

Thabisile Primary School

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Soweto
10th February 09

Dear Christina,

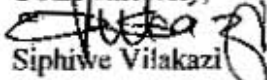
How are you? We are fine in Soweto and enjoying the warmth of summer. During Obama's inauguration I realised it was winter in America because everyone was dressed in winter clothes. We had to explain the weather difference to the children when we discussed President Obama at our school.

I am writing to you about the model kindergarten room that you set up at our school. I am delighted to inform you that your Girl Scout gold award project has become gold for us. This has become a model grade R room that all the other primary schools in Soweto visit and want to emulate. Grade R is the equivalent to the American kindergarten. My learners, teachers, parents, school governing body (SGB), district education department and I are grateful to you for helping us to become the model of emulation for Grade R education in Soweto and the whole Gauteng province. The Grade R room has become the centre of attraction for our visitors and increased our grade R enrolment.

We are also grateful for the teachers manual you created on how to use the modern grade R classroom. It is an excellent document that is easy to use and demarcates clearly the roles and responsibilities of early childhood development. The children are happy and they are learning to read, write and count much faster than before you came to our aid. We can see the powerful impact of teaching and learning aids in the correct environment. The other grades want classrooms as beautiful and equipped as grade R. We are working hard to find ways to improve our other classrooms using grade R as our standard.

As we explained to you in August last year when you were here with Global Literacy project group, that grade R solely funded by impoverished parents who have trouble raising the small amount of school fees that we ask of them. Without your generosity and effort the class would have remained a bare room. Kindly accept our heartfelt gratitude to you for the wonderful room. The strong positive impact of your project is benefiting the rest of the school. We hope that you will maintain the relationship with the school and come back to view the children who are benefiting from the work you have done.

Yours sincerely,


Sipiwe Vilakazi
Principal

