

Momentous milestone for Valley Pre-Primary's annual Sandcastle Competition



Lynette Botha

NOW in its 21st year, Valley Pre-Primary's Sandcastle Competition on Hout Bay Beach is a much-anticipated date on the events calendar. More than just offering a fun-filled day out for the family – and some healthy competition, this event raises money annually to provide bursaries for those less fortunate.

"100 per cent of the proceeds raised are used to provide bursaries for children in the local communities to attend Valley Pre-Primary the following year," says Valley's principal Christa van den Burg. "Every year we have managed to raise more funding than the one prior, and we can't do it without the help of the community and local business. The more we are able to raise, the more children who will benefit." Last year the contest raised R135 000 – equating to 10 bursaries for underprivileged learners in 2017.

March 4 is the chosen day for the event this year, selected specifically to coincide with the low tides and maximize the exposed sand available for some sandcastle building of epic proportions.

Kids and adults alike revel in the friendly contest – and some of the creations constructed are truly incredible.

Registration kicks off at 9am on the Chapman's Peak side of the beach, the building fun commences at 10am and the day is wrapped up by 2pm. In addition to the sandcastle building competition, there will also be food and drink stalls, dance performances, as well as a kids' zone, to ensure that everyone is entertained throughout the day.

There are incredible prizes to be won for the best sandcastles in various categories, as well as a raffle that you can purchase tickets for on the day.

You don't want to miss out!

The entry fee is R50 an adult and R30 a child. Corporate team entries cost R1 500 and companies can also sponsor Sonwabile teams of children from local development projects in Hout Bay for R2 000.

For more information, see houtbaysandcastle.co.za, call Valley Pre-Primary School on 021 790 1540 or find Valley Pre-Primary on Facebook.



Valley Pre-Primary Sandcastle Competition: 21 years and counting



LYNETTE Botha caught up with Valley Pre-Primary School's principal, Christa van den Berg, to learn more about the Sandcastle competition and how it has evolved over the years.

Q&A

How did the first Valley Pre-Primary Sandcastle Competition come about?

It was initially a very low-key affair arranged more as a social occasion for the parents and children to enjoy a morning together on the beach, rather than one to raise funds for the school. It was so enjoyable that it was repeated on and off for a few years before the potential to use it as an annual fundraising event was recognised.

How has the competition evolved?

We began inviting friends, extended family and local play-schools to participate and today participation extends to not only the Hout Bay community but the Southern Suburbs and Atlantic Seaboard too, and has grown to include corporate teams, interschool teams, as well as sponsored teams from less privileged communities.

Why is this competition so important?

It is by far our biggest annual fundraiser and it provides us the means to be able to address some of the inequalities in education in our community.

Fundraising and community support are top priority at Valley Pre-Primary – why?

100 percent of the profit from this event is earmarked for our Sonwabile programme. Through this programme each year we are able to award 10 children from less privileged neighbouring communities, who would otherwise be unable to afford our school fees, bursaries to attend our school. In addition, this programme is also able to help their parents pay for early interventions such as language enrichment, speech therapy, occupational therapy and play therapy, when necessary.

What is your best memory of past Sandcastle competitions?

It was probably the first year we decided to invite corporates. Most of the local estate agencies were run by staff who had young children, so they joined in. We had a Real Estate challenge with eight of them competing for a floating trophy. There was such a great spirit of competitiveness. Also over the years I would say that 98 percent of our competitions have been blessed with picture perfect days – warm sunshine, clear blue skies, and even the dolphins putting on a display in the softly lapping waves.

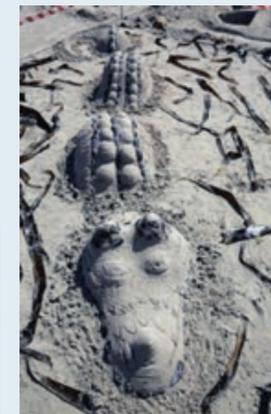
What do you hope to improve on this year?

We learn from experience and every year we adapt or re-organise certain aspects of the event to ensure that both

participants and audience will leave the beach having had a really great time.

Why should people join in on the sandcastle fun this year?

Most importantly, it's an opportunity to support BEE education and your neighbouring community. Plus it promises a great day out for the whole family. It is so much more than just the actual sandcastle competition, it is a chance to interact as a community and enjoy the fun, music and great food. What better way to spend time with your children than on the beach and letting those creative juices flow.



Pam Golding Properties is proud to support this annual Sandcastle Competition and help raise funds for educational projects.

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