

January 2011

Hi, Welcome to our first edition for 2011

Breaking News

If you have not heard we celebrating our 10th anniversary! Perhaps a party who knows? Look out for an invitation in your post.

We ready to Rock & Roll there is an amazing atmosphere amongst our members. We are set for an awesome year!

Changing the atmosphere of our community is a priority for us.

Since the second week of January our seniors have hit the practice ground hard. We already have two beach sessions under our belt and are determined to win promotion this year. It will be our first step towards the PSL.

Our juniors are slowly getting back into the groove. We first allowed them to settle into school and then started getting them back onto the field.



Boys having water break on the first day...

Just to refresh your memory GCU is not about soccer, but life. Remember we are working to redirect the cycle of crime. Our approach is two pronged, prehabilitation and rehabilitation. It is not getting any easier! We are really up against a lot, but we are up for it!

Any comments please email me at mario@gcu.org.za

“You can’t change where you started, but you can change the direction you are going. It’s not what you are going to do, but it’s what you are doing now that counts.” Napoleon Hill

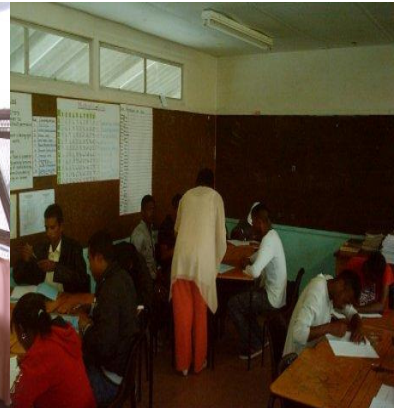
Education

It's back to school for GCU senior boys. We have challenged our members who have dropped out of school to finish their schooling. We held our first class on the 26 of January. The boys are really excited and looking forward in finishing school. All are so grateful for the second chance they are getting.

Mario back in school



Boys in action



Theory

Justin, a junior coach at Ajax Cape Town, came and shared his knowledge with our coaches. He did some theory, some practical work and spent some time with our coaches while they conducted training.



Practical



Life Skills

By changing the atmosphere we believe we need to start changing our environment in our community. We encouraged our boys to clean our practice field before they start to practice. It is a small step towards our bigger picture a **Clean & Safe Cape Town.**

Boys in action and very proud



Our first tomatoes

Our greening project is coming along nicely. The school feeding scheme is using the veggies from the garden. We are in the process of revamping the school garden.



Make a Difference day

On the 29th January we had a MAD day at Woodlands Primary. On the day we did greening, painting and facilitated a leadership workshop with the school head boys and girls.

When we started at Woodlands there were 350 learners. This year the student numbers has grown to 550.

One of the reasons the school could not attract learners; was the state the school was in and the lack of sport offered at the school.

We can not take all the credit but believe our interaction with the school has made a huge difference.

We will get the school right and we will decrease the drop out rate. We are doing it already!

Painting of the school



Leadership Workshop



Little ones at work



Boys having a tea break



having a good time after some work



The boys in the picture above are just some who we interact on a daily basis. When we pick them up for training they chant “GCU”. The reality is that where they come from they could easily end up in gangs. We are aware that we won’t be able to save everyone but if we can touch one and he or she can change their generation we will have achieved something great. For now they are with us and we will work hard in keeping them interested in GCU.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution over the past ten years. Remember you are making a difference even if it doesn’t feel like it. Please feel free to visit the project any time.

We are in need of any assistance to run our programs - but, as ever, I will leave that ball in your court. If you would like to partner with us please feel free to make contact with me.

Once again thank you.

Regards

Mario Van Niekerk