



→ Provincial Winner

Excellence in Primary School Leadership

Name: Gershwin Kroukamp
School: Berzelia Primary School, Atlantis
District: Metro North

Mr Gershwin Kroukamp, a dedicated leader born and raised in Albertinia, embarked on his journey at Berzelia Primary School in 2020 as principal. His commitment to education is epitomised by his personal motto inspired by Nelson Mandela, “Education is the great engine of personal development.”

Mr Kroukamp holds impressive qualifications including a BEd from the University of the Western Cape, an LLB from UNISA, and diplomas in Mathematics from Stellenbosch and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. His leadership at Berzelia Primary School, situated in Atlantis, Western Cape, has been transformative despite challenges of unemployment, housing shortages, and crime in the community. Under Mr Kroukamp’s guidance, Berzelia Primary has flourished. Starting with approximately 600 learners in 2020, the school has grown to accommodate 1048 learners currently, predominantly from the

Witsand informal settlement (74%) and Protea Park (26%). The school’s infrastructure and resources have vastly improved under his leadership, including the introduction of ICT labs, smart classrooms, intercom systems, cameras for safety, and nighttime safety lights. This enhancement has fostered a conducive environment for learning and safety.

Academically, Berzelia Primary School under Mr Kroukamp’s leadership has achieved high standards through innovative teaching methods, promoting a lifelong love for learning, and integrating technology effectively. Beyond academics, Mr Kroukamp emphasises inclusivity, community engagement, and leadership development among all role players.

Mr Kroukamp’s tenure has been marked by a commitment to ethical and visionary leadership, evident in his strategic planning involving stakeholders from the

community and corporate sectors. His implementation of clear expectations, regular professional development, and a culture of collaboration has empowered educators and staff to excel. Moreover, Mr Kroukamp’s initiatives extend beyond the classroom. He has spearheaded fundraising efforts and secured sponsorships, ensured financial stability and enriching extra-curricular activities such as sports and cultural events. This has not only uplifted the school but also provided a beacon of hope in the disadvantaged community of Atlantis.

In conclusion, Mr Gershwin Kroukamp’s leadership at Berzelia Primary School exemplifies excellence. His ability to inspire, innovate, and lead by example has transformed challenges into opportunities, making a profound impact on both the educational landscape and the community at large.