

FESTIVE SEASON 2024 NEWSLETTER



From Our CEO

Dear friends of Imibala,

2024 has been another year of growth for Imibala.

Two new Imibala villages have been added, Hermanus and Moorreesburg, both to be operational in April 2025. Imibala is spreading its wings and will be able to serve an extra 1500 children next year, bringing the total number of children in the Sponsor a Child school uniform program to 5000.

Our academic programs, along with our performing and creative arts programs, have grown significantly. We are now hosting a total of 875 children each week.

This number will increase to 1100 children once Imibala Hermanus and Moorreesburg are fully operational.

Imibala has also spread its wings in Europe and Imibala Trust UK, Imibala Stichting in the Netherlands and Imibala Verein in Germany are all fully operational allowing our European supporters to obtain a tax relief certificate. These offices function as a conduit and all donations are 100% transferred to The Imibala Trust in South Africa.

Imibala is hosting several fundraising events in 2025:

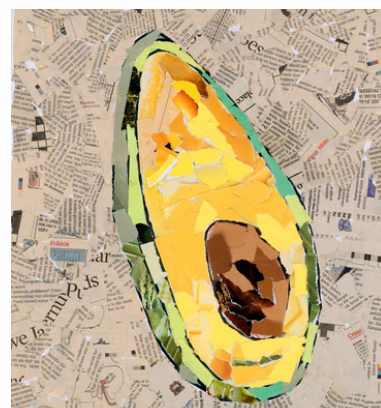
- The Imibala Summer Gala on the 6th of February at Vergelegen Wine Estate in South Africa
- The Imibala Golf Day on the 24th of October at the Erinvale Golf Club in South Africa
- The Vera Venray fundraiser on the 5th of April in the Netherlands
- The Imibala Fundraising Dinner on the 27th of May in the Netherlands
- The Imibala Golf Day in Crans Montana Switzerland on the 3rd of July
- The Imibala Golf Day in Taunus (Frankfurt) in Germany on the 11th of July
- The Imibala UK Fundraiser

Please join us at one of the above fundraisers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and for trusting the Imibala team to serve the children on your behalf. The impact we have on the children's well-being is measurable and visible. As a result of our work, dignity and self-esteem are restored resulting in better performances at their schools and by going "full circle" after 22 years, it is safe to state that Imibala has a generational impact.

I invite you to come and visit us at one of our Imibala villages, share the passion with our team and experience the happiness of the children in our safe space of excellence.

With appreciation and gratitude,
Theo Willemse
CEO





CREATIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL IMIBALA EXHIBITION

As we gathered at the close of another year, we wanted to take a moment to exhibit, reflect and celebrate our children's artwork, ballet, drama and dance, facilitating an opportunity where parents and teachers could celebrate their children's artwork.

This year our Annual Exhibition was inspired by the artist, Gustav Klimt and his Tree of Life artwork. Art is not just about creating; it's about expressing your thoughts, emotions and exploring, all whilst being exposed to various techniques.

The event was well attended with teachers, staff members and parents of children attending our partner schools. It was wonderful to see everyone come together to celebrate the learners' beautiful creations and showcase what they have learnt this year at Imibala.

We thank our dedicated volunteers for their time and the love they put into their classes, as well as our wonderful and generous sponsors and donors that enable us to create, exhibit and expose our children to various art forms.

We are extremely proud of our Imibala children and what they have achieved this year, may they continue to shine brightly for years to come.





"My highlight of my week is Mondays & seeing their pretty smiles, beyond proud of what they have created and how far they have come this year. It's always an absolute treat spending an afternoon with them."

Photographed above, Christiane, our incredibly dedicated art volunteer, with our Rusthof LSEN art learners.



Bevil Spence, our resident drummer and amazing volunteer, had the crowd up on their feet, grooving to the rhythm of the drums played by our very own Imibala drummers!

What a special welcome to the 2024 Imibala Exhibition!



Blooming Flowers

Danie Ackerman Collaboration Project Term 3.

Our lovely and creative art volunteer Lily collaborated with the Danie Ackerman art learners, to create the most beautiful flowerpot filled with handmade flowers.

"Wherever life plants you, bloom with grace!"



The Imibala Mini Art Gallery

Our mini, yet very impressive art gallery, showcasing our Imibala artists' spectacular creations!



Lizzie & the Firgrove Drama Students

Upon receiving their certificates, the Imibala dance and drama learners lit up the stage with their smiles and infectious energy!



SHOWCASE 2024

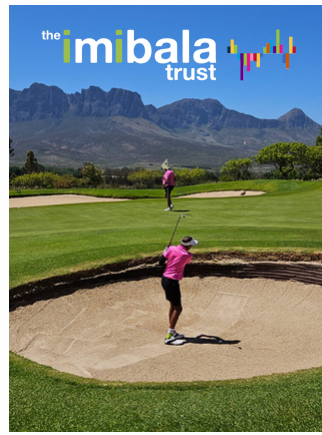
On the 12th, 13th and 14th of September 2024, Imibala had the honour of hosting our biennial Imibala Showcase.

Once Upon a Library

The show took place at the Playhouse Theatre, where our drama, dance and ballet learners dazzled audiences with their reimagination of classic fairytales such as Giselle, Nutcracker, Cinderella, The Pied Piper, The Ugly Duckling, Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, and a thrilling Michael Jackson mashup.

The narrators told a story of being trapped in the Imibala library and being forced to read these classics, which took them on a journey they could never have imagined.





LEARNER ADVANCEMENT

Celebrating Our Grade 7 Mathematics & Golf Learners' Achievements

We are excited to share that three of our grade 7 mathematic's learners from Silukhanyo Primary School, who were introduced to golf skills program three years ago, have seen remarkable growth—not just in their golf abilities, but also in their academic performance. Their progress has been truly inspiring, and all three learners received recognition at their End of Diploma Ceremony and were promoted to grade 8.

These learners participated in our Annual Imibala Golf Day on October 25, 2024, at Erinvale Golf Estate. Their performance was impressive, and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. In July 2024, our very talented golfers were granted membership status at Somerset West Golf Club with the support of the South African Golf Development Board, which is helping them unlock their full potential in the sport.

A special thank you to William Guy, golf director at Somerset West Golf Club, who has generously invested time and resources in these young athletes, and to Chris Clarke, our amazing volunteer. Additionally, we are grateful to Erinvale Golf Estate for allowing our learners to use their golf range to improve their swings!

We are incredibly proud of our golf learners' progress, both on the course and in the classroom. We are looking forward to seeing how they continue to grow in both their academic and golfing pursuits.



Elbie Van Der Walt – High School Math Volunteer at Imibala

"I have tutored the previous maths group from grade 8 up to grade 12. The day that I realised that they were comfortable enough in class to ask questions and challenge me was special. I like to be in control and with maths something is either right or wrong. Then the learners add the human side and you realise that you are never totally in control!"

Imibala provides a well-structured environment where you can make a difference and give back to the community while doing something that you enjoy."



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SPONSOR A CHILD

Continue Your Life-Changing Support in 2025

Thank you for making a difference in a child's life through your support of the Imibala Trust's Sponsor A Child program. Your generosity has provided dignity, opportunity, and hope to children who might otherwise face barriers to education. A school uniform is more than just clothing—it builds confidence, inspires accountability, and unlocks access to education.

As we look ahead to 2025, we ask you to continue this incredible journey with us. For just R1,400 (74 EUR | 63 GBP | 80 USD | 300 AED | 700 SEK), your renewed sponsorship will provide a child with: a full school tracksuit, leather school shoes, a warm jersey and rain jacket, socks, underwear, and a t-shirt and a sturdy school bag with basic stationery. Together, we can ensure that every child in our program has the tools they need to succeed.

Please join us again in making a lasting impact. Renew your support today at <https://imibala.com/donate>

Let's continue to invest in brighter futures, one uniform at a time. Thank you for your kindness and dedication!

Asemahle Sentiwe attended Imibala from the age of thirteen, being part of our Uniform Program. She then progressed to become Imibala's very own Library Assistant. 2024 was Asemahle's first year as a School Liaison Officer, representing our Sponsor a Child Department.

“UMuntu gumntu ngabantu”

This is a Xhosa proverb that translates to:

"A person is a person because of other people."

This reflects the African philosophy of Ubuntu, which emphasises interconnectedness, community, and the belief that one's humanity is tied to the humanity of others. It has been an honour and blessing to serve and give back to my community.

My first year as a Student Liaison Officer has been both thrilling and eye-opening. It's been an incredible journey, and I feel truly blessed and grateful to have planted a seed in a young learner's mind, helping them see the world differently and feel safe in it."



ANNUAL IMIBALA GOLF DAY



Annual Imibala Golf Day

25 October 2024 marked a very special day, the third Annual Imibala Golf Day! The event was a resounding success, raising a substantial amount of money for Imibala's various programs. We were delighted to have three of our exceptionally talented golf learners participate in the day, all performing admirably among players.

The day was filled with excitement and camaraderie as players enjoyed a fantastic round of golf, all in the spirit of giving back and supporting a worthy cause. From the enthusiasm on the greens to the cheers during the auction, the atmosphere throughout was electric!

We couldn't be more pleased with the outcome and cannot wait to do it all again next year, mark your calendars, 24 October 2025!

YES-YA-YEBO!

Yes-Ya-Yebo! South African Debut

After a triumphant run at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August, the Yes-Ya-Yebo! cast dazzled audiences with their South African debut! Performing three electrifying shows, one at The Drama Factory and two at False Bay Primary School.

The extremely talented cast brought the vibrant spirit of South African culture to life with every performance. Each show concluded with standing ovations and enthusiastic cheers. The Yes-Ya-Yebo! cast also had a bonus performance at our Annual Golf Day!

We couldn't be more proud of the Yes-Ya-Yebo! cast for their incredible talent and energy. We are already buzzing with excitement for Yes-Ya-Yebo! 2025. See you next year for more unforgettable moments!



GRAAF-REINET

We have had an amazing year at Imibala in Graaff-Reinet. We had numerous projects and activities that changed the lives of many learners, schools and homes.

We have dressed 353 learners in brand new school uniforms from various schools in Graaff-Reinet. Our creative and performing arts initiative includes art, music, traditional dance, ballroom dance and nature education. It has been wonderful to watch our Imibala children grow and develop in each program we run. We are thankful for the installation of benches underneath trees at a number of schools in Graaff-Reinet, in support of our Earth Day initiative.

In some very exciting news, we received an Imibala bus to transport our learners to and from Imibala safely by our reliable driver!



THANK YOU!

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

As 2024 comes to an end, we want to say a huge thank you for walking this journey with us. Your incredible support has helped us grow in ways we couldn't have imagined, bringing hope, dignity, and opportunity to thousands of children who now have a brighter future.

Because of you, we've been able to expand, reach more communities, and create safe, happy spaces for children to thrive. We're so excited about what 2025 holds and hope you'll continue to be part of this amazing story.

Wishing you a wonderful and fulfilling 2025!

With gratitude,
Mrs Gaynor Rupert.



TRUSTEES

Mrs Gaynor Rupert, Ms Hanneli Rupert, Mrs Linda White, Mr Sipho Puwani, Mr Gavin le Roux