



An initiative by GROWTH-POINT
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MEDIA RELEASE FROM GROWSMART, AN INITIATIVE BY GROWTHPOINT PROPERTIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Growsmart Eastern Cape champions for 2023 are announced

...and the winners are:

- ☐ **Literacy** – Dalukukhanya Primary School, Mdantsane, East London
- ☐ **Mathematics** - Mzoxolo Primary School, Mdantsane, East London
- ☐ **Story writing** - Melisizwe Primary School, Motherwell, Gqeberha

Eastern Cape, South Africa – The top five Growsmart 2023 learners in literacy and maths, along with the top four learners in creative writing, were announced at a prestigious prize-giving ceremony at the East London International Convention Centre recently.

The Growsmart Educational Programme is a corporate social initiative by Growthpoint Properties in collaboration with the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Education Department.

Growsmart's vision is to empower young learners facing challenging circumstances by providing opportunities for quality education that positively impacts their future. This educational programme is both a project-based and face-to-face competition. It is interschool and inter-grade with three categories: literacy, story writing (creative writing) and mathematics.

For the first time in three years, the maths and literacy competitions returned to their exciting original format of in-person, quick-fire, buzzer quiz rounds that are loved by learners, teachers and adjudicators alike.

The Mathematics and Literacy competitions' final rounds were each fiercely contested by 15 of the top-performing grade 4, 5 and 6 learners in the Eastern Cape, and 10 learners competed in the Story Writing finals.

The competition began with learners from 72 schools from across all seven education districts in the Eastern Cape.

Finalists had to progress through the first three rounds of the competition, which began in May 2023, to earn their place in the fourth and final stage.

They prepared for the various competitions, with the support of mentor teachers, by studying and utilising the free Growsmart resources available on its website. These resources include electronic newspapers, interactive activity workbooks, and online preparation tutorials for both learners and teachers.

The 15 finalists in the **Literacy Competition** were selected from a pool of 207 participants. They were tested on their ability to spell, define and use words in sentences, as well as their knowledge of verbs, nouns, idioms, and adjectives. The winners are:

1st Place	Dalukukhanya Primary School, Mdantsane, East London
2nd Place	Ngqika Primary School, Zwelitsha, King Williamstown
3rd Place	Fanti Gaqa Primary School, Mdantsane, East London

Dalukukhanya Primary School's accomplishment has also earned them an iPad Lab worth R350,000, fostering future learning and promoting positive educational outcomes.

In the **Mathematics Competition**, 15 finalists out of the 216 participants tackled questions ranging from BODMAS to problem-solving and mental maths. The winners are:

1st Place	Mzoxolo Primary School, Mdantsane, East London
2nd Place	Gcobani Primary School, Mdantsane, East London
3rd Place	Aspiranza Primary School, Buffalo Flats, East London

The **Story Writing Competition** is a project-based, mentor-led event in which learners submit their own original written stories. Nearly 180 storybooks were submitted. The winners are:

1st Place	Amyoli Thabi from Melisizwe Primary School, Motherwell, Gqeberha
2nd Place	Lwahluma Mlambo from Nkosinathi Primary School, Lingelitsha Township, East London
3rd Place	Imange Saula from Van der Kemp Primary School, Salt Lake, Gqeberha
Most Creative	Lwandisuthando Thisani from Melisizwe Primary School, Motherwell, Gqeberha



Growsmart - Eastern Cape Story Writing Competition Winners



Lwandisuthando Thisani from Melisizwe Primary School, Motherwell, Gqeberha

"Congratulations to everyone who took part in this year's interactive programme, which has been more focused, relevant, engaging, and innovative than ever before. And, especially well done to the winning students, mentors and schools. By combining the best of online and in-person experiences, we continue to impact young minds and foster meaningful change," says Jewel Harris, founder of Growsmart and General Manager of Growthpoint Properties Cape Town.



Jewel Harris Assistant Regional Manager of Growthpoint Properties (Cape Town) and Growsmart's Founder

Growthpoint Properties Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Shawn Theunissen, adds, "The winning learners and mentors represent the leaders of tomorrow and today. We're incredibly proud of them all, both children and teachers. Investing in positive social impact across the entire education value chain not only transforms lives today but also shapes future generations. Growsmart remains one of the most effective methods for enhancing educational outcomes at the primary school level, contributing to a more inclusive society in the long run."



Shawn Theunissen Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Growthpoint Properties

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 and the Growsmart competition winners were awarded significant prizes to support their future education. First, second and third-place winners in each contest received educational materials to the value of R20,000, R10,000 and R5,000, respectively. The 'Most Creative' story written also received R5,000. In addition, mentors in all categories were awarded gift vouchers from a Growthpoint Shopping Centre worth R10,000, R5,000 and R3,000.

All finalists were given the opportunity to apply for a bursary through the Growsmart Bursary Programme, with Growsmart assisting the learner and the family every step of the way through the application process. Since its inception, Growsmart and its partners have sponsored and supported 27 alumni in achieving their educational goals in high school and tertiary institutions.

The Growsmart competition, launched in 2010 in the Western Cape, aims to enhance primary school learners' performance in literacy and mathematics. Due to its success, the programme has expanded to the Eastern Cape and Limpopo.

Congratulations to all the Eastern Cape winners.

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Notes to Editor

ABOUT GROWSMART:

- ☐ Growsmart is an annual competition that started in 2010 with participating schools selected by the Education Departments
- ☐ Initiated and funded by Growthpoint Properties
- ☐ Fully supported by the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Education Departments
- ☐ For Intermediate Phase learners within the metro areas (Grades 4, 5 and 6)
- ☐ 2023 Schools registered: Western Cape: 158 | Eastern Cape: 95 | Limpopo: 21
- ☐ 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

ABOUT GROWTHPOINT PROPERTIES:

Growthpoint creates space to thrive with innovative and sustainable property solutions in environmentally friendly buildings while improving the social and material wellbeing of individuals and communities. It is an international property company invested in real estate and communities across South Africa, Africa, Australia, Poland, Romania and the UK, and South Africa's largest primary JSE-listed REIT. Growthpoint is 50% co-owner of the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town. It is an established leader in commercial green developments and owns and manages the biggest portfolio of green-certified buildings in Africa. Visit [growthpoint.co.za](https://www.growthpoint.co.za) for more information, and connect with Growthpoint on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

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