

MAMA WALTON

1973 – Rys jy uit die stof
Word jy toegeswaai met lof
Vir ieder kind in Rosedale
'n droom... n myl

Ons skool in Chestnutstraat
Almal was geraak
Laer/Hoërskool saam gevoeg
Boetie en sussie was so moeg

Die tye snel so gou
In 'n oogwink stap ons verby
In Rosedale drive
Met 'n smile

Mnr. Swartbooi en Afrikaans
Comley het soms gal gebrak
Blom het gehardes gevou
Passop as Toebea jou toesnou

PA Jen, met sy sagte, dog ferm
"Good morning boys/girls"
Hoor ons die gegiggel, agter die skerms
Dis oom Peet om die draai
Kom Kimmie met 'n swaai

Dis die jaar 1985
Mister en die aksiekomitee
Voor waar, dit was 'n kopseer
Swaai ons die vuis in die lug
Vir menige ouer, 'n sware sug

Rugby was ons lof
In baie oë was dit stof
Eric/Snowbie swaai die bal
Toeskouers raak mal... dis 1985
Dis Mama se kinders!!!

Die kinders het presteer
Ten spite van hul seer
Oor die hoogspring lat het hul gebly
Levens en Kietsie van Dyk

Mama Walton
Reik na die sterre
Voorwaar jy was ons
Rigtingwyser
Mama... Mama Walton
Trots Mama se kind
SCITUR AD ASTRA...



**Sharon Massop Grootboom
Class of 1987**

Sharon Massop touched the hearts of fellow alumni when she shared this tribute to her beloved alma mater. In the poem titled "Mama Walton" (the name affectionately given to John Walton Secondary School), she reflects on moments in the school's history that have stayed with her throughout her life. The poem, written from the perspective of Grootboom, takes us back to a time that many regard as the golden years.

The first to the third stanzas tells the story of the school's inception and migration from its original location at the corner of Acacia avenue and Papegaai street (where C.W. Hendrickse primary is now situated) to its current location in Rosedale drive.

Stanza 4 and 5 provides insight into the school environment from a learner's perspective, as well as the learner-teacher relationships at the time. Herewith, she manages to evoke feelings of nostalgia from those that had the privilege of being under the tutelage of the great educators mentioned. The strict, yet caring nature of teachers would ultimately create a learning environment that would foster success and excellence. In stanza 6 she reflects on John Walton's role in the liberation struggle and riots of the 80s and 90s, resulting in a visit by our late former president Nelson Mandela in 1993. Stanza 7 and 8 highlights the school's excellence in academics and sports. Around this time, the school engaged in fierce competition with neighboring schools and was known for producing strong rugby teams. She closes the poem with the school motto: "Sic itur Ad Astra", which roughly translates to "reach for the stars" or "journey to the stars" in a sign of undying love and solidarity to the school that helped shape her into the woman, citizen and writer that she is today.

Sharon has performed her poem at the "Woman of Africa" high tea in 2018, and in 2019 she was invited to be the guest speaker at the school's valedictory day. As a member of the alumni association group, she is showing that as we journey to the stars, we should always aspire to bring the stars within reach for the next generation.

Sic itur Ad Astra! #MamaSeKinders