

NEMATO

Change a life

success in life – for youth, by youth

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NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SPORT

With our pre-school up and running, we are now discussing the next challenges in education. How do we make our homework class more effective? How can we implement internet based learning? Is Khan Academy for mathematics the way to go? Where can you go for skills training? Is it possible to create a successful school in our disadvantaged community? Could we copy success stories like KIPP schools in the USA and LEAP schools in South Africa? Lots of questions and no easy and quick solutions. Laura Bijkerk, a Stenden student, has taken up some of these questions for her study research. Hopefully together we can find ways forward to offer our disadvantaged youth education with a future.

NEMATO CHANGE A LIFE

No Excuses Schools

We visited a discussion about highly successful schools in under-performing areas in the United States and townships in South Africa. With a lot of commitment and hard work, KIPP schools in America and LEAP schools in South Africa, show that the impossible is possible. Highly disadvantaged youth can achieve just as well as affluent youth in expensive private schools. In a highly inspiring conversation in the Sandton Convention Centre, Professor Jonathan Jansen from the Free



“No Excuses Schools” conversation in Sandton

State University, Mike Feinberg from KIPP and John Gilmour from LEAP explained the concepts they are using. Two Nemato Change a Life members visited the event, with the aim to get ideas how to grow our pre-school over the years into a school that can really change lives to their full potential.

The principal at Alexandria High School, close to Port Alfred, is working with John Gilmour to start LEAP Schools in the Eastern Cape. We had a meeting with him and he showed great interest in working with us. We are hopeful that things will work out and that in two years’ time we will be able to offer our members high quality schooling.

Stenden student

Laura Bijkerk, a teacher student at Stenden, is in Port Alfred for five months. She is doing research about the impact our mathematics lessons are having and what systems we could use to improve the effectiveness of our lessons. It includes looking into the impact internet based maths learning, like Khan Academy, can have on mathematics lessons. Although it is not part of her research, Laura is also assisting us in our LEAP School plan and volunteers in our homework class.



our tiny Nemato Change a Life Centre

Our small place

We have concentrated even more activities on our small yard. Our after-school class was a too small leaking house a few hundred metres away. We ordered a 'funeral' tent that we want to put up in our yard, but delivery is very slow. It is good to have things together in one place, but we are short in space. We still have a little bit of space left for gymnastics, but our fencers are literally training on the street. We are desperately looking for bigger land, but no luck yet.

In the picture you see our small red building, the grey mats in the front serve as tumbling track. The trampoline is at the left,



"Love Life" class

with rowing boats that need fixing behind it. You can see school desks in front of the house. The tent will fill the small space between the tumbling track and the trampoline.

LoveLife

In a community where unsafe sex and Aids are widespread, we can't aim for success in life and ignore this issue. To be honest, we have been neglecting it for too long. It was good news when LoveLife walked in and offered to do awareness lessons. It's good: serious stuff with a laugh. To have a strong impact, the plan is to use the last half an hour of the homework class twice a week for the entire year.

NEMATO ROWING CLUB

Buffalo Regatta

It was the first time for our elite rowers to compete at Buffalo Regatta in East London. It is one of the most prestigious competitions in the country attracting all South Africa's top rowers to the Eastern Cape. Our four elite rowers started training for this event in the summer holiday. They were ready and fit. The Under 16 Boys double made the final at Buffalo Regatta and our Under 15 Boys double made the final at Selborne Sprints, where they came third in a very strong field of the best school teams from all over the country, a great achievement. The boys were happy and excited about the competition.

It was strange to see all top schools and universities at Buffalo Regatta, but most clubs, who complained loudly that they couldn't compete at South African Schools Championships, didn't come to this great competition. We just hope that reality forces the clubs to create our own competition season away from the highly inconvenient summer sport season of schools rowing, and grow club rowing in South Africa.



Nemato at Buffalo Regatta

PE rowers

Our members studying at PE College in Port Elizabeth are starting up our PE branch of Nemato Rowing Club again. The biggest challenge is that the Swartkops River is too far without

transport. Benjamin Ekron from Grey High School has organised for us to use North End Lake and boat storage behind the World Cup soccer stadium for rowing. That is much closer and will hopefully work out for us. In the meantime the rowers are training on ergos.

NEMATO GYMNASTICS CLUB

Coaches course

Our two elite gymnasts, Siphamandla Baku and Philasande Mara, did the two day General Leader Course in Port Elizabeth. A nice course with a lot of practical ideas on how to make sessions fun and effective.

Mandy, who coached her daughter Bianca to two silver medals at World Championships, invited us for a training session the morning after the course. The aim is to get our best gymnasts ready for international competition. A remarkable achievement by Siphamandla during the training session was his first ever double backflip on the tumbling track.

Trampolines

Thanks to a donation we have been able to order new mats for our blacktop and double-mini trampoline. The mat for the blacktop trampoline arrived and that trampoline is back in action. The double-mini mat has to come from Germany and is on its way. We are now looking for an affordable 'spotter' mat, for coaches to assist when gymnasts practice difficult jumps.



Mandy coaching Siphamandla's first ever double back-flip

NEMATO HANDBALL CLUB

Attendance

Unfortunately for the small group of active players, handball is a team sport. Despite a growing number of members, the group of players who has at least 80% attendance, minimum

requirement for Nemato members for competitions and trips, is too small to form a team to play matches. It is disappointing that after a great trip to Durban at the end of last year, the club is locked into attendance problems again.

NEMATO FENCING CLUB

Activities

The club is in action with five training sessions per week. With less than a year of experience in fencing, we are looking for opportunities for further skills and knowledge development through courses or camps, and for competitions. We also hope

to start training again with Ingubo Fencing Club, an even younger club in our township. We hope to help this club to train its own coaches and get some own equipment, to make it an independent and self-sustainable club. We are also hoping to get some extra equipment for our own club, to make the training sessions more effective.

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