



City of Cape Town - Community Services

Department Library and Information Services

District 4 Library and Information Services

Project: Reading Competition for Gr.7 Learners - 2010

The Manager

Dear Sir/ Madam

Request for Sponsorship

We the staff of Valhalla Park Library would like to request your company to sponsor our Library round of the Reading Competition to be held on the 28th July 2010. We have approached some book company's to assist us with the prizes for the 3 winners, which look very promising. Hence we do have a crisis with catering for the event, would you be able to assist us in this matter. The total we are catering for is 60 it consists of community members, participants of each school, teachers of each school and a few kids from each school to cheer for their participant.

Introduction

Reading is a crucial skill in literacy, education and human development. The public library is the only sustainable institution that can provide and assist in reading and material that is freely accessible and suitable for all ages. The country is facing enormous challenges in this regard and the media constantly report on the low levels of reading abilities and skills amongst children in South Africa.

The City of Cape Town - Library and Information Services (LIS) is committed to assist and develop programmes to address the reading levels of the City's inhabitants. It is with this aim that District 4 Library and Information Services (D4) initiate reading programmes that are sustainable and educational to support the reading skills of children and to cultivate a reading culture and life long learning.

The success of such a project is subject to sponsorship and support from the private sector.

Background

The District4 Reading Competition for Grade7 learners originated in 2003 at Valhalla Park Library. Valhalla Park Library was challenged by Delft and Delft South libraries to an interlibrary reading competition. In 2009 District4 presented a joint competition involving all 15 libraries in the respective district.

The joint competition in 2009 was a great success with exceptional results: **Afrikaans language winner:** Nazeera Zass, Blomvlei Primary, Hanover Park Library
Xhosa language winner: Thandokazi Mini, Lwazi Primary, Guguletu Library
English language winner: Jamie- Lee Mitchell, Vanguard Primary, Heideveld Library
Most Promising Reader: Dionesha Engel, Morgenson Primary, Hanover Park library

ESKOM was a key partner and sponsor in the 2009 competition as well as in former years. Additional sponsors supported as well: Wilstan Book Suppliers, Sell Direct, and DJ Stationers.

D4 libraries

The geographical boundaries of D4 (see list of libraries below) consist of developing communities with economical, educational and social challenges. Unemployment, illiteracy, school drop-out and crime are a day-to-day reality in all of these communities. The public library is the only recreational institution in most, if not all, of these areas. The following areas will benefit from the project:

D4 consist of the following libraries:

1. Athlone
2. Belhar
3. Bridgetown
4. Bishop Lavis
5. Bonteheuwel
6. Crossroads
7. Delft
8. Delft South
9. Gugulethu
10. Hanover Park
11. Heideveld
12. Manenberg
13. Nyanga
14. Rylands
15. Valhalla Park

2010 Competition

D4 envisage presenting a second year of the competition to all 15 libraries in the district, with a joined effort to reach more Grade 7 students across a broader spectrum. The aim of the competition is to have a winner for each of the three languages as the “District 4 / Grade 7 reader of the year”.

The competition also aims to establish better relationships with schools and to raise the awareness of reading amongst teachers and students.

Design of the competition

The competition will be structured as follows:

Target group

The target group is Grade 7 learners. These learners have reached a cognitive level where language and concentration skills should be well developed. This age group is also best suitable to take part in a reading competition. In addition this group of learners are also at the crucial stage of exiting the primary level of education and entering the secondary level and reading plays an integrated part in this transition period.

Round 1: Library round

1. Each library will host a “Round 1 ” competition with all the entries from the respective schools in the geographical area.

2. The learners will participate against each other to be the “Library winner” per language.
3. The winner will progress to Round 2.
4. Principal and at least one teacher to accompany the participants to the library on the day of the competition.
5. Schools to avail two grade seven learners per language, i.e. 2 Afrikaans, 2 English, 2 Xhosa learners per school language group as determine by the school.
6. Schools to avail a further five learners as an audience to cheer
7. Participants will be asked to read a paragraph from a book prescribed by the library.
8. The Principal or teacher should explain to the learners that they will be tested on:
 - 8.1 Reading
 - 8.2 Comprehension (five questions)
 - 8.3 Spelling (five words to be spelled by contestants)
 - 8.4 Presentation (Points will be awarded to overall presentation of the piece been read, i.e. voice intonation, reading accuracy, eye contact with judges or audience, body language, facial expression etc.)
 - 8.5 Whilst reading, the reading speed of the contestant will be timed: stopwatch.
 - 8.6 Schools must be punctual.

Round 3: Final round

- All winners from library rounds will compete for the “District 4 / Gr. 7 reader of the year” 1st place per language.

Basic rules

1. Schools can enter two Gr. 7 learners per language (decided by library) for the individual library round.
2. Only the winner per language will progress to the (final) round.
3. All learners must be library members, or must join to participate.
4. Runner-up learners in individual library rounds will be in line if finalist withdraws or report sick.
5. Judges decision is final.

Reading Competition Date: 28/07/2010 Valhalla Park Library

We hope that you will consider the request for sponsorship.

Sincerely,

Event coordinator

Rene Willemse
 Valhalla Park Library
 Angela Street
 Valhalla Park 7490
 Tel: 021 934 5007/ 5008
 Fax: 021 934 3347
 E-mail: Thandiwe.mtshengu@capetown.gov.za