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KIDS ANNUAL ENVIRO-SPORTS DAY

BY EDU-TRAIN TO THE BEACH

On 28 February, the Interact Club of the German School (KIDS) hosted and organized 485 disadvantaged children from various homes and shelters to have a fun day on Fish Hoek Beach.

With military precision the children, accompanied by their carers and about 20 members of the Interact Club under the watchful eye of Rotary Club Member, Mr Ssuna Oscar, embarked on the Edu-train from Cape Town, Woodstock, Salt River and Retreat and arrived safely at Fish Hoek Station at 9h30.

From there, they streamed on to the lawn at the edge of the beach where they were warmly welcomed by the Headmaster, Mr Hermann Battenberg, and a number of Rotary Club representatives - Mr Steven Boers of the Cape Town Rotary Club, Mrs Bev Frieslich of the Cape of Good Hope Rotary Club and Mr J.J. Jacobs of Claremont Rotary Club. The event was attended by Ward Councillor, Mr David D'Alton, with a special message of good wishes from the Mayor, Patricia De Lille herself. The preliminaries were ably managed by the master of ceremonies, our headgirl and KIDS member, Anne Hahne, who did this job with enthusiasm and a warm sense of humour. Once our KIDS President, Mila Newby, had warmly welcomed the children and their carers, the programme of events could begin.

In the meantime, the remainder of the members of KIDS had arrived at the beach at 8h00 to set up the banners and gazebos, prepare hot dogs and lay out the games on the beach.

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The programme began with the environmental/educational aspect of the day. Each child was given a black refuse bag to pick up litter in the dunes. The Beach Management however is so efficient that there was little to clean up and next year we may have to find a more meaningful enviro project for the children.

After the rubbish bags had been returned and taken by club members to an appointed collection point, the games could begin in earnest. Younger children chose to build sandcastles and engage in a treasure hunt while others decided to compete in an enviro quiz. The more adventurous chose volley ball, beach soccer, beach bats and a tug-of war. After lunch the blue water measuring 24 degrees C and pleasant waves proved too tempting and the children with shrieks of delight ran into the water, closely followed by their watchful carers. The event ended with a break dance display that would be the envy of Michael Jackson. Finally the exhausted children returned to Fish Hoek Station to travel home, once again on the Edu-train.

For an event like this to work there were many role players who deserve special words of thanks.

A big thank you must go to the management of Fish Hoek Beach. Everyone who attended agreed that the beach was in pristine condition and with its lovely break and warm water a better venue than Blouberg. KIDS was in constant liaison with the managers and it was a pleasure to work with such an efficient group of people who went beyond the call of duty to make our event welcome and successful. The Fish Hoek Life Saving Club was on stand by for the whole day with trained lifesavers in the waves with our children. They even allowed us to use a plug point for our

music system. The carers would not have allowed their charges to swim if the lifesavers had not been present and we are grateful to this organization for making our event possible.

Then there was the novel form of transport. The manager of the Edu-train, Mr Keith Edwards, is a most patient and effective person to work with. His meeting and escorting the first contingent at Cape Town Station was much appreciated. Mr Edwards also accompanied the train to Fish Hoek so that those who journeyed on the train were in reliable hands. The ten workers who drove the train also did their bit in making the event happen.

Food and drink were generously sponsored. Peninsula Beverages sponsored the cool drinks for the event but most importantly provided the best gazebo ever which withstood the strong winds that prevailed from 9h00 to 16h00 unabated. Our faithful sponsors for many years Pick 'n Pay provided the hot dogs and apples so that the children could enjoy a nutritious, healthy lunch.

Our mother club, the Cape Town Rotary Club, advised and supported KIDS in the organization of the event and we are particularly grateful to Mr Steven Boers, the President, Dr Rainer Brinkmann who raised funds himself for the event and Mr Ssuna Oscar who had the brainwave to use the Edu-train. The attendance of Fish Hoek Rotarians was greatly appreciated and we were delighted to meet Simons Town interactors, The Patriots, and Interactors from Rustenberg Girls' High School. It was a true Rotary family occasion

A special word of thanks is also due to Ward Councillor D'Alton, who gave up his Saturday morning to attend our event. I am sure

he must have been proud of the facility offered by Fish Hoek Beach and to see that it is so well managed.

KIDS would like to extend their thanks to the support given by the school body. Our headmaster Mr Battenberg has been a stalwart supporter of our club and made sure that the school facilities and equipment could be used for this special day by KIDS. The sound system was provided by a member of staff, Mr Marcus Ragaller, who set up and plugged in the system and stayed from 8h00 to 15h00 to supervise and ensure that the system remained in good working order.

Lastly, I should like to congratulate the members of KIDS. These are remarkable young people who have already at an early age developed a social conscience and care about the most vulnerable children in our society – children who are orphans, who come from abused homes, street children who have no home to call their own. These young people just morphed into doing whatever was necessary to keep the show on the road and keep our guests comfortable and happy. It is a fulfilling duty for me to work with such positive, optimistic young people and to see these youngsters live up to the motto “KIDS helping kids to help kids”.

Mrs Ball LIAISON TEACHER
KLUB INTERACT DEUTSCHE SCHULE