



# PnP helps Merrydale Primary School's library dreams come true

**An inspiring community effort resulted in children at one Cape school discovering the joy of reading**

Pick n Pay recently got involved in an exciting initiative – the installation of a new prefabricated library unit for Merrydale Primary School in Lentegeur, Cape Town.

When a call to action went out over the radiowaves for someone to sponsor books for disadvantaged schools, Pick n Pay Transformation Director Suzanne Ackerman-Berman decided to donate an entire library to Merrydale Primary, and challenged other corporates to do the same.

The library unit's benefits include the fact that it's completely mobile – it's made of insulated Chromadek sheeting and can be easily moved at no major cost. The shelving and tables were constructed using sustainable Xanita board, which is made from recycled cardboard boxes. For added inspiration, the exterior is covered in

bright, colourful graphics, with the theme continuing inside the library – resulting in a fun space for the children to learn in.

Besides the many pupils that will benefit from this library in the future, PnP also helped in creating part-time work for people in the surrounding community during its installation. The school was able to employ a full-time librarian, too.

Ashraf Allie, CEO of Cape Winds, who together with associate company Fabricated Steel Manufacturing (FSM) built and delivered the unit, was appreciative of the temporary work for the community, and for PnP's support. "Adding value to the initiative helps grow our own development – we can't stress this enough. Thank you!" he said.

Ashraf added that PnP's assistance in the community has other positive spinoffs, such as skills transfer and helping to reduce poverty. "Can you imagine how much more we can achieve if there's a collective

understanding of the spirit of ubuntu, where we can all co-exist and make a difference?"

Principal of Merrydale Primary School, Mr T Dilgee, said the school hadn't had a library before, and he was upbeat about its potential. "We're very excited by the addition of a library to our school – we're sure it will help us improve the literacy of our learners by as much as 100%."

Apart from the library, Pick n Pay also donated a vegetable garden and rainwater tank to the school, which will provide fresh ingredients for the soup kitchen and water for the garden. We wish Merrydale Primary the best of success with their library.

**FOR MORE INFO ON THE PROJECT**

Please contact Dani Isaacs, Corporate Image, 083 308 6260 or [dani@corporateimage.co.za](mailto:dani@corporateimage.co.za)



**"THE JOY WE SAW AND EXPERIENCED ON THE FACES OF THE PUPILS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN EXPLAIN. THANK YOU, IT'S MUCH APPRECIATED."  
– ASHRAF ALLIE**



Suzanne Ackerman-Berman and Mrs Wendy Ackerman joined the kids for some storytelling.