



PSP NEWS 3rd TERM 2007

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Greetings, dear Colleagues – and welcome back! We know that the last 4 weeks of Term 2 were very difficult for teachers and learners. Teachers had to face the uncertainty each day as the strike unfolded and this added to the general stress levels of all concerned. We hope that teachers have been able to unwind a little during the two-week winter holidays and gather renewed energy for the big catch-up in Term 3.

CATCH-UP

We hope that primary schools will not spend the next weeks catching up on exams. Exams usually take up weeks of teaching time! We really hope that schools will decide to run shorter tests (if necessary) and use continuous assessment techniques to obtain codes for learners to provide a good reflection of their progress. Learners need productive teaching time now! Let the 'catch-up' be used for quality teaching, and please feel free to call on the PSP for support to achieve that!

The PSP also has an active programme of courses this term to support teachers with unfamiliar Natural Sciences topics such as: Investigations into Sound; Nutrition and its effects on children's behaviour and Rocks and Landforms. Please see the full course programme included with this PSP Newsletter.

Good wishes to you all from the PSP team:
Mascha, Gcobisa, Nadiema, Ntsiki, Rose, Sandra, Viv and Nthabi and from July, Vava Makhubalo.

NOTE! NOTE! NOTE! NOTE!

The PSP
ANNUAL MASS PLANNING FORUM for
2008 will take place on
Thursday 13 September at 2pm

All are invited!!!

THE PSP WELCOMES Ms VAVA MAKHUBALO TO THE TEAM

This term we are pleased to announce (finally!) that Ms Vava Makhubalo has joined the PSP team as a Language Facilitator.

Many people will know Vava – first as a bright, young principal of Inkazimlo Primary, and then as an active Language Facilitator with SAILI. For the last three years Vava has worked with a publishing company, where she has deepened her literacy skills.

Vava will join the PSP's Language and Literacy team working with the ZENEX / SPARK Project in the EMDC South to boost literacy levels in 8 primary schools. She will also help with broadening the PSP's literacy support in other projects.



Vava Makhubalo, PSP's new Language Facilitator with Rose and Nadiema. We welcome Vava with open arms!

HAVE YOU SEEN THE ALIEN INVASIVE PLANT ON THE DAM AT THE EDITH STEPHENS WETLAND PARK?

For the past few months the retention dam at the Edith Stephens Wetland Park has been taken over by a water plant known as Water Hyacinth. Have you seen it floating on the surface of the dam? This plant comes from South America and it thrives in nutrient-

**ABSA FOUNDATION JOINS
THE PSP CLUSTER PROJECT IN
THE BOLAND/ OVERBERG**

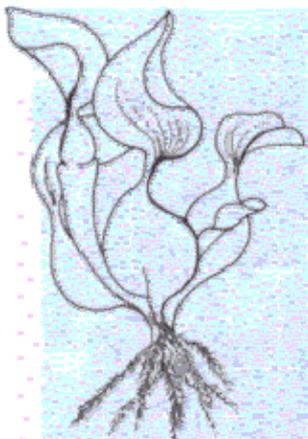


The cheque hand-over ceremony took place at the ABSA Bank in Ceres, Boland in April.

Amongst the people who attended were; in the photo above, from left to right (back row): George Gibbs from ABSA, Mr Adams, Mayor of Ceres, Mr Rhode, principal of Drostdy, Mr Luitjies, principal of Twee Jongegesellen, Mascha of the PSP, Mr Brown, principal of Belle Vista .

Front row: Sandra of the PSP, Amanda Fourie, Manager of the ABSA branch in Ceres, Ms van Wyk of Drostdy and Mrs Cornelissen of Twee Jongegesellen.

The PSP welcomes the ABSA Foundation as a partner in its Cluster Project



rich water systems.

During the past century people brought this plant to North America and Africa and other parts of the world. It had no natural enemies, and thus it spread rapidly and invaded all kinds of water bodies, like rivers, lakes and marshes. Today it is considered one of the most invasive water weeds in the world.



Water Hyacinth growing on the surface of the water at the Edith Stephens Wetland Park

The Water Hyacinth can cause many problems to wetlands. As it grows over the surface of the water it blocks out the sunlight, which is needed for the growth of other water plants and animals. This reduces the oxygen levels in the water and can kill organisms such as fish and insect larvae. The open water is also reduced for other birds such as ducks, coots and cormorants. At the moment there are no coots left on the retention dam!

The storm water that flows into the retention dam from the Lotus River (under the Lansdowne Rd) is very polluted and unfortunately this provides the nutrients that the Water Hyacinth loves.

The Edith Stephens Wetland Park and nature conservation authorities will have to take urgent action to get rid of this alien invasive plant.

Thanks to Doug Harebottle
from the ADU at UCT



The Water Hyacinth (close-up) at the Edith Stephens Wetland Park

**BREATH OF FRESH AIR NEW
IDEAS FOR CREATIVE
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Gordon Mclellan, brilliant environmental educationist, story-teller and artist from the UK visited the PSP last term and shared his wonderful work with the PSP staff and also with new EE officers of the City of Cape Town.

Gordon started his career as a senior science teacher in Malawi and also in the UK. Then he broadened his focus into Environmental Education, working with groups of people, young and old as a consultant to the Education Department and Local Education authorities in the UK.

Gordon ran a morning session at the PSP to show his work. It was inspirational! His love of and great skill with learners shone through. He captivated our staff with stories of his actual work with learners - and provided some wonderful ideas to encourage young minds to start developing understanding and enjoyment of the environment!

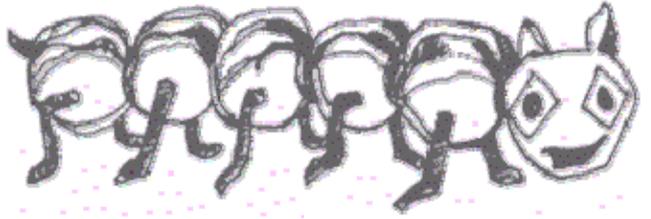
The PSP drew deep, refreshing breaths of new ideas from this outstanding educator! We hope to see him when he visits again.



New EE officers of the City of Cape Town and Sandra of the PSP (above) designing and making their own animal, using re-cycled plastic and other materials. They were designing a creature to help them explore their environment.



Gordon Mclellan: Environmental Education specialist from the UK, at the PSP

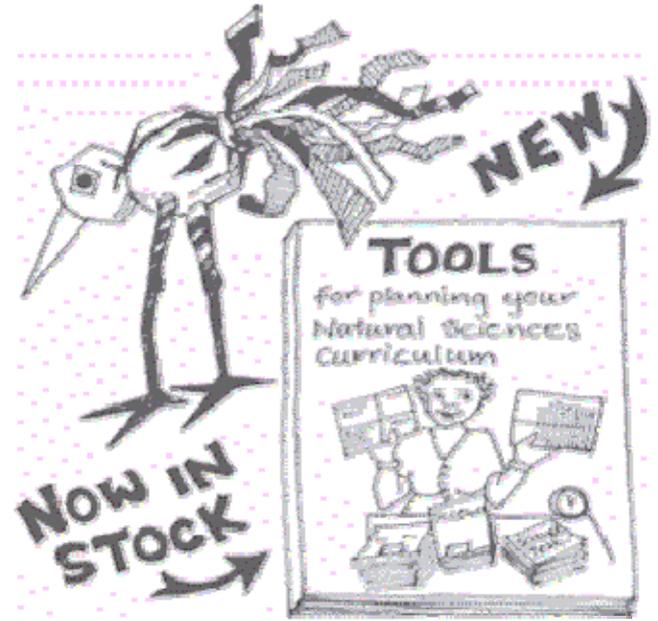


THE OLD MUTUAL'S 'OUT OF THE BOX' IS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED and a surprise for STETTYN Primary in the Boland!

The Old Mutual's "Out of the Box" Environmental Resource was officially launched in Johannesburg in April. Many dignitaries graced the proceedings, including our Minister of Education, Naledi Pandor. She highlighted the need for quality resources in our schools and expressed appreciation for the Old Mutual's contribution in this regard. All the facilitators around the country brought wonderful examples of work from schools for this colourful occasion and many teachers were also able to attend.

Stettyn Primary School in the Boland was selected as the school of excellence in the "Out of the Box" Project in the Western Cape and won an award of R10 000. We were all so proud of them!

The PSP is incorporating this resource into the CLUSTER PROJECT, where 40 schools from five



National Education Minister Naledi Pandor engaging in discussion around the waste management display

EMDCs are participating over three years.



Three of the 'Out of the Box' facilitators from the Western Cape as they set up the displays: Nadiema and Sandra from the PSP and Ferial from the SDU at UCT.

Website designed by [SERI](#)



A happy group of Western Cape participants: teachers from the West Coast/Winelands with Vagriuah Kariem, Nadiema with Zurina Dharsey from Fairview and in the middle, Liyanda Maseko of the Old Mutual



Sandra from the PSP Boland, with the principal of Stettyn Primary Mr Wilson, and teacher Mr Cornelius - CONGRATULATIONS to Stettyn!