



Bucket Brigade takes emergency measures



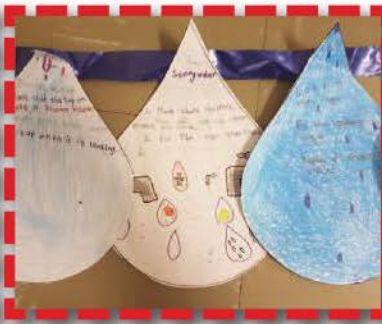
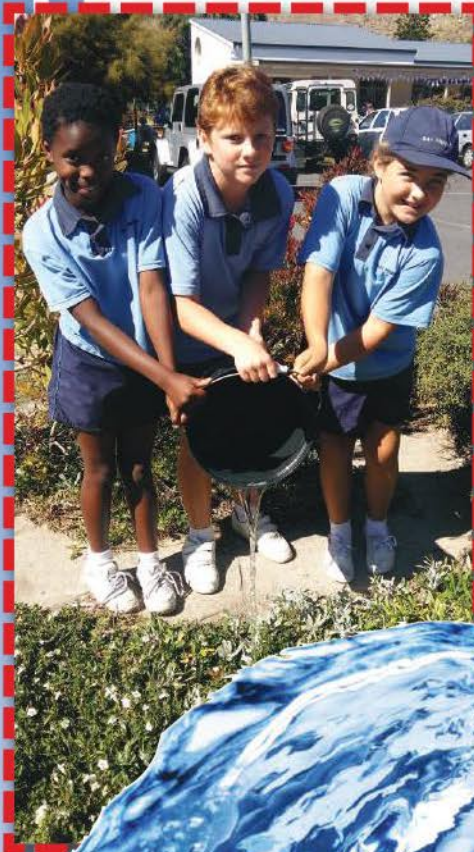
to save water

Bay Primary School teachers and learners are serious about assisting the Western Cape government to save water and prevent day zero (when there is no water available) from being reached. Outlet pipes from the bathrooms were reconnected so that the used water can be collected in buckets. Everyone is involved in the Bucket Brigade.

A roster ensures that a class and a teacher are on duty when the bell rings for the end of break. Learners queue to collect buckets of water which they then use to water flower beds. The school has saved many litres of water by reusing the grey water from the bathroom basins. The staff is also cutting down on water use at school. Carrying the buckets of water has helped the learners understand concepts of volume, numbers, space, taking turns and working together as a team to make a difference. Learners and teachers are saving water at home too by using grey water systems, and learners have proudly reported that they sometimes only wash with a facecloth instead of having a bath.



Bay Primary School encourages other schools to follow their lead and make each drop count. Water is essential for our daily lives and also supports agriculture, mining and wildlife.



The Karoo and West Coast municipalities were declared a drought disaster area in 2016 and in May 2017 the disaster area was extended to the entire province. As climate change induced droughts become more prevalent the "business as usual approach" of using pure drinking water to flush toilets needs to be rethought. All citizens need to actively save water so that the catchment dams are not depleted.

What are the authorities doing?

While Bay Primary School and others reduce water use, the City of Cape Town is taking the following steps for a sustainable tomorrow:

- A seawater desalination plant at a cost of about R250m is being built which will produce 10 to 20 million litres of water per day by May 2018.
- A wastewater reuse plant will be running by June 2018.
- The Cape Flats and Atlantis Aquifer will be tapped for groundwater by June 2018.
- Engineers are also investigating a separate system toilet flushing water and drinking water.

