

Stadium Report-back – Durban, SA



Hi, I'm Tenille Webster! I am in grade 7 at Ashton International College Ballito, in South Africa. As you know South Africa has the privilege of holding the 2010 Soccer World Cup. Our country has been abuzz with all the preparations for this big event. Stadiums have been built, roads widened, bridges painted and support for our soccer team, Bafana Bafana, increased. As I'm a shopaholic I LOVE the new and different supporter clothes and accessories that are now available in all the stores. Since we live near Durban where the stadium Moses Mabhida has been built, a tour was organised for us at Ashton, to see where soccer shall soon be played. Here is my report back on our visit to the stadium.

About to get onto the big bus, we plan who we're sitting next to. Taking photos and writing notes, holding our packed lunches, excitement fills us as we take our seats and the engine starts to groan. What will we see there, what will it look like, so many questions to ask. Talking and singing the whole way there, the Ashton spirit flows strong. We arrive, then sit and eat and wait until we go in. We sit under the shade of the trees and watch the water fountain as the anticipation builds. At 11 o'clock we line up and start moving. We go through huge wooden doors into a dark room then scramble to get a chair. Some sitting some standing, Mama 2010 starts to speak.

The stadium was named after Moses Mabhida, a freedom fighter, born in Pietermaritzburg on 14 October 1923. He started school in 1932 and when he was 19 he joined the ANC. He died in 2006. Building the stadium cost 3.1 billion and 13000 jobs were created. We then learnt about the different pieces that make up the stadium, like the steel arch from Germany weighing 2600 tons, the sky car from Switzerland that holds 25 people and is found on the North side of the stadium. We learnt about the cables from Germany, the aluminum facades from South Africa that are 46m in height and the roof from Mexico that covers 95% of the stadium.

We saw a slide show showing us pictures of the stadium and then we led out into the sunlight again. We were then split into 2 groups – one of grade 6s and the other of grade 5s and 7s. We met our guide and walked to the field. We sat in the seats and were told why they are different colours. The blue to represent the ocean and the orange to represent the sun set. I look around and see the beautiful stadium that took 3 years to build. I imagine the seats all full and cheering. I imagine soccer being played and the flags being waved. Then back to reality. We got up and walked down the steps. We walked on the side since we were not allowed to walk on the grass but we couldn't resist the temptation to bend down and touch it. We said our thanks to our friendly guide and led towards the bus. I looked back to the stadium through the window and smiled, I am a proud South African of 2010.

Hope all of the Year 7's at LOGS enjoy the long summer break. We are looking forward to our 5 week winter holiday.

Kind regards

Tenille