



REPORT: MASAKHANE PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME JULY 2017

During the winter school holidays Whale Coast Conservation staff took a group of learners from Masakhane Primary School on three days of educational holiday fun.

The first day was all about waste and rethink, and reducing waste from the source. The learners started the day by a waste expo lead by Shirley Mgoboza.



Shirley Mgoboza spoke to the learners about the consequences of discarded plastic in storm water systems. She also showed how plastics never degrade, but break up into smaller and smaller pieces that can be mistaken for food by marine organisms.



Shirley explained that cigarette butts do not biodegrade. The filters trap toxins from smoke, which leach into the environment. She showed them the bins developed and manufactured by Whale Coast Conservation to encourage smokers to “bin your butts”.



Shirley Mgoboza showed the learners the classification of plastics and how to tell what plastic items can be recycled. She used an innovative time line to illustrate the rate at which different waste items degrade. The learners were shocked to learn that diapers take such a long to degrade.



Day one was wrapped up with clean-up around the school yard and sorting and tallying of waste.

On the second day Shirley Mgoboza led the group to the Municipal buildings at Gansbaai.



Here the group was given a presentation on storm water and sewerage water by the Municipal environmental department staff member Benjamin Kondokter.



The group was then taken to see the settlement dam of the storm water behind the municipal offices at Gansbaai, led by Benjamin Kondokter. The group also went to see the settlement dam at Masakhane community.



On the last day a community clean-up was planned for the group to work with

EPWP people, but couldn't take place because of the rain.



Instead the last day was spent indoors discussing the issue of overfishing. Learners were divided into three groups and given different roles to play in discussion about what can be done with the fish numbers that are decreasing on the sea.



Each group got a chance to give feedback to the bigger group about what they have discussed. There was strong debate, and very important points were highlighted by the groups. The debate has set them thinking.

The Masakhane holiday programme was sponsored by the National Lotteries Commission.

