



Mother Touch Academy

(FOR pre-school and other educational services)

IZINGANE ZENIATHI

EDUCATIONAL PLAY GROUP

MOTHER TOUCH ACADEMY

Year End Report

December 2023





From our Chairperson

Mother Touch Academy (MTA) celebrated its 14th birthday in August 2023.

This is a milestone which all of us at the school are incredibly proud of. The school has grown from 30 children in 2009 to 100 children in 2023. We have a waiting list for admissions as the school has a very good reputation within the community of Diepsloot. The main factor limiting our ability to further positively impact the community is the size of our premises and the sustainability of the schools financial position.

As a charitable Not-for-profit Organisation our focus is always on keeping costs down and aiming for sustainability. All expenditure decisions are made with the goal of maintaining or improving our existing facilities and standard of care.

We charge monthly school fees of R450 per month; a very reasonable amount considering we are open 12 hours a day, 11.5 months of the year and all children are fed 2 cooked meals a day. We rely very heavily on the fees to help fund the school, but it is a constant task to ensure the fees paid. We do allocate some of the donations we receive to our "Sponsor a child program" for those who cannot afford to pay fees.

Sustainability of the school is heavily dependent on our ability to collect fees from parents. Ideally going forward I would like to reduce the schools dependence on fees for survival through increased donations or new donors. The school's key objective is to improve the educational outcome of our children once they leave us and to ensure they have a fighting chance in the public school system.



MTA is very fortunate to have a committed and involved School Governing Body (SGB). We have strong day to day management at the school under the very capable control of our Principal Nothando Ndlovu. She has built a strong, united team around her which ensures the smooth running of the school and the safety of all our pupils.

As Chairperson of the SGB I work very closely with Principal Nothando and our external bookkeeper, ensuring that our Governance and policies and procedures are 100%.



This year we signed up new auditors - Watermans who have experience in working with schools. Our 2023 Audit was successful and they were satisfied that we have tight controls in place.

2023 Has been another successful year for the school. We have had a lot of fun events at the school and the children have attended numerous educational outings; including a farm yard visit which followed on from their educational theme of discovering and learning about various animals that are not regularly seen.

On 2nd December we had our Grade R Graduation, where we celebrated and watched with pride as our 28 Grade R Pupils showed their parents their learnt skills.

We wish them well as they begin their formal schooling in 2024.

We are so grateful that with your sponsorship we have been able to ensure they received an excellent pre-school education, thus giving them an advantage in Primary School.

To all our Sponsors, supporters and volunteers we thank you for travelling this journey with us and for making a difference in the lives of so many children.

Wishing you all a very Happy, healthy and safe Festive Season.





From Our Principal

2023 Has been a wonderful year of growth for me as a Principal. The introduction of the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) program has enabled me to hone my managerial skills and implement Team Building with my staff members.



The workshops that GDE organized throughout the year made my job easier, as it gave guidelines on what to do and how to do it. I had to submit quarterly and six monthly reports, the submission of which all went smoothly; we are also expected to submit Registers to the Department every month.

I held meetings with all the staff to re-emphasize the importance of record keeping. Parents were also advised and communicated to in terms of signing in and out of the registers that is critical to ensure the safety of our pupils.

Staff members

Our Grade R educators received training from GDE on the requirements for their Grade. The training focused on the pivotal role Grade R plays in shaping a strong foundation for the learners as they embark on mainstream schooling next year in Grade 1. They were equipped with a vast knowledge on Themes, Language and Mathematics.

The Cook

Our Chef also attended workshops arranged by GDE. These covered different aspects of nutrition and how to incorporate healthier and more nutritious options in the learner's diet.

Challenges

Punctuality and non-payment of fees are two of our recurring issues.

Children are frequently dropped off late in the mornings. We appealed to the parents to try drop off their children on time. We reminded them about the importance of maintaining a routine for the pupils as it disrupts effective teaching and learning when learners arrive late.

A number of parents were not paying fees on time or not paying at all despite several reminders sent by the school. We appealed to parents to honour their contractual obligations. I would like to applaud the Executive committee for helping me with this; especially around the Grade R Graduation. For the first time this year we informed parents that their child would not be able to attend graduation ceremony without some very overdue fees being paid. This



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resulted in the quick collection of a significant amount of money. No child was denied the graduation experience.

It was a successful year. All school outings and events which were planned went ahead and were held as agreed.

Thank you for your support!



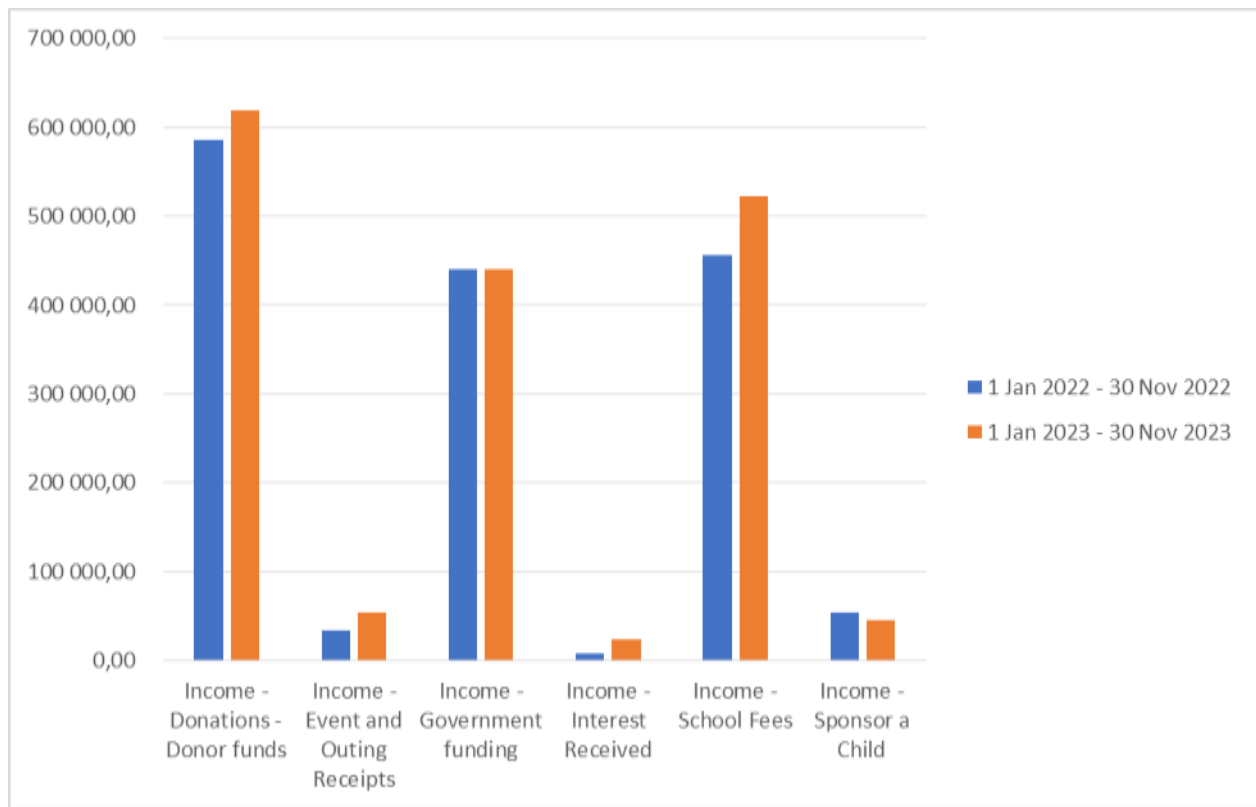


FINANCIAL UPDATE

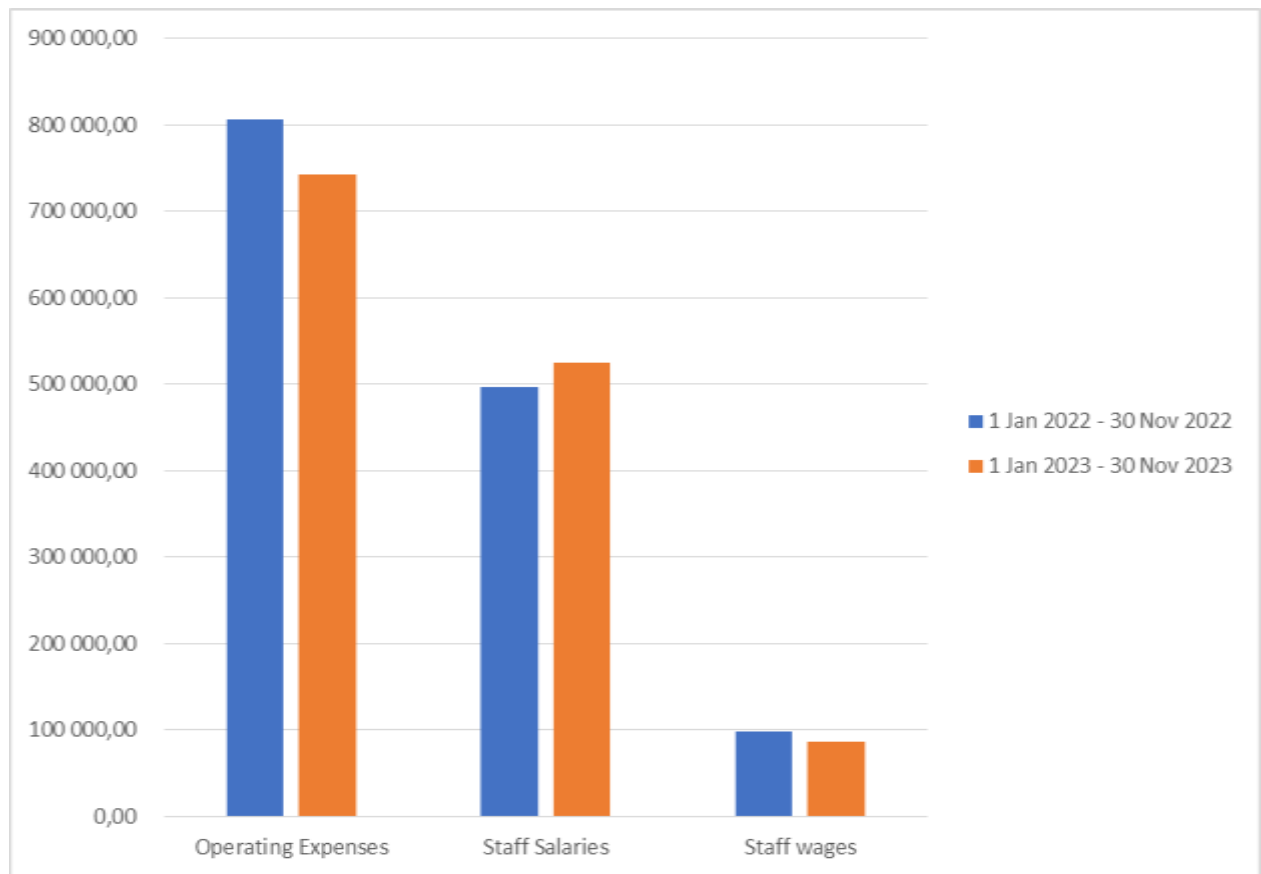
Our efforts to increase income from school fees are slowly adding to the income of the school, however this continues to be problematic. Revenue for the year increased by approximately 8% while expenses declined by approximately 3.3% leading to an increased performance. It must be noted however that we spent less on maintenance this year. Maintenance of our buildings is a considerable cost to the school.

While we will do everything in our power to improve the sustainability of the school your donations are crucial to the school’s ability to operate - without it we would have to close our doors!

On behalf of the children at Mother Touch Academy, we thank you.



Mother Touch Academy Income 2022 vs. 2023



Mother Touch Academy Expenses 2022 vs. 2023

Focus for the Year

Challenges:

- Building maintenance
The ongoing maintenance to our old buildings continues. We had further repairs made to our roof at considerable expense. All the putty to our cottage pain windows had to be re-done and window frames and some walls were painted.
- Workshops – Gauteng Department of Education continue to offer a substantial amount of workshops for our teachers and cooking staff. This is very positive for improving staff skills, but it does impact the school, as the workshops are often during the week and we have to pay for a substitute teacher.
- Unpaid school fees – this our biggest issue and a constant problem. We have amended our admission form to include the addition of a second payer/guarantor.



We have looked at debt collectors but the individual amounts are too small to be of interest to any of them.

- Load shedding and extended power outages – continue to be a problem. We have the advantage of having a gas stove so meals are not impacted. Our water supply is the biggest problem during these times as the borehole cannot run off the generator.

Successes/Highlights:

Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) asked all ECD's to complete online surveys. This was to ensure that the ECDs are physically operating and confirm the number of pupils and facilities available. They then followed up with unannounced visits to the schools by Social Workers and audit teams. Mother Touch Academy had a glowing report and feedback from GDE was very positive.

We would like to say a big thank you to our Treasurer Pratika Pillay who took on the challenge of re-doing our very outdated MTA website. Pratika spent many days on this project and personally designed the amazing new website; thank you Pratika!

Please do have a look if you haven't already done so www.movertouch.co.za

Events:

Mandela Day – the children had a quiet day reflecting on Tata Madiba and the values that he stood for.

Mother Touch Academy birthday

In August Mother Touch turned 14 years old. We had a small birthday for the children with lots of cake! It was a time to reflect on how well the school has done and still doing. Some of our pupils from our first intake in 2009 are now in Matric. We continue to focus on constantly improving and ensuring that any MTA pupil graduates with a quality pre-school education.



Mother Touch Academy NPO 070-896



Directors: K Turnbull; N Ndlovu; P Chung; M Strang; T Bishop



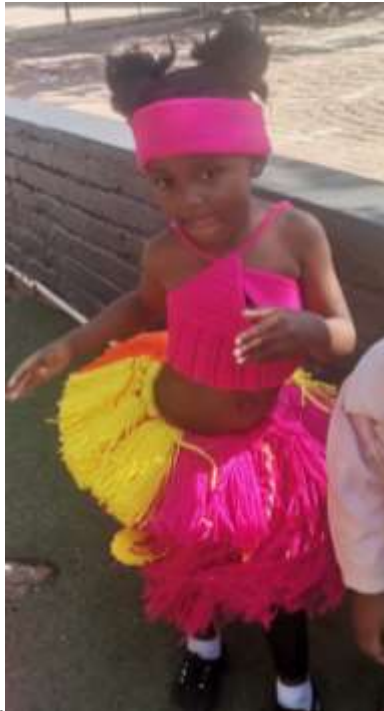
Spring Day

1st September 2023 was a lovely warm day and our children celebrated with lots of water play and jumping castles. All the children wore their swimming costumes and had a picnic lunch to celebrate our wonderful Johannesburg sunshine.



Heritage Day

Our children love this celebration and all take pride in dressing in their individual cultural clothing. The day included lots of traditional dancing, discussions around our different heritages followed by a delicious and interesting lunch.





Santa Shoebox Party and Concert

On Friday 17th November we had our annual Christmas Party.

Santa handed each child a Santa Box which was donated by our MTA friends. We were treated to a Christmas concert performed by the children. The children then all received a delicious lunch.



Graduation

On Saturday 2nd December our Grade R class proudly graduated from Mother Touch Academy. They had been preparing their speeches and performances so that they could show their families what they have learnt. 28 Children will be leaving the school and commencing their official Primary school education in surrounding schools.





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Educational Play Group



Grade R Class of 2023



Mother Touch Academy

Beneficiaries:

Mother Touch Beneficiary Diversity Table 2023				
CHILDREN				
Black		White		Total
Female	Male	Female	Male	
49	50	0	0	99

Children's Age	Total
Babies: 12 – 18 Months Teddie's Class	6
Toddlers: 18 Months – 3 Years Dolphins Class	15
Grade 000: 3 -4 Year Busy Bees Class	25
Grade 00: 4 – 5 Years Buddy Bears Class	25
Grade R: 5 – 6 Years	28
TOTAL	99 Children

