



MINICHESS REPORT

Minichess (www.minichess.co.za) is a course developed over the course of 20 years. It focuses on the age groups of pre-school to approximately nine years old. The programme, though, has been recommended by its developer to all children attending school. The Department of Education of South Africa has approved the programme for implementation in primary schools. However, since the capacity and roll-out are not sufficient enough to reach rural areas, Children of the Dawn started the implementation of the Minichess programme in February 2014 at our Ermelo community.

Under the supervision of an accredited Minichess Teacher, we have been dispensing the Minichess programme to 50 of Grade R to 7 learners, for whom we are monitoring their school results. We have had 31 participants from grades R-3 and 29 participants from grades 4-7. In 2014 we have managed to gather school reports and thus evaluation from over 80% of students in each grade group, which is a significant progress versus 2013. This fact enabled us to carry out a thorough analysis of children's results (results in Overall Average and Mathematics have been observed) communicated below.

Grades R-3 results analysis

The students participating in the **MiniChess programme attending the grades R-3** have achieved an average of **56% in Overall average evaluation and 54% in Mathematics**. Compared to 2013 results, when Overall average was 31% and Mathematics was 35%, we can state that the MiniChess programme **vastly contributed to positive results** among tracked learners in grades R-3 ([Graph 1](#)).

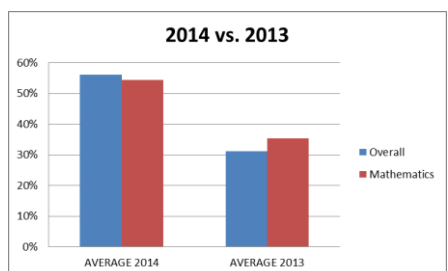
When looking more deeply into particular results, it can be stated that **Terms 1 and 3 performed overall better** than Terms 2 and 4 – results in aforementioned terms have been above the average 2014 results. Terms 2 and 4 though position themselves only slightly below the line of the average ([Graph 2](#)).

In the R-3 grades we have had 10 students attending the Phumula Primary, 10 students attending the Pieter Mubuza Primary and 5 students attending the **Wesselton Primary School**. The last mentioned **scored best** in both Overall average and Mathematics results, far above the 2014 average. Phumula Primary placed second with results very close to 2014 average. Pieter Mabuza Primary placed third with below 2014 average results ([Graph 3](#)).

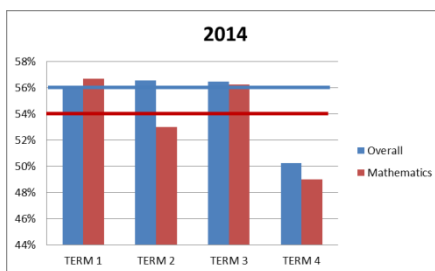
In 2013 we gathered school reports from 6 students; however, in 2014 we received them from 25 children. When analyzing the **year-to-year improvement** of students with both 2013 and 2014 reports – comparing their school results of respective years, we can observe



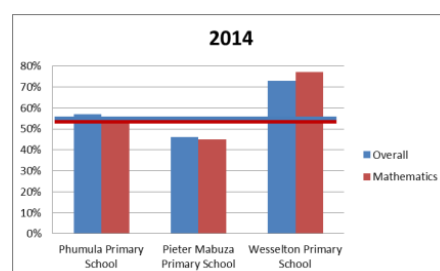
a year-to-year growth of 40% in Overall average evaluation and 17% growth in Mathematics. In other words, **Overall average evaluation grew in a faster pace than Mathematics**, however, Mathematics did contribute to Overall average improved results.



Graph 1: Comparison of 2014 versus 2013 results in Grades R-3 with a focus on Overall average and Mathematics results.



Graph 2: Comparison of 2014 results in Grades R-3 with a focus on each particular term.



Graph 3: Comparison of 2014 results in Grades R-3 with a focus on schools that students are attending.

Grades 4-7 results analysis

The students participating in the **MiniChess programme attending the grades 4-7** have achieved an average of **49% in Overall average evaluation and 48% in Mathematics**. Compared to 2013 results, when Overall average was 46% and Mathematics 40%, we can announce that the MiniChess programme **contributed to positive results** among tracked students in grades 4-7 (Graph 1).

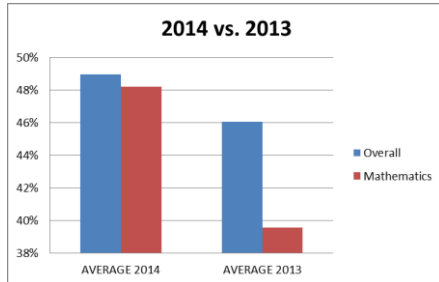
When looking more deeply into particular results, it can be stated that the **Terms 1 and 4 performed overall better** than Terms 2 and 3 – results in aforementioned terms have been above the average 2014 results. Terms 2 and 3 position themselves only a couple points below the line of the 2014 average – in Mathematics, Term 3 in Overall average evaluation is above the line of the 2014 average (Graph 2).

In the 4-7 grades we have had students participating from 6 schools in total. In majority cases there were 2 students attending each school except for Qambekile and Wesselton Primary, where we have had 7 and 9 students attending respective schools. **Four schools** out of six (except for Umsebe and Wesselton) **scored above the 2014 average**. Umsebe scored better in Mathematics above the average and in Overall evaluation below the 2014 average line. Wesselton placed last with both results below the 2014 average line (Graph 3).

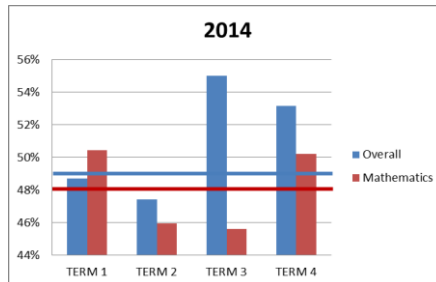
In 2013 we gathered school reports from 17 students and in 2014 from 19 students, which enabled us to analyze deeply the results on individual level. When analyzing the year-to-year improvement of students comparing their school results of respective years, we can observe a **year-to-year growth** of 3% in Overall average evaluation and 19% growth in Mathematics. In other words, Mathematics



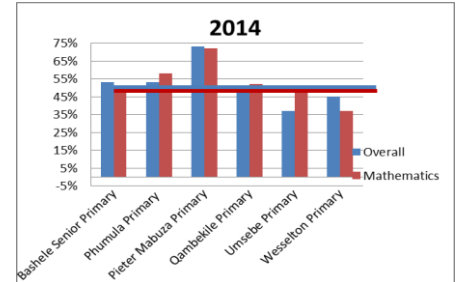
evaluation grew in a faster pace than Overall average, thus we can proudly say that **Mathematics** vastly contributed to improved Overall average evaluation.



Graph 1: Comparison of 2014 versus 2013 results in Grades 4-7 with a focus on Overall average and Mathematics results.



Graph 2: Comparison of 2014 results in Grades 4-7 with a focus on each particular term.



Graph 3: Comparison of 2014 results in Grades 4-7 with a focus on schools that students are attending.

It can be concluded that 50 learners participating in the MiniChess educational programme from Grades R-3 and 4-7 progressed in both Overall average evaluation and Mathematics with tangible results and improvements in both areas in 2014 versus 2013.