Week competition prizes

Knysna Ward Councillors and the Municipal Youth Desk kept the promise made during Arbor Week in September and handed over cheques to the value of R10 000 to various schools and crèches that had participated in the Arbor Week activities on Thursday November 24 and December 1.

During Arbor Week between, 1 – 7 September Greater Knysna learners were encouraged care for their newly planted trees. Following this, the Youth Desk ran a competition, challenging schools to take care of their newly planted trees to ensure that the learners continue with their environmental efforts after Arbor Week had ended.

The Youth Desk visited various schools and crèches that participated in Arbor Week on November 18 and were pleasantly surprised and thoroughly impressed with the great work the children had done. Some had used their initiative by making use of recycled material to beautify their schools, while others have turned their open spaces into vegetable and flower gardens.

Mayoral Committee Member: Community Services, Cllr Cathy Weideman said, “Our main aim as Council in supporting the Arbor Week tree planting initiative was to encourage communities and schools to participate in various greening activities; broadening their education with regard to trees and the important role they play within our environment. I am delighted that the schools and crèches went the extra mile and well exceeded our expectations. I believe that if we keep teaching our children about the importance of our environment, they will pass this knowledge on to their parents, peers and communities.”

Several Councillors accompanied by the Youth Desk handed over prizes to schools in their respective wards. Ward 8 Councillor, Victor Molosi handed over R3 000 to Thembelitsha Primary, Knysna Mayor and Ward 5 Councillor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies gave R2 000 to Rheenendal’s Humpty Dumpty crèche, Ward 1 Councillor Levael Davis handed over cheque worth R2000 to Rainbow Kids crèche and Ward 9 Councillor, Mark Willemse gave R1 000 to Willow Tree crèche. In the absence of Cllrs Velile Waxa and Mncedisi Skosana the Youth Desk handed over the cheques worth R1000 each to Eyethu and Isisek crèches.

"I am hoping that the schools use these cash prizes towards their greening activities. This Youth Desk initiative is such a great initiative and I hope we will continue next year, growing it and finding ways to improve on this year's great result," Weideman concluded.

Arbor Day originated in Switzerland during the 15th century to raise awareness among people

about the importance of trees. In South Africa, Arbor Day started in 1983 and in 1997 it was extended to a National Arbor Week.

ENDS

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