



Women's Day celebrations

The Metro East Education District celebrated Women's Day in style on Friday, 06 August 2021.

Staff dressed up and District Director, Landeka Diamond, added extra glamour by rolling out the red carpet to mark the occasion.

In South Africa, Women's Day commemorates the march to the Union Buildings by thousands of women on 09 August 1956 to

protest against the carrying of pass books.

In a message to district staff, Diamond referred to this year's International Women's Day theme "Choose to Challenge" and said we can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. "We can all choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world. From challenge comes change, so let's all choose to challenge."

Thank you for your generous donations



300 Grade R and Grade 1 learners at Portia Primary School and Hyde Park Primary received toiletry packs donated by staff of the WCED's Head Office, district offices, and the Ministry of Education.

The initiative was part of a drive to show the WCED's commitment for Nelson Mandela Day. The drive was organised by the Transform to Perform team at Head Office.

Western Cape Education Minister, Debbie Schäfer, visited the schools on 29 July 2021 to hand over the packs containing a toothbrush and toothpaste, facecloth, soap, tissues, and a toy or sweet treat for each child. Schäfer thanked all staff members who contributed packs to the drive and said she hoped that we can make this an even bigger project next year.



WCED bids farewell to Tina Singh

Tina Singh retired at the end of July after 40 years in the public service, including 12 years at the WCED.

Singh handed over the reins as Chief Director: Assessment and Examinations to Bertram Loriston.

Earlier this year, Minister Debbie Schäfer, presented Singh with a special award for ensuring the smooth running of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) exams in the province for many years.

Singh, who was described as a consummate professional known for her responsiveness and caring disposition, said she was looking forward to travelling.



Capturing the spirit of the vaccination drive



Last week, Dr. De Vries, Medical Director at METRO Emergency Medical Services, Western Cape Health Department, handed over a photo book to Head of Department Brent Walters capturing the 2021 Educator Sector Vaccination rollout at the Pinelands EMS site.

The photo booklet captures the spirit, energy and comradery of the site. It also highlights and acknowledges our health heroes, both in the WCED and the Department of Health, who had made the rollout possible. It also captures the many volunteers who gave up their time to assist the sector and to save lives.

The photos were captured by our "pseudo- photojournalists" Junaid Daries, Circuit Manager in Metro Central, and Nicholas Sales of EMS who did an amazing job at capturing the energy and vibe at the centre. Even with masks on you

can see the smiles radiating from people's eyes!

"The book is a heart-warming reminder of a special time for the sector, where we all worked together for a common cause that has already saved lives. We are forever appreciative of the support, kindness and professionalism of the people involved in this rollout. This is a book of hope...hope for the sector, the province and the country at large," said Walters.

"Our appreciation is endless."



August is Women's Month and we asked some of our staff to tell us about women who inspire them.



Jodi-lee Stemmet
Communication

The most inspirational woman in my life is my mother. She is caring, loving and inspires me to be a better person every day.



Thumeka Xawuka
Financial Accounting

My Mom is the most inspirational woman I know. She is very strong and calm in every situation. She always believes in giving and sharing.



Amelia Cameron
Office of the Head of Education

My mother is the most inspirational woman in my life. She is a single mother and made sacrifices for me to make sure I have the best life.



Ruth Leukes
Chief Education Specialist: Early Years

I look up to Maya Angelou for her portrayal of women as extraordinary and remarkable individuals. We often underestimate ourselves and I therefore admire women like Sheryl Sandberg for being vocal about the fact that women can have it all.