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PROPERTIES



In collaboration with
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EDUCATION



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Growsmart 2023 launches across the Eastern Cape for its sixth year of advancing quality education for all

Eastern Cape, South Africa – To empower young learners experiencing challenging circumstances to reach their full potential through opportunities for quality education with a positive impact on their future, the Growsmart Educational Programme 2023 is launching in schools across the Eastern Cape province this week.

The nationally and internationally recognised Growsmart Educational Programme is a corporate social initiative by Growthpoint Properties in collaboration with the Eastern Cape Department of Education. It advances the learning experience of intermediate grade 4, 5 and 6 learners with an interactive, fun educational programme of curriculum-based literacy, creative writing and mathematics. Structured as an interschool/inter-grade competition, it is focused on the high-impact areas of literacy, story writing (creative writing) and mathematics.

In 2023, for the first time in three years, the Growsmart literacy and mathematics competitions are returning to their exciting original format – the in-person, quick-fire, buzzer quiz rounds that are loved by learners, teachers and adjudicators alike. This year, learners will progress through the first three rounds of the popular and innovative competition to earn their place in the fourth and final stage.

They are prepared for the various competitions, with the support of mentor teachers, by studying and completing the Growsmart content available for free on the Growsmart website. Learners have access to three sources of educational material from Growsmart: the Growing Smarter Book, interactive activity workbooks, and online preparation tutorials for learners and teachers.

Literacy contestants learn and are tested on their ability to correctly spell, define and properly use words in a sentence. Learners are also further tested on verbs, nouns, idioms and adjectives.

The creative writing competition is project-based and mentor-guided. Learners write and submit their own original written stories, which are marked and adjudicated by an external panel of experts.

The mathematics competition aims to strengthen number sense development, reinforce basic operations with higher number ranges, consolidate number bonds and number facts, and develop problem-solving skills.

Growsmart Educational Programme, initiated and funded by Growthpoint, was first launched in the Western Cape in 2010, expanded to the Eastern Cape in 2018 and has since then also grown into Limpopo. The Growsmart Educational Programme is fully supported by the Education Department (s) and the WCED's Flagship Programme. -.

"This year, our interactive programme is more focused, relevant, fun and innovative than ever before, taking the best of what online and in-person opportunities have to offer, to impact young minds and bring about change," says Jewel Harris, founder of Growsmart and General Manager of Growthpoint Properties Cape Town.

Growthpoint Properties Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Shawn Theunissen, adds, "Investing for positive social impact across the entire education value chain not only changes lives today but for generations to come. Growsmart remains one of the most successful ways that we help to improve educational outcomes at the primary school level and create a more inclusive society in the long term."

The programme is rewarding for all involved by being a valuable additional resource for educators and providing a fun way to enhance learning for children to learn. However, there are also great prizes up for grabs. The winners in the Growsmart competition - learners, teachers and schools – are rewarded with substantial prizes in support of their future education worth over R600 000.00 per region.

Semi-finalists can also look forward to personal mentorship to assist with applying for High School Tertiary bursaries. Growsmart supports the learner and their family every step of the way through the application process. Since the programme's inception in 2010, Growsmart and its partners have sponsored and assisted 26 alumni in reaching their educational goals in high school and tertiary institutions.

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Notes to Editor

- Schools must have scored less than 55% in their LITNUM (Literacy and Numeracy) results to qualify and are selected by the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Education Departments

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