



Oranjekloof Moravian Primary School, Western Cape Library Handover 28 July 2017

On Friday, 28 July 2017, the 1,240 children of Oranjekloof Moravian Primary School in Hout Bay received a new library with 7,000 books, thanks to the dedication and fundraising efforts of more than 550 girls and staff at Benenden School in Kent and with the support of The Bookery and Common Good Foundation.

The girls at Benenden hosted events as diverse as a 24-hour challenge, which included 60 students and staff running 640km in 24 hours and World Book Day, where children dressed up as different book characters and had a cake sale to raise funds. With the help of Breadline Africa, they were able to achieve their goal of providing a 60m² prefabricated library. Books came from a range of sources, including Breadline Africa and The Bookery, who also categorised the books and set up a complete library online system. The Bookery focuses on providing libraries in underprivileged schools and offering support to library assistants.

The Common Good Foundation, founded by Common Ground Church in 2005, has been working in the school since the beginning of 2016, and was an instrumental partner in ensuring that the launch went without a hitch. They also helped to cover the 7,000 books! Their goal is to strengthen the capacity of staff and governance and improve the quality of all aspects of school life.

Principal Mkhululi Qaba said: "What this means for the children, is they have a place of refuge, a place of hope and a place of learning. "Someone said the theme for today is 'read to lead'. Now they can come here to prepare themselves for those leadership roles that they will have in the community and at large". Mr Principal Qaba quoted Brian Schreuder, Head of Education saying "he wants to drive all schools, across the province, under the simple banner: 'you walk into school to learn, and you leave to lead'".

Attendees also had the pleasure of hearing a powerful recital of Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise" given by one of the prefects.

Breadline Africa's director, Marion Wagner, told launch attendees: "it has been amazing to work with so many committed partners and we thank all of you for making this possible. A special thanks goes to Benenden staff and children who went the extra mile!. We believe that every child has the capacity to do something phenomenal with his or her life and that literacy is part of unlocking imagination and opening up possibilities for them to choose a path for their own future. With this library, we hope that you will develop a love for reading and as Margaret Fuller said "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader"".

