

Free State school wins 2013 national astronomy quiz

The finalists in the AstroQuiz 2013 competition are:

HartRAO: Dr Yusuf Dadoo Primary School (Gauteng)

Boyden Observatory: Unicom Primary School (Free State)

Unizul Science Centre: Vryheid Public School (KwaZulu-Natal)

North West University Science Centre: Sol Plaatjie Primary School (North West Province)

Mondi Science Centre: Sebanta Primary School (Mpumalanga)

SALT: Kimberley Junior School (Northern Cape)

SAAO: Observatory Junior School (Western Cape)

Sci-Bono: Springs Muslim Primary School (Gauteng)

University of Limpopo: Bashasha Primary School (Limpopo)

Scifest Africa: Graeme College (Eastern Cape)

A team of four learners from Unicom Primary School in Tweespruit, Free State won the “Currie Cup of Astronomy” on Friday when they beat nine other teams in the 2013 National Astronomy Quiz in Pretoria.

In second place was the Northern Cape team from Kimberley Junior School, and in third place the Gauteng team from Dr Yusuf Dadoo Primary School in Krugersdorp.

Kagisho Motale, Boitumelo Mokoena, Mbotywase Mafereka and Mphakalasi Thabiso were rewarded with a telescope for their school; and a tablet computer, trophy and gold medal for each. Susan Usher, their educator, is very proud of her team. “They put in such a lot of hard work and were very committed, forgoing their breaks to study for the Quiz finals. They do not live close to the school, so coaching had to take place in every free minute during school hours. I believe they deserved to win, especially after beating very strong teams in the knockout rounds at Boyden Observatory,” she says.



The winning team of the SAASTA 2013 Astronomy Quiz from Unicom Primary in the Free State are, from the left, Mbotywase Mafereka, Boitumelo Mokoena, Mphakalasi Thabiso and Kagisho Motale with, at the back, their educator Susan Usher and the Provincial Mathematics, Science and Technology Coordinator, Carmen Henecke.