



An initiative by GROWTHPOINT
PROPERTIES



In collaboration with
Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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EDUCATION

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

20 January 2020

Growsmart returns for its eleventh year in the Western Cape

With a vision to enrich the lives of South African youth and sow seeds of success through education, the Growsmart Educational Programme, an initiative by Growthpoint Properties in collaboration with the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Departments of Education launches its eleventh year in the Western Cape and third year in the Eastern Cape. This year Growsmart welcomes the Limpopo Province to the programme and will be launching for the first time in 27 schools.

Despite the insurmountable challenges faced in the South African educational arena over the past eleven years, the Growsmart team have proved that anything is possible if you're willing to go the extra mile to promote lifelong learning and improve the livelihood of the next generation.

"We are elated to continue the Growsmart journey and welcome every learner, teacher and school who returns and those who will be participating this year for the first time. We know that the educational rewards will be felt for many generations to come and expanding the programme to reach more communities has always been an integral part of our vision," says Jewel Harris, founder of the Growsmart Educational Programme, an initiative by Growthpoint Properties.

To date the programme has impacted over 69 000 primary school learners from the Western and Eastern Cape, and it further develops educators through teacher workshops. The programme is based on the current curriculum which is fully aligned to the provincial educational departments where the programme is operational. "Our aim has always been to enhance learning and provide quality education for every learner in every classroom," explains Jewel Harris.

As a community-centered programme, Growsmart equips learners to face educational challenges head on, empowering the youth and strengthening communities through quality education. They are consequently effecting change on multiple levels in society as learners, teachers, parents and families all reap the rewards of improved learning - inside and outside of the classroom.

Seven Growsmart alumni will be starting high school this year courtesy of bursary partners and school partners, namely, Christel House South Africa, SAILI,

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Students for a Better Future and Leisure Education Trust. Growsmart continues to work closely with all our bursary partners, Allan Gray, Kay Mason Foundation UCT 100 Up, Stellenbosch WOW Programme and schools to ensure that learners applications are correctly and timeously submitted for consideration.

These alumni will proudly add their name to the list of previous learners who have gone on to receive full scholarships to high schools. Many have matriculated with distinctions and confidently ventured into tertiary level education.

Growsmart is very excited to be adding a sixth subject to its programme, Entrepreneurship. The development of an entrepreneurial and practical mindset throughout a learner's school experience is essential to promoting practical change in the South African employment market. Extensive international research has shown the effectiveness of project-based learning, and the ripple effect it has in promoting increased interest in school.

Shawn Theunissen, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Growthpoint Properties, says: "For Growthpoint Properties, Growsmart helps us to give primary school learners access to quality education. Growthpoint Properties is not only invested in our property assets in South Africa; we are also invested in communities. Growsmart is an effective way of creating social capital for our business and stakeholders alike."

The 2020 competition kicks off in participating regions on the following dates:

- 21 January - Port Elizabeth
- 23 January - East London
- 28 January - Limpopo
- 05 - 06 February - Western Cape

The competition's programme will be presented to teachers, mentors, principals and senior members of the Department of Education at the launch and thousands of Growsmart curriculum-based education newspapers will be distributed together with story writing kits, dictionaries and a manual explaining the mechanics of the competition to all participating schools.

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Notes to Editor

- Growsmart is an annual competition that started in 2010 with 80 schools selected by the Western Cape Education Department
- Initiated and funded by Growthpoint Properties
- Fully supported by the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Education Departments
- For Intermediate Phase learners within the metro areas (Grades 4, 5 and 6)
- Currently reaches 69 410 learners (160 schools) in the Western Cape and 25 121(60 schools) in the Eastern Cape, who received 4 editions of the Growsmart newspaper per year
- Schools must have less than 60% for literacy to qualify and are selected by the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Education Departments

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