

# Unity College swims to new heights

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Unity College schoolchildren successfully took part in an exciting event and gave the community something to be proud of.

The Special Olympics South Africa Swimming Gala took place at Ellis Park on 21 November.

"Eleven swimmers from Unity College participated in this event and all 11 swimmers won medals, ranging from bronze to gold," said Michelle Kirk, advancement officer of Unity College.

"Sindisiwe Ruthvin (16) was announced best swimmer of the day, winning three gold medals and two silver.

Unity College won 58 medals in total; an unprecedented performance, indeed, by the school.

"The school would like to thank the

schoolchildren and say well done on their performance on the day.

It was most definitely something to be extremely proud of."

Unity College is a special-needs school providing quality education for schoolchildren to become part of an integrated community.

"The experience at the event was amazing and helped us work as a team and gave me the opportunity to find out what I'm good at, which is swimming in general," said Ruthvin.

"It was wonderful to see everyone cheering each other on, coming out to support one another and even seeing other teams supporting competitor teams.

I really had fun and enjoyed the day.

"Thank you to Special Olympics and Unity College for this wonderful experience."



The children participate in a puppet show at Bryanston Library.

## Puppet magic at school

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On 30 November a stunning show was presented by puppet master and ventriloquist, Ann Parker at the Bryanston Library.

A group of excited little ones showed up for a sail across the sea. For nearly a full hour, children aged three months to seven years, went to experience a journey across the sea with puppet friends Scooby, Purple Pirate and many more. Parker imparted new experiences of travel and creativity to the eager young minds.

"I started because I wanted to do teaching only part-time and I had young children of my own. I started to train with various people, including training in northern America for a while, then I went on my own," said Parker.

She added that it took a lot of practice to get full control over all the different voices that she uses. She also did a ventriloquist course and a self-study course about ventriloquism. "It takes a while to get that voice out, but I always did voices." She explained that your tongue is a muscle, just like any other muscle in your body, so you need to train it. It took her about three months to get the sound out without moving her lips. Parker added that ventriloquism is a dying art in South Africa.

The children were delighted throughout the show, and after. Parker owns over 200 puppets and runs a successful one-woman show. Her favourite characters are her bird, Googly and her baby dinosaur that she presents on her business card as Dino.

According to Parker, her biggest reward is to see the children's reactions when they watch her shows and to see the joy on their faces and the belief in their eyes.

Details: [www.puppetsandmore.co.za](http://www.puppetsandmore.co.za).



Ann Parker during her show.

## Taking to the stage like pros

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A brilliantly conducted and energised fashion show was held on 26 November by the new Lonehill Preparatory School at the Rivonia Recreational Centre.

The evening was a smashing success with the involvement of the school children, the teachers and the parents.

"Lonehill Preparatory School is a new primary school in the Lonehill area. We are a small school, looking to increase our numbers, but still retain our one-on-one commitment to our parents," said Sherona Ragoobee, PR and communications head.

She added that it truly was a group effort and a safe place for the children to showcase their talent.

"The school is only four-years-old and we are already expanding," said Siobhan

Norris, the owner and principal of the school. She added that the evening had a phenomenal outcome and the parents responded very well. "Hats off to the teachers who, as adults got up on stage. They were real sports," said Norris.

"I love the school and I love my teachers; I like having fun outside and doing fractions in mathematics," said Kutenda Karigambe who is in Grade 3.

The evening started with a lovely introduction by Ragoobee who also acted as the MC. Then the children showcased a variety of talents.

Some had a natural flair for the catwalk, some moved very naturally to the beat of the music, some were 'rocking' their shades and some were a bit shy to begin with, but as the evening progressed, many crawled out of their shells and mastered the stage.



Sindisiwe Ruthvin shows her medals she won on the day. On her left is Nicola Walker (senior scholar) and on her right, Aedan Warren (intermediate scholar).



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