

The regional Madiba Day was commemorated in a different style this year – by taking learners with hearing disabilities on an educational train trip to learn more about sea life at the Save our Seas Shark Education Centre in Kalk Bay.

The event was made possible from collaborating with the following partners/stakeholders who contributed and supported the Mandela Day with different educational items.

- ✚ Save our Seas Shark Education Centre,
- ✚ Active Native Youth Group from Kuilsriver,
- ✚ Rapid Rail Police Unit,
- ✚ Provincial Department of Transport,
- ✚ Child Safe - NGO in Mowbray including
- ✚ Metrorail employees

The day kicked off by an exciting train trip from the school in Observatory to Kalk Bay station. The more than fifty (50) kids were escorted by all the stakeholders and partners already mentioned including their teachers and some parents with their safety sashes on to the Shark Centre.

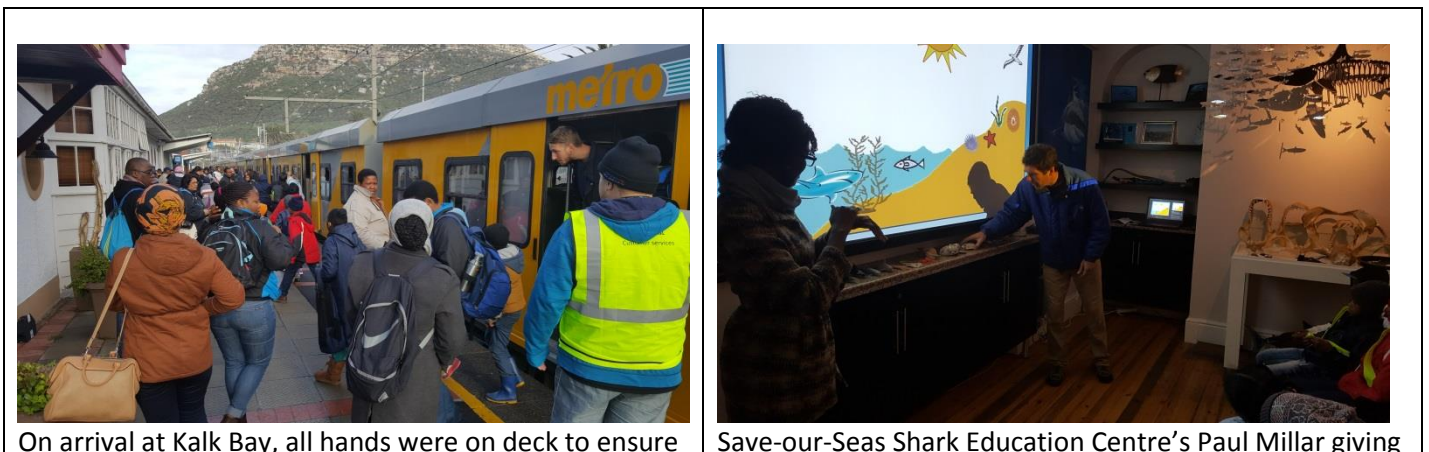
The day's programme included educational videos on sea life and a lesson on the sea shore. One of the Mary Kihn School educators, Mrs Beauty William had the following to say about the outing:

*“The train journey along the coast was amazing as the some of the learners had never been on a train trip nor the beach before. The presentation/movie about the sharks and the anemone was an eye-opener, especially when the learners went to the beach to explore what they had just learnt”.*

School principal, Mrs Jill Wilmot was above impressed and grateful for what Metrorail has done for the school and indicated that this event/gesture will forever stay in their minds and heart. She also said that she wish to have a more lasting relationship with the rail operator.

Regional Manager, Richard Walker, was as excited to see as many employees and stakeholders that supported the event. In his speech, with the assistance of a sign language interpreter, Mrs William, he pleaded with the kids to be more alert in the rail space, gave them a bit of background as to why is the Mandela Day commemorated. He also promised to visit the school one day.

A day well spent, reflecting on the smiles of the learners on the pictures below:



On arrival at Kalk Bay, all hands were on deck to ensure

Save-our-Seas Shark Education Centre's Paul Millar giving

# The Madiba Day Commemoration

maximum safety and comfort for the Mary Kihn School of the Deaf learners and stakeholders/partners



Save-our-Seas Shark Education Centre's Eleanor Yeld Hutchings gave a practical presentation on sharks and their environment

a presentation on Marine Life before the learners went to explore on the beach



One of the exciting activities for the learners was an outdoor education to explore the sea shore



Learners had an opportunity to touch the marine life for first time just after being taught about it earlier



Metrorail Regional Manager, Richard Walker - enjoying a short movie with the young learners on saving the sharks



The Regional Manager, thanking everyone present for sharing their 67minutes with the kids.



A special thank you song by the Mary Kihn School kids closed off the day with smiles from everyone