

# Local high schools below average

THE latest set of matric results from greater Woodstock's four high schools is unlikely to restore the confidence of local parents, perpetuating the bizarre situation that children travel up to 40km from elsewhere to attend Woodstock schools, while local kids mostly commute elsewhere.

But Zonnebloem Nest in Walmer Estate provides a glimmer of hope that may convince local parents that quality education is possible locally. The school, which was controversially threatened with closure less than two years ago, seems to have completed its turnaround by achieving a 96.9% pass. Fewer than 10% of its learners are locals.

The school achieved 100% pass in pure

mathematics (although only three learners took the subject), design, drama, Xhosa and life orientation.

Yet only four of the 32 learners who wrote the National Senior Certificate examinations received Bachelor's passes. 19 learners passed with a Diploma and eight with a Higher Certificate.

Greater Woodstock's three other high schools produced lower pass rates than the provincial average of 85.1%

Queen's Park High School in Woodstock is the local secondary school with the highest proportion of local learners, at 45%. The school achieved a 79% matric pass rate, a 4.5 percentage point increase from 2012's 74.5%. Principal André van

der Merwe said he is happy about the increase as his aim is to restore the school's pass rate since the big drop from 91.7% in 2008 to 69.1% in 2011.

64 of Queen's Park High's 81 matrics passed, with 12 on a bachelor level, 44 on diploma level and 8 higher-certificate passes.

Salt River Secondary obtained an 80.3% pass rate, 4.8 percentage points short of the provincial average. Out of the 61 learners, 49 passed. 11 learners at the school got a bachelor pass. 21 learners received diploma passes and 17 higher certificate passes. *WoodstockLife* could not reach Salt River Secondary's principal comment.

## Success at Zonnebloem Nest

AN amazing story of courage and perseverance comes from this year's Zonnebloem Nest matric class. Sindiswa Ndlovu passed with five distinctions despite travelling more than 20km to school every day, and having to take care of her ill mother and little sister.

Ndlovu, who lives in a shack in Nyanga, achieved more than 80% in English, Xhosa, Dance, Drama and Life Orientation. "I've been preparing for the whole year for these exams so I just pushed myself and put all the other stuff aside."

The 19-year-old was sponsored by a youth development organisation called Vulamasango, which provided her with

financial assistance throughout her schooling career. Florian Kraemer, CEO of Vulamasango, said Zonnebloem was the best school in town that the organisation could afford. He said the fact that the Western Cape education department wanted to close down Zonnebloem did not dent the faith Vulamasango had in the quality of education at the school.

Ndlovu is very grateful for the opportunity to attend Zonnebloem Nest. She says her good results allow her to pursue her dream of being a lawyer. "This means a lot. It means a university education ... it opens doors," she said.

Ndlovu's journey has not been easy. Every school day she would return late and have to walk from the taxi rank to her home in Nyanga, which is riddled with crime. "I've been robbed like more than once... it's just hard."

Her struggle worsened when her mother suffered a stroke at the end of 2012 and became unable to work. Ndlovu, whose father passed away when she was 4, has to take care of her and her little sister. One of her best friends was shot dead when she was in Grade 11. "My marks dropped drastically. I'm usually like the top student ... but that year everything was like downhill."





*Sindiswa Ndlovu*

She said following that traumatic experience she had to be strong and deal with her emotions. "I don't know how I did it, I just did it," said Ndlovu. "You can't just sit there and cry for three years because you're wasting time, opportunities are passing you by. You just have to pick yourself up and I did just that."

Ndlovu said she is lucky to be surrounded by positive role models she can look up to. She said the negativity in her

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# Salt River teen arrested for murder

A Salt River teen has been arrested for the murder of a 30-year-old man in Albert Road recently.

The 17-year-old boy, who cannot be named because he is a minor, allegedly stabbed the victim in the neck and chest after an argument broke out in front of Cour des Grand pub in Salt River, said Woodstock police spokesperson sergeant Hilton Malila.

The victim, identified as Fabries Girbeaux Makomba, later died from his injuries.

The boy was later picked up at his mother's home in Mitchell's Plain. He lived with his aunt in Salt River.

The boy is still in custody pending a formal bail application.



Woodstock resident Robyn Minnis points to a new pile of rubbish dumped in Regent Street on the Greatmore and Devon corners, an almost daily occurrence. The Woodstock Improvement District (WID) manager Chris Lloyd said this has been a problem for many years. However, because the corner falls into a residential area, the WID's cleaning teams are not mandated to service it. The WID only works in commercial streets, said Lloyd. The ward councillor for the area, Bernadette le Roux, urged the community to report dumping. "It is important that people report what they see and give us as much detail as possible," she said. Report illegal dumping on 0860 103 089 or sms 31373.

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# We're just renovating, says closed Rainbow Tavern

THE owner of the Rainbow Tavern bluntly refused to answer questions about why the notorious Rainbow Tavern's doors remain open after the Liquor Tribunal revoked their liquor licence.

The Liquor Tribunal ordered Rainbow Tavern to close immediately after Woodstock police compiled a dossier detailing drug dealing, prostitution and drunken brawls on the premises.

A few days after their doors closed, it suddenly opened again, but apparently not for trading, at least in liquor.

Woodstock police station commander colonel Duma Ntsezo said, as soon as they heard about the activity at Rainbow Tavern, police went to investigate. The owners said they were renovating. There were empty crates but there weren't fridges or alcohol on the premises, said col Ntsezo.

Woodstock police spokesperson ser-

geant Hilton Malila said that, after the space is renovated, the owner will turn it into a place of entertainment, where food will be served.

He is going to allow people to bring their own liquor, said sgt Malila.

Asked what the situation and plan for Rainbow Tavern was, co-owner Anthony Louis told WoodstockLife: "Are you the people that said we keep prostitution here in the place? So why don't you just put in there there's more prostitution there? You people was writing that we keep prostitution and all that shit there, so you can just do your own thing and write that shit again. You are so unfair. I wonder if you're going to like it if somebody tell me that you are a bitch and I just write 'you're a bitch'."

Louis previously told WoodstockLife that they plan to appeal the judgement of the Liquor Tribunal.

  
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# Success at Zonnebloem Nest

Continued from page 2 life just motivates her to be successful. She said: "I just tell myself that I'm not going to let my situation or the area I'm living in be my tomorrow."

She said her mother was over the

moon when she brought home her results and showed it to everyone in the community.

Ndlovu aspires to be a lawyer and has applied to study law at the University of the Western Cape.

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