



PSP NEWS 4th TERM 2006

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Dear Colleagues

It is with deep sadness that we greet you this term. Solomon Makosana, our dear friend, Trustee and Vice-Chairperson of the PSP Trust passed away last term. We mourn his tragic passing together with his family, friends and many, many teachers and communities where he served.

Solomon was a trusted advisor to the PSP since the 1980's and a pillar of strength to us all with his wise guidance and practical help, especially at critical times in the history of the PSP.

He was a champion for the PSP. His integrity and active engagement contributed strongly to the growth and strategic direction of the organization.

He was a joy to work with!

We salute him and we shall miss him very much.

The PSP's important ANNUAL MASS PLANNING FORUM for 2007 will take place this term. We invite all teachers who are interested in the PSP's support programme for 2007 to participate. Come and decide on your priorities and articulate your requests and needs for support in 2007.

We wish you strength in this last term, to help you round off the year in a satisfactory and fulfilling way for you and your learners!

Mascha, Rose, Ntsiki, Nadiema, Sandra in the Boland, Gcobisa, Vagriuah, Thabi and Viv.

ANNUAL MASS PLANNING FORUM FOR 2007

The PSP will hold its

ANNUAL MASS PLANNING FORUM
For teachers of

*Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Social
Sciences, Language & Environment*

On THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2006 at 2pm.

Please book this day to come to the PSP to decide together with many other teachers what courses and further support the PSP should provide in 2007, and to get your PSP Certificates

We mourn the tragic loss
of Solomon Makosana
Vice-Chairperson
PSP Trust



Message from the PSP

We salute you, our dear friend and trusted leader in PSP management since the 1980s

You were our role-model of honesty, integrity and dedication

You inspired us as an educationalist and community developer

Thank you for your massive contribution to the PSP

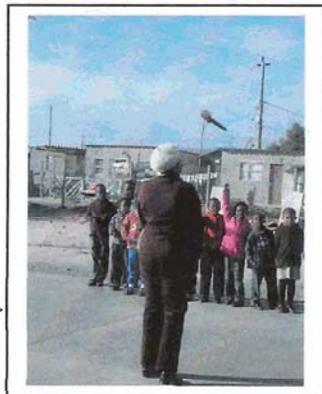
You will always be remembered with love, gratitude and great respect

Science in the early years

The PSP has been working with the Foundation Phase teachers of 9 primary schools in EMDC South as part of the MSET Project. There have been 9 workshop cycles during the past 3 years in which we have planned, prepared and carried out 9 investigations with young learners. This coming term the PSP is documenting these investigations in a booklet that should be available from the beginning of next year. We look forward to sharing the ideas and experiences of these investigations with other teachers.



Rosina Pontac from Alpine Primary school checking the direction of the wind with a wind sock which she had just made



Ntombi Ndzube from Philippi K Primary School discussing the direction of the wind with her Gr 1 class



A grade 2 learner from Mandisa Lali's class at Linge Primary School demonstrating how the weather is given on TV



The record of the weather forecast in Lavona Allie's Grade 2 class at Alpine Primary School

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PSP Language and Literacy work this year

During 2006, the PSP Language workshops focused on ways to use readily available inexpensive resources to develop and enrich language learning and teaching in primary schools.

In the third term we looked at ways of integrating music into the language curriculum. We were delighted that some of the teachers from both the Intermediate Phase and the Foundation Phase workshops tried out some of the suggestions. When they reported on their experiences of using songs and music with their learners, we were really excited and impressed at what their learners were able to produce.

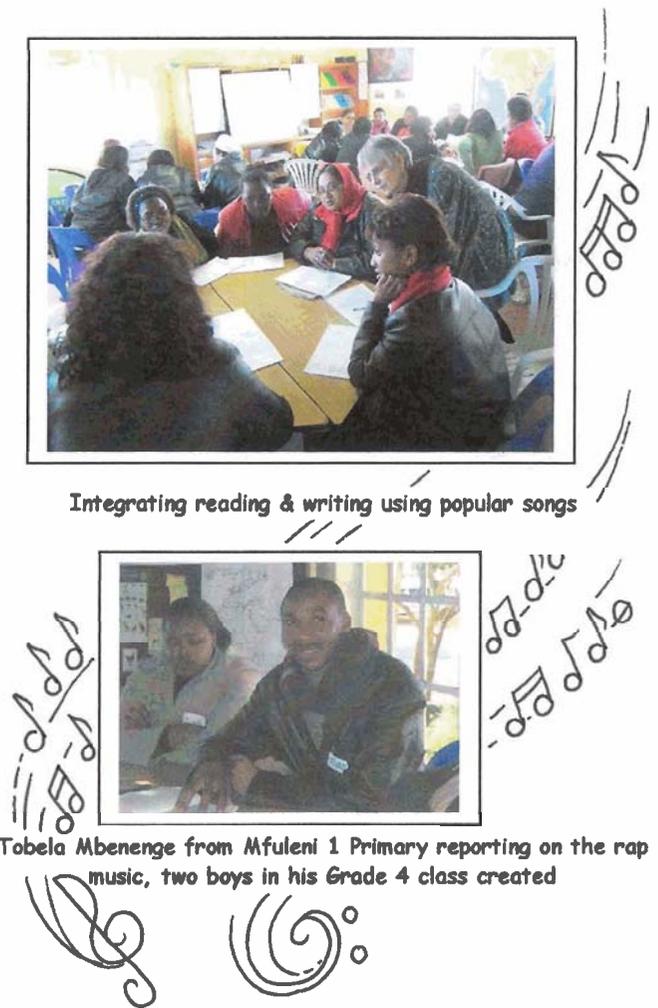
We are developing booklets of the ideas that we have explored in these language workshops. Both booklets should be available early next year.



Integrating reading & writing using popular songs



Tabela Mbenenge from Mfuleni 1 Primary reporting on the rap music, two boys in his Grade 4 class created



Boland Cluster Schools ready for next year

The PSP has been running a two-year cluster project with 9 primary schools in the Villiersdorp and Worcester areas of the Boland during the past two years. Seven rural farm schools participated as well as two schools in the town of Worcester.

This project offered both Natural Sciences and Mathematics training and support. Teachers also received follow-up classroom visits for both Learning Areas. The Boland cluster work is facilitated by Sandra Rossouw.

Wonderful relationships were established among all those who took part and these farm schools decided to form a cluster network to support each other regularly with planning and assessment. Teachers realized how important good planning is to make teaching the joy it can be. All these schools have already planned the Natural Sciences learning Area for 2007 and are ready for the new school year!

These teachers have also worked with the Old Mutual's *Out of the Box* environmental resource kit, which has enriched their curriculum plans and also added an environmental focus for each school. Sandra and the teachers are planning an exciting "Show 'n Tell" about this Cluster Project for Wed 1 November at the EMDC Breede River/Overberg in Worcester. Teachers will all receive their Certificates and the EMDC has invited new schools to attend and to hear about and sign up for this Cluster Project for 2007.



2007
PLANNING
Planning and Assessing the Natural Sciences curriculum

2007
Assessment
Natural Sciences



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Boland classrooms



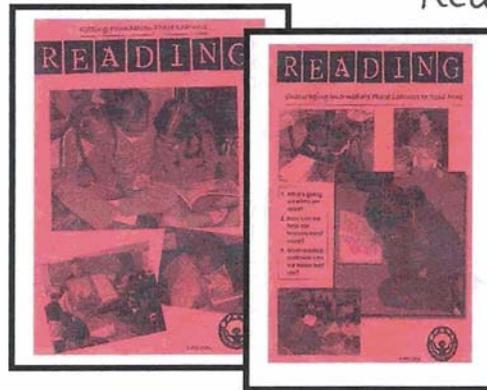
Children using materials from the Old Mutual's *Out of the Box* environmental resource kit



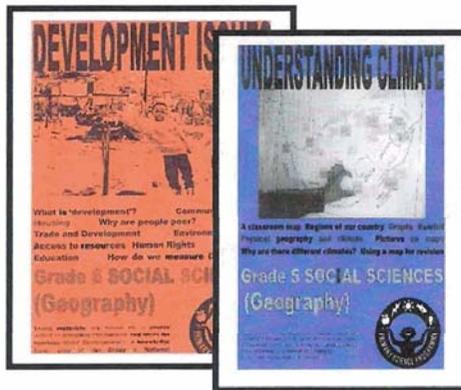
Latest PSP Materials

These latest PSP booklets are available from the PSP and can also be ordered from EDUMEDIA at Tel: (021) 689 9536

Read and share



These booklets on **READING** for Intermediate and Foundation Phase teachers capture all the ideas, tips, experiences and lessons from the Literacy workshops this year.



Social Sciences courses on 'Development Issues' and 'Understanding Climate' were carefully documented in these booklets. They contain many practical ideas for teachers and advice on how to teach these topics in Social Sciences. A booklet on 'Human Evolution' for grade 7 teachers will be finalized this term.

The cycle of growth in the seasonal wetland at Edith Stephens

The winter rains have filled the seasonal wetland at Edith Stephens (ESWP) this year, and the water has reached levels that were similar to that of last year. Many deep pools of water formed and some were knee-high deep.

The water brings life to the wetland and transforms it from a dry, 'lifeless' grassland to a green, food-rich wetland or vlei with sedges, grasses and flowers all in full growth.

As the vlei fills with water, insects and plants become abundant and this attracts a large variety of waterbirds. Ducks move in from surrounding areas, including from the retention dam at ESWP, and start to build their nests amongst the grass tufts, where the ground is a little higher than the water-level. Bird species such as the Cape Shoveler and Red-billed Teal lay their eggs in late winter so that they will hatch in early spring.



Black-winged Stilt nest at ESWP

This is a time when the insects are at their most abundant which ensures there will be enough food to feed their ducklings.

Other bird species such as Black-winged Stilt and African Snipe arrive towards the end of the rainy season to take advantage of the good feeding conditions.



Black-winged Stilts
feeding in the wet
vlei

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This season a pair of African Snipe bred at the wetland and two small chicks were seen on 21 September; this is only the third time that we have recorded their breeding at the ESWP. The Black-winged stilts built nests here last year but this year we have not found any nests yet.

As the rains begin to subside and we head into the dry season, the water levels will start to drop and by January the vlei will probably be completely dry. The water plants will die back and grasses will dominate the vegetation. It will remain as this brown, seemingly 'lifeless' wetland for about 4-5 months until the winter rains arrive and the cycle continues.

D. Harebottle
ADU, UCT

Goeie nuus vir Craig Jansen van Parkfields Primêr



My naam is Craig Jansen en ek is 'n Graad 7-leerder by Parkfields Primêre Skool. Ek het 'n beurs gekry van Frank Joubert Art Centre om kunst na skool te doen tot Graad 12. Ek is die eerste kind uit Hanover Park om 'n beurs van Frank Joubert te kry. My juffrou, mev. Damon, het my om die beurs te wen. Ek is baie opgewonde en gelukkig vir hierdie kans.



Geobisa Mbili
Nicci Cairns