



MEDIA RELEASE FROM GROWSMART, AN INITIATIVE BY GROWTHPOINT PROPERTIES AND THE WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

19 September 2019

***Growsmart turns ten and announces its sensational semifinalist schools***

This year, Growsmart in the Western Cape reached a milestone: ten fabulous years.

That's a full decade of exciting, multi-disciplinary primary school competitions with very real rewards - both financial and academic - for learners and their schools alike.

This groundbreaking education initiative, by Growthpoint Properties in collaboration with the Western Cape Department of Education, celebrates making the grade with a prize pot this year well in excess of R900,000, and a record 170 schools registered to take part at the beginning of the year. That's nearly ten more schools than last year's contest.

Growsmart is an annual programme which began in 2009, aiming to boost the literacy, numeracy and science performance of primary school children in the Western Cape.

Growthpoint Properties' regional general manager Jewel Harris says: "We have been so excited to watch the programme grow each year, and to witness the positive impact that it has on our learners. We remain both humbled and inspired by their eagerness and enterprise, and can only feel positive about the future when it is in the hands of such wonderful young people."

The 2019 Western Cape semi-final took place on 24 August, with competition fiercer than ever in the five rounds: literacy, mathematics, science, and debating, as well as the individual story-writing contest, in which learners pen and illustrate their own book. The best stories are published in a book.

Winning pupils each receive R20,000 towards their future education, with second and third prizes of R10,000 and R5,000 awarded too. The winning school is granted an enviable R350,000 iPad Lab, while second place garners R50,000 of improvements, and third place R25,000.

The schools that made it through to this year's final are:

- Debating - St Raphael's Primary and Arcadia Primary.
- Literacy - Balvenie Primary; Blue Downs; Factretton Primary; Mandalay Primary; Thomas Wildschutt Primary.
- Mathematics - Floreat Primary; Hlengisa Primary; Newfields Primary; Spineview Primary; West End Primary.

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**Growsmart:**

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