



Grantham Park Primary School rugby player escapes from his opponents with the ball



Tiana de Beer (U11 netball coach), Mrs Rust (HoD), Mrs Povall (HoD), Renelda Horn (U11 netball coach), Nicole Chimuka (U11 hockey coach) and Keana Moor (U11 hockey coach) with Vincent Koch

# Sport fest a resounding success

**Mbuso Kunene**

GRANTHAM Park Primary made history by hosting its inaugural Vincent Koch U11



Sharkie the mascot with Vincent Koch

Sports Day on Saturday.

The event was a vibrant celebration dedicated to one of the school's most distinguished former learners and two-time Rugby World Cup winner Vincent Koch.

The day brought together 11 schools from across the region, with young athletes from as far afield as Kloof, Durban, Salt Rock, as well as local contingents, to compete in the festival of sport and camaraderie.

Grantham Park principal B Biyela said the highlight of the day was the presence of the man of the hour himself. Koch and his wife Jandre spent the day

engaging with the young learners and staff, earning praise for their charm and all-around hospitality.

"It was a surreal moment for our school community to welcome Vincent back to the fields where his journey began. He is a true inspiration to our learners, proving dreams born in Empangeni can lead to global success. We are incredibly proud of our association with him," said Biyela.

The principal further said the festival was a resounding success, with a festive atmosphere that celebrated both athleticism and community spirit.

"We are thrilled with the turnout and the support from schools across KZN. It was a perfect day to honour Koch's legacy and to build a tradition that our learners will look forward to every year," added Biyela.

Tournament organisers have confirmed that the Vincent Koch U11 Sports Day will become an annual fixture on the school's calendar for many years to come.



Young rugby players displayed massive skill during the first annual Vincent Koch U11 Sports Day



Jandre Koch



Vincent Koch and Grantham Park Primary School rugby team



Spilly Mkhabela (Grantham Park U11 rugby coach), Vincent Koch, Celumusa Ngwenya (Grantham Park U11 rugby coach) and Sibongiseni Nkwanyana (Ilembe U11 rugby coach)



Berné van Niekerk (U11 rugby coach), Yolandi Beyleveld (U11 netball coach), Vincent Koch, Geraldine Snyders (U11 netball coach) and Stephan Kruger (U11 rugby coach)



Mr B Biyela, Grantham Park Primary School principal



Vincent Koch and future rugby stars from Curro