

Extracts from winning school entries in the 2020 “My Octopus Teacher” competition

“As ons seerkry by die skool kan ons personeelkamer toe gaan om hulp te kry. My onderwysers help oral waar hulle kan. My onderwyser is ons verpleegster en dokter. Wanneer ons 'n probleem het, kan ons vir enige onderwyser gaan sê wat die probleem is en hul los dit op. My onderwyser is 'n maatskaplike werker. My onderwyser is soos my ouer. Hulle gee om vir my en my maats. Ons respekteer ons onderwysers. My onderwysers sien kans vir enige iets. Hulle gee nie moed op nie. Hulle beskerm ons. Ek sê elke dag dankie vir hulle omdat hulle elke dag by die skool is. My onderwysers is spesiaal.”

Laronique Moolman – Brandenburg PS

“Teachers sacrifice their personal time after school hours to teach us through e-learning, even though they have separate lives other than being teachers. They even go from being teachers, to being screening officers when coming to school. In a way, they become our parents at school, that’s how much they care for us.”

Kauthar Dreyer – Fairmount HS

“My juffrou is nes 'n seekat. Sy doen alles vir my. Sy het ons geleer hoe om maskers te dra. Ek moet ook gereeld my hande was and sanitizer gebruik. Ons moet ook 1.5m uitmekaar uit sit. Ons mag nie mekaar se goed deel nie. Ons moet mekaar respekteer. Ek is baie life with my juffrou vir wat sy my geleer het.”

Grand Lee Beardman – Gansbaai PS

“In the classroom she is a teacher first of all, that helps us understand different topics and concepts. She is a caretaker and a mother that looks after our basic needs as children. She is a therapist, she helps and advises us on how to deal with mental, emotional and physical issues. She can also take on the role of a sister at times, she guides our class and sets a good example for us to follow.”

Mary Chaemesa – Garlandale PS

“The teacher made sure we have school work to do even when we were home during the lockdown so that we could not forget school and what we were taught when coming back.”

Hlumela Wulana – Isalathiso PS

“Teachers are curious, but my teacher is fast and furious. Our teacher motivates us to do our best and pass the test. Personally I think my teacher is the best teacher ever. Unique and uplifting teacher I have. She is the coolest teacher ever.”

Mia Wyngaard – John Graham PS