



# Uplands Outreach Newsflash! 2013 Impact

22 January 2014

## *Dear Friends*

Uplands Outreach continues to measure the impact of our “systemic alignment” interventions in the Insikazi Circuit, where we work with the Circuit Manager, school leaders, teachers and learners *in a coherent manner* in a single school circuit - for maximum impact.

While Outreach has plenty of anecdotal and qualitative evidence of our impact, most donors require that we also measure our work quantitatively. The fact that we love analysing data helps, thanks to our in-house ‘special specialists’ Myra Dunley-Owen and Tracey Butchart! We take great pleasure, therefore, in announcing the 2013 quantitative results (sourced from the Department of Basic Education and analysed by Myra and Tracey) of our major programmes in Insikazi.

## *Insikazi Circuit Highlights*

The overall matric pass rate improved from 65.3% in 2012 to 83.3% in 2013, a remarkable and significant increase of **18 percentage points**. This pass rate also beats the 2013 national average of 78.2% and the provincial average of 77.6%. In addition, this improvement means that Insikazi jumped from the bottom tier of 13 circuits to 6th place. We heartily congratulate the Circuit Manager, Mr Mandrew Nyambi, and his team of school leaders for this outstanding result. To be in partnership with this “awakening giant” of a school circuit is a privilege for Uplands.

## *Impact of the Learners for Excellence (L4) Saturday Maths cohort:*

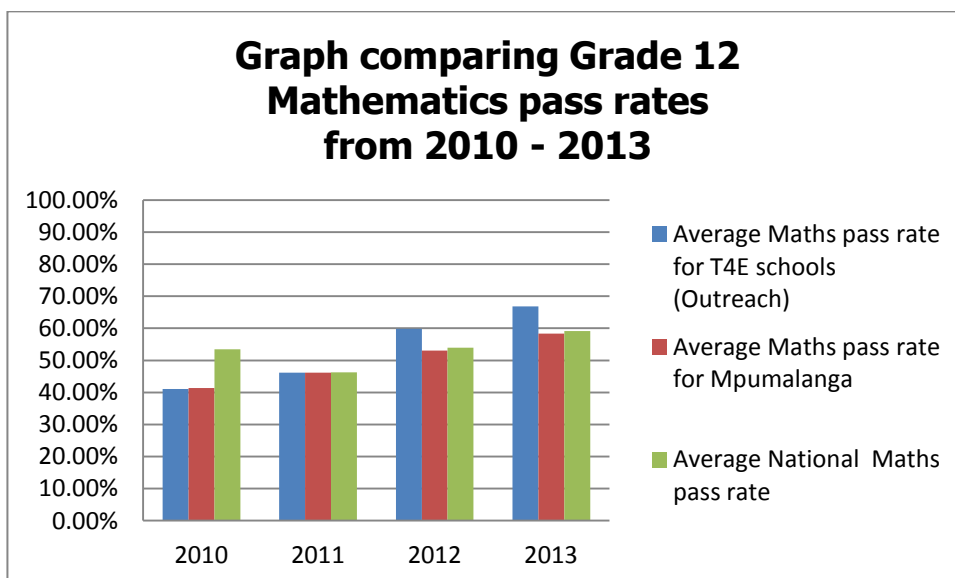
This special cohort of 50 Grade 11 learners in 2013 continues to both inspire and challenge us, as we work closely with them through their matric, setting them up for success in their post-school phase. Here are a few of the amazing results in 2013:

- ✓ 100% retention rate of all 50 learners throughout 2013.
- ✓ 96% average attendance rate again, for the second year in a row.
- ✓ 91.8% of the cohort is progressing to Grade 12 (versus only 55% of their classmates).
- ✓ 36% of the L4E learners achieved over 50% in Maths in Grade 11 (nationally, only 2% of learners achieved above a 50% average).
- ✓ Maths achievement levels continue to be almost 100% ahead of their Grade 11 classmates.
- ✓ The top performing Maths learner for 2013 at all ten Insikazi secondary schools was an L4E learner.
- ✓ At the ten secondary schools, eight had an L4E learner as the top overall learner (5 schools) or as the second place learner in all subjects (3 schools).
- ✓ Reading levels (in the Uplands programme) have improved from an average of Grade 2 to Grade 8, and nine learners are at or above their Grade level now.
- ✓ Weekly journals continue to be an invaluable communication tool for both learners and facilitators, as well as improving writing skills, vocabulary, grammar, comprehension, and overall confidence.

## Impact of the Teachers for Excellence (T4E) Mathematics Programme

2013 marked the fourth year of the Teachers for Excellence Mathematics programme at Uplands. The cohort of 44 Maths Teachers has become a lively professional learning community, with deep relationships with Uplands. Outreach has tracked the programme over time, and is proud to share the matric results in 2013 - which, at 66.8%, is outperforming both the general Mpumalanga and national averages:

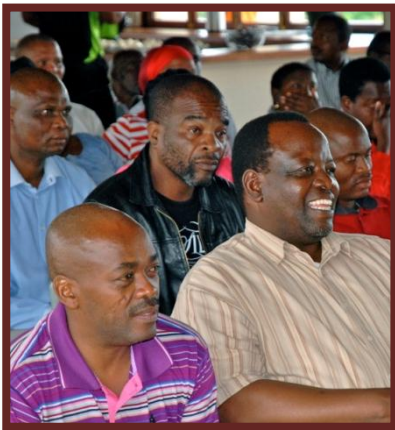
<b>Teachers for Excellence (T4E) Maths Summary Table</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Number of T4E partner schools offering Maths in Grade 12 <small>*15 schools have T4E teachers as Gr 12 Maths teachers</small>	16	18	19	19
Number of learners from these schools writing Grade 12 Mathematics	605	527	613	593
Total number of Grade 12 Maths learners scoring above 80% in T4E schools	15	9	14	18
Average Mathematics pass rate for T4E partner schools	41.1%	46.2%	59.8%	66.8%
Average Mathematics pass rate for Mpumalanga	41.4%	46.2%	53.1%	58.3%
Average National Mathematics pass rate	53.5%	46.3%	54%	59.1%



## *Thank You to our Donors and Supporters!*

Uplands Outreach could not have achieved these quantitative results without the presence and generosity of our donors. Each and every donation has helped to secure our footing, and we give authentic thanks to all our supporters and friends. Profound thanks and appreciation go to the following pivotal donors who underpin our major programmes:

- ✓ **Lombard Insurance** – for supporting Outreach in all its Insikazi activities
- ✓ **Rand Merchant Bank** – for the Learners for Excellence Maths Programme
- ✓ **Tshikululu Social Investments** - for the Learners for Excellence Maths Programme
- ✓ **Investec Social Investment** – for the Teachers for Excellence Maths Programme
- ✓ **The Chuma Foundation** – for the Learners for Excellence Maths Programme



## *Conclusion*

Stay tuned for exciting news throughout 2014 of Outreach's work in the Insikazi Circuit! We'd like to take this opportunity to announce that we are launching the School Leaders for Excellence (SL4E) Leadership and Management programme in February 2014, in conjunction with the University of Johannesburg. This significant programme represents the capstone in our Insikazi Circuit "systemic alignment" activities, as we will work closely with 25 Principals and Deputies from our partner schools for three years for quality schooling. During this time we will continue to work with the teachers and learners in our existing Programmes of Excellence in Insikazi. Special thanks to the **Anglo American Chairman's Fund** and **Lombard Insurance** for giving this programme wings!

### *Closing Thoughts:*

*"A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue and pen, then you have something very special." – Nelson Mandela*