



# PSP NEWSLETTER

Keeping you up to date with PSP teacher development

2019 TERM 4

## From the Director

### Problem-solving is good for learning

Problem-solving is foundational to a child's learning capacity, developing an ability to think. As parents and teachers, we should use every appropriate opportunity to enable children to grow the confidence and skills they need to take charge and solve problems by themselves.

In an increasingly complex and technology-driven world, being able to identify fact from opinion becomes ever more important. Problem-solving encourages children to think logically and creatively, work together, weigh up options, test solutions, reflect, change direction when necessary, and make sound decisions, all vital skills that can be applied both in the classroom, on the sports field and in social situations.

If teachers and parents resist the temptation to help children reach a solution and allow them to grapple with the problems themselves, the benefits will be immeasurable.

I leave you with this quote: "It's the questions we can't answer that teach us the most. They teach us how to think. If you give a man an answer, all he gains is a little fact. But give him a question and he'll look for his own answers." (Patrick Rothfuss)

Wishing all schools, teachers, learners and parents / caregivers a fabulous fourth term 2019!

Dr. Zorina Dharsey

## Coding is now part of everyday life

Coding is basic literacy for our digital age. Learning coding at a young age introduces children to the critical Maths, communication and problem-solving skills, necessary to function optimally in future careers.



PSP facilitators Ntsiki, Nadiema and Nolitha attended a coding course at Edunova, run by IT trainer, Thandi Ndlovo.

"I was inspired by this course", said Rugaya from the PSP. "This 'new

language' enables one to create websites, movies and even develop simulations of experiments!"

## 'Beginning Knowledge' gains importance

The PSP was invited to develop and present three days of 'Beginning Knowledge' at a two-week-long WCED Life Skills training course for Foundation Phase lead teachers at the CTLI (Cape Teaching and Leadership Institute) in May.

General acknowledgement of the critical importance of Life Skills experiences and learning in the Foundation Phase is growing and the PSP is being recognised by various education districts for our expertise in this field.



LEFT: Lead teachers investigated the concept of fermentation and further processing - baking bread. | RIGHT: Teachers carefully observed, described and made drawings of mini beasts in their 'motel' (temporary home).

## On-line Maths makes good progress



Teachers at three project schools are enthusiastic about the Greenshoots online platform for tracking and feedback of Grade 3 Maths. Some teachers feel it has helped them to better prepare their learners for the October

systemic tests. The PSP also translated the test questions into isiXhosa for one school. This term an important milestone was achieved - one learner scored 100% in an assessment!

### INVITATION

### PSP ANNUAL MASS PLANNING FORUM

Wednesday, 16 October 2019

Edith Stephens Nature Reserve

14:45 – 16:30

### GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Granville Stander

Director: Metro South Education District

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS 2020



Remember to register your school for 2020 PSP courses.  
Contact Yanga on 021 691 9039.



# Energy in the environment



During term three over 200 children visited the Edith Stephens Nature Reserve for a day of environmental learning related to Energy & Change. The outdoor activity was to find any examples of how energy is being transferred and used in the natural environment. One group of children

discovered a tortoise warming itself in the Sun. Others watched coots (water birds) using energy to swim or observed bees using energy to move around while pollinating flowers.



# PSP gives input to pre-service teacher training

The PSP is playing an active role in the development of a National Curriculum for pre-service teacher training, run by the HRDC (Human Resource Development Council). This includes input into the Natural Sciences curriculum and the essential element of

mentorship support for first-time teachers in schools. PSP's Programme Manager, Novosti Buta was one of the key facilitators at two conferences held in at UKZN in Durban and UNISA in Pretoria.



Thank you to the SAAO for the donation of cardboard telescope kits and Your Guide to the Universe booklets which will be distributed this term.

# Planet Earth & Beyond for Term 4

In response to teachers' requests, the PSP ran courses on Planet Earth & Beyond at the end of term three. There was much practical activity and discussion in all groups from Grade 4-7. Making models of the Solar System helped set the basic concepts for learning about the tilt of the Earth and the seasons.



## PSP BELIEVES...

Meaningful learning takes place when children are given an opportunity to construct their own knowledge and are guided to find their own solutions.



Learning is primarily a social activity.

## WHAT TEACHERS SAY

"Nadiema has reached my learners at a very creative level and the scientist in them came forth strongly. They were actively involved in building a simple circuit and they will never forget the excitement when the light bulb lit up. Thank you for your support."

Grade 5 teacher from Range Primary, Delft.

## TEACHER EXCURSION TO THE TWO OCEANS AQUARIUM



**Who:** Grade 7 teachers

**When:** Saturday, 19 October

**Time:** Leave the PSP at 8.30am sharp

**What:** Learn about the inter-tidal zone

**Important:** Book your place by Friday, 11 October



## PRIMARY SCIENCE PROGRAMME (PSP)

Edith Stephens Nature Reserve, Govan Mbeki Road, Philippi 7785  
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