



NURSING STUDENTS HELP PREPARE YOUNG FOLK FOR HIGH SCHOOL



Second-year Nursing students with their lecturer Dr Mbali Mhlongo.

Second-year UKZN Nursing students visited the Grade 7 class at the Durban East Primary School in Austerville, Durban, to coach them about the dangers of teenage pregnancy and drug abuse as they prepare for high school.

Accompanied by their lecturer, Dr Mbali Mhlongo, the students presented the event as part of their community engagement programme, focusing on health education, with the emphasis on teenage pregnancy and substance abuse.

They spoke about how alcohol and drug abuse could lead to risky behaviour, influencing and affecting their studies and their lives.

Students performed plays for the learners with the aim of educating them about the consequences of teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, HIV and AIDS, intergenerational relationships and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Students spoke to 124 Grade seven learners about the pressures of being new in high school and school drop-out rates due to substance abuse and pregnancy.

The students also helped clean the school's sick room and donated new bed linen. Student Clovis Dusabe told the learners 'We are all called to be architects of the future not its victims. Take care of yourselves.'

Words and photograph by: [Nombuso Dlamini](#)