

Seven Harrismith pupils soon off to France

Ina Skosana

SEVEN pupils from Vulindlela Primary School in Harrismith have been selected to attend the second Fraternity Cup in Paris, France on July 17.

The pupils, who will be accompanied by their teacher, Dibakiso Francina Khalipi, will get the opportunity to represent South Africa for the first time at the Fraternity Cup. The Fraternity Cup is a multicultural event that aims at connecting youngsters from around the world through sport and cultural experiences.

This event is organised by La Voix de l'Enfant (the Voice of the Child), a French nongovernmental organisation focused on children's rights.

Vulindlela Primary School was identified as a valued citizens

school by the Valued Citizens Initiative (VCI).

The VCI was founded in 2001 by French national, Carole Podetti Ngono along with Renault South Africa. Its mission is to promote a healthy civil society by engaging pupils, teachers, principals, social workers and parents in a personal journey to explore South Africa's constitutional values, leadership principles and ethics.

"Vulindlela was up against all our Valued Citizens primary schools in the Free State and Gauteng and offered a number of positives, which swayed our vote," said Podetti Ngono, managing director and founder of VCI.

"Vulindlela caters for scholars from Grade R to Grade 7: it is a VCI school with teachers committed to our Values in Schools Programme, who have also very



OUTWARD BOUND: Teacher Dibakiso Khalipi poses with the seven pupils heading overseas. Picture: SUPPLIED

successfully led a number of VCI projects," said Podetti Ngono.

"Vulindlela has the highest number of teachers trained by VCI and that is how we identified the school where pupils would be selected," said Podetti Ngono.

"These youngsters, aged between 11 and 13 (Grade 5 to 6) have been chosen because they walk the talk on values and have a real drive to be valued citizens," she said.

"These are confident young people who enjoy sports, have an interest in cultural activities and are positive role models for their peers."

Joyce Shandu, principal of Vulindlela, was proud that her school was selected for the opportunity. "We are overwhelmed that our pupils and a teacher were chosen to go to France," she said.