



PSP NEWS

THE WESTERN CAPE PRIMARY SCIENCE PROGRAMME



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Dear Colleagues and friends in education

As the second term gets into full swing, the PSP together with MEPP, UWC and the WCED will embark on an exciting new joint project on **Mentorship of first-time teachers**, who qualified at UWC. Twenty beginner primary school teachers will participate in this two-year pilot project, which will also be researched by UWC students. We look forward to learning a great deal about teacher development and support through this initiative.

PSP Advisory Committee

The PSP welcomes two new members, Mr Mohamed Kriel from Surrey Primary and Mr Arthur Philander from Primrose Park Primary into the PSP Advisory Committee. We are grateful for their interest in serving on this committee and we hope they benefit from it too.

PSP Courses

Please see the full programme of courses for this term. It contains the Maths, Natural Sciences & Environment, Social Sciences and Language topics requested at the Annual Mass Planning Forum last year. Please remember to **book your places in advance** and if you have not booked a place and still want to come, please understand that you will have to wait to see if there is a space available. We thank all the teachers who support our work. You are an inspiration to us!

New website

We hope to launch our new-look website in the next few weeks - so watch this space!

With good wishes from us all at the PSP: *Mascha, Zorina, Rose, Gcobisa, Nadiema, Viv, Nocawe, Sandra, Nandi and Isabel.*

THIS ISSUE

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- *PSP Maths Indaba - a significant FIRST*
- *Innovation / Environmental courses on birds*
- *Light bulb moments in the Cluster Project*
- *Saturday grade 7 courses on Natural Sciences*
- *History of Life on Earth resource pack completed.*

WELCOME TO ISABEL NEW PSP FUNDRAISER



Isabel Babenschneider: the new PSP Fundraiser.

We are delighted to welcome Isabel Babenschneider, who joined our PSP team in April.

Isabel completed her Masters Degree (with excellence) in Education and Economics at the University of Stuttgart.

In Cape Town, Isabel has worked with the well-known organisation: South African Education and Environment Project (SAEP) since 2007. There she held the position of Programme Manager for Early Childhood Development (ECD) and dealt with many crèches in Philippi. She was in charge of fundraising, PR and programme management and she also trained, coached and mentored ECD centre staff as well as SAEP volunteers and interns.

We believe Isabel's experience provides the perfect springboard for her to engage immediately in the work of the PSP team.

Isabel is in Cape Town 'for the long-haul' she says. We wish her a long and very happy stay with the PSP!

PSP HOSTS ITS FIRST MATHS INDABA

On Saturday the 26th March 2011, the PSP held its first **MATHS INDABA** at the Edith Stephens Wetland Park. The response from teachers was overwhelming, with 84 teachers attending the Foundation Phase and the Intermediate Phase sessions.

Three sessions of 1 hour each were held for the two Phases. We were pleased to welcome Curriculum Advisors who attended from the North, Central and South Districts.



Nadiema Gamielien ran the first Foundation Phase session with Nocawe Malatse

PSP presenters ran sessions on Mental Maths activities - Nadiema Gamielien and Nocawe Malatse for the Foundation Phase, and Zorina Dharsey and Sandra Rossouw for the Intermediate Phase. A number of Learning Outcome One concepts were developed in a fun way, using playing cards and dice.

We were very pleased to have **Aarnout Brombacher** and **Agatha Labethe** as guest presenters.



Aarnout Brombacher with Intermediate Phase teachers.

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Aarnout presented on *Investigations in Mathematics* and *Geometric Investigations*, in the Intermediate Phase.



Agatha Labethe from MEPP with the Foundation Phase teachers.

Agatha presented sessions on *the importance of counting* and also *the link between counting and calculations*, for the Foundation Phase.



Teachers investigating geometric shapes.



Foundation Phase teachers linking 'counting' with 'calculations'.

A lucky draw for prizes consisting of Maths materials and games generated some excitement. Teachers found the Indaba an enriching experience and have asked for more.

INNOVATION & ENVIRONMENTAL COURSES ON BIRDS AND WHERE THEY LIVE

During the first term teachers and learners had great fun making their own birds using recycled materials. This was to help them identify and observe the main features of different birds.



Then teachers and learners spent time observing birds near the retention pond at Edith Stephens. *"I learnt a lot from this workshop. I didn't know how to use the index of this book ... very interesting... thank you".* Comment from a teacher from Khayelitsha.



Learners from Parkfields Primary (left) and JS Kloppe Primary (above) enjoyed making their water birds from waste material when they visited the park.

They learnt how to use binoculars and find information from bird identification books and charts.

Two teachers brought their class of grade 4 learners to the park for the morning. These teachers were surprised that their grade 4 learners could use the Roberts book on Birds of Southern Africa to find out more about the birds they had seen in the park. The learners had to draw one of

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their birds and do 'shared writing' at the end of the session.



Grade 4 learners from JS Kloppe using the Roberts Book on Birds for their task.

What was interesting about their writing was their ability to work in both English and Afrikaans simultaneously.

LIGHT BULB MOMENTS in the CLUSTER PROJECT

The focus strand for the Cluster Project last term was Energy & Change. The topics covered included Energy Transfer Systems, the Components in a System, Safety with Electricity, Saving Electricity, Global Warming and Climate Change.

Teachers in the Foundation Phase usually emphasise the safety aspect using electricity with learners. But this term, the PSP Facilitators decided to engage grade R to grade 3 learners in a hands-on activity, discovering how to connect the 3 components to make the light bulb light up. This is always a very exciting experience for learners in the Intermediate Phase. It was a "WOW" moment for many of these Foundation Phase learners.

As their light bulbs lit up, so too did their eyes!



SATURDAY GRADE 7 COURSES ON NATURAL SCIENCES

The North District engaged the PSP to run a series of 6-hour courses on Natural Sciences with grade 7 teachers. This work takes place on Saturdays. The PSP works closely with Noeline Appel, the Curriculum Advisor to identify topics that would assist teachers the most. Several courses on *Planet Earth and Beyond*, *Acids and Bases* and the *Periodic Table* have been held with great success. Teachers wrote pre- and post-tests on their content knowledge at each course. The average increase in teacher content knowledge has been 30%.

A teacher from the Hague Primary liked the practical nature of the courses:

'Well informed sessions. Really equip us to go back and teach the content in our classes. I love the fact that we get ideas on how to make the learning area visual and practical for the learners.'

A teacher from Endhoven Primary enjoyed the opportunity to refresh his knowledge:

'n Fantastiese geleentheid om kennis op te skerp en ek het baie insig verkry om die aanbieding meer prakties te maak en die assessering relevant te hou.'

The PSP sincerely appreciates the close working relationship we have with the North District staff. We also appreciate this opportunity to run these courses as we feel they provide teachers with the knowledge and skills to prepare their learners well for high school. These courses will continue next term with different topics.



A teacher at a grade 7 teachers' course shows his model of a Nitrogen atom, worked out using the periodic table.

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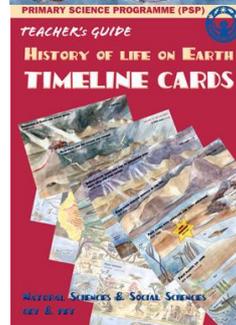
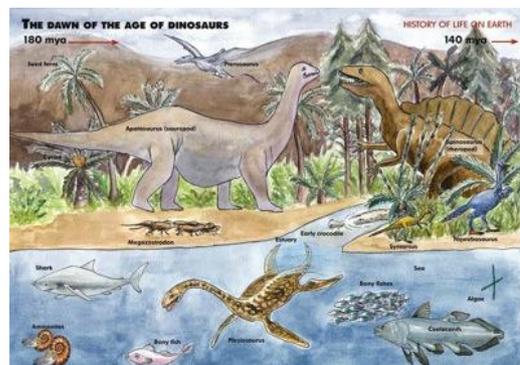
HOT NEWS HISTORY OF LIFE ON EARTH RESOURCE PACK COMPLETED

The *History of Life on Earth* resource pack is now available. This resource pack was funded by the National Heritage Council. It consists of a set of 17 full-colour A3-sized cards which make up a picture timeline, showing the history of Life on Earth. This resource also includes a Teacher's Guide and complements the teacher's book: *Fossils & Evolution*.

The timeline provides visual information that is the foundation and background to understanding Biology. It also includes information about the development of humankind in Africa. It can be used at any level from grade 4 to grade 12. The PSP believes this resource should be used in every classroom.



Pippa Haarhof (left) Manager of the West Coast Fossil Park welcomed Rose and Sandra from the PSP at the Fossil Park workshop on the History of Life on Earth resource.



History of Life on Earth Timeline Cards and Teacher's Guide now available from the PSP.