



INTERNET ARTICLE

Entrenching a culture of handwashing at an early age

15 October 2020

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mpumalanga Provincial Office celebrated Global Handwashing Day (GHD) with the learners and staff of Fundawazi Primary School in Tweefontein K in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality on 15 October 2020.

The educational awareness celebration involved an educational talk on the importance of proper and regular washing of hands with soap and water as a cost effective way of preventing the spread of diseases. The celebration also included a demonstration of the steps of the proper way of washing hands. Ms Lomina Shongwe from the Sanitation Unit delivered the educational talk and demonstration and encouraged the learners and staff to share the information and steps they learned with their families and friends in order to build a culture of regular handwashing in the community.

Regular and proper handwashing is critical to prevent the spread of diseases, especially now as we are faced with the deadly coronavirus. Hands are the most common highways for the transmissions and spread of bacteria and viruses that cause diseases resulting in people being hospitalized for treatment and at worst death. In our daily activities and routines, we usually touch many shared surfaces which makes us susceptible to contracting different forms of viruses, thus making it critical to frequently wash our hands to prevent us contracting and spreading diseases.

The learners showcased their understanding of the steps of handwashing by demonstrating and educating their peers and Ntokozo Ntuli, a Grade R learners came up tops in the demonstration.

Siyanda Kokela, a Grade 6 learner also demonstrated the proper steps of handwashing and called on her peers to take handwashing serious. "I am happy that the Department chose our school to remind us of the importance of washing our hands. Let us take the message and do as we are supposed to and also encourage our families to regularly wash their hands", she said.





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The school principal, Ms GL Madibane thanked the Department for the educational campaign and the material supplied, which included soaps, buckets, sanitizers, toilets papers, gloves, water saving tips pamphlets and promotional gifts for the learners who participated in the demonstrations.

Ms Shongwe also reminded the learners of the importance water conservation in as much as there is the need to wash hands and encouraged the audience not to leave the tap running when washing hands.

Themba Khoza



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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