

■ **Right:** Harper Mapila from The Bookery, Louise van Rhyn, Kim Seeliger from Design Indaba, George Engel from the Western Cape Education Department and Meagan Poole from the Design Indaba.



■ **Far right:** School principal Ridwan Samodien, librarian Cedric Meyer and Dr Louise van Rhyn from Partners for Possibility, in the library.



Partnership reaps rewards for Kannemeyer

LILLIAN AMOS

Pupils at Kannemeyer Primary School in Grassy Park had a chance to let their imaginations run wild last week when they dressed up as their favourite book characters.

The pupils dressed up and performed at special assembly on Wednesday June 17 to celebrate the revamp of the school library.

Five years ago, NPO Partners

for Possibilities and My School/My Village/My Planet revamped an unused room at the school and turned it into a library.

This year the NPO partnered with The Bookery and a team from the Design Indaba and Leg Studios to redesign and raise funds for the library and give it a fully equipped library system and a full-time librarian.

Dr Louise van Rhyn from Partners for Possibility said the five-

year relationship with the school has been rewarding for both parties.

"The teachers, principal, community organisations and companies are being engaged to help make this school a better space for the pupils. It's a real case study of what happens when citizens bring their gifts to the school and the school becomes the centre of community," she said.

Kannemeyer Primary School

principal Ridwan Samodien said the contributions from the Design Indaba, Partners for Possibility, The Bookery and Leg Studios are the "cherries on top" for literacy at the school.

"We had a library but not a functional library.

"So what the partnership brings is access to a library borrowing system which will enable pupils to make use of books at home and we also get a full-time librarian.

"The aim is to get the pupils motivated and to get them reading. We can now capture which child has read how many books and we will be informed about the well-being of the

library but also the well-being of the pupils' literacy skills," said Mr Samodien.

In addition the school will also have a library period when all the classes from Grade 1 to Grade 7 will be able to make use of the library.

"I am excited about our library. We need our children to be equipped with a better education because our concern is there is great apathy among parents and among children who don't see education as important. We need to do as much as possible to try and give them the best so that we can make a difference in this country when it comes to the well-being of our children's future," he said.

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■ Grade 3 pupils with teacher Christina Adriaans.



■ Mia Jackson and Samantha White love reading.