



PSP NEWSLETTER

Keeping you up to date with PSP teacher development

2020 TERM 4

From the Director

Teachers' inspirational resilience

We have observed outstanding resilience amongst the many schools and teachers we worked with this year.

They tackled the multitude of challenges that came with nationwide lockdown and school closures head-on and created innovative ways to deal with setbacks, adapting their processes as they persevered through the uncertain times.

Schools became centres of care, support and hope for the community.

One school provided meals to children every day, as well as task sheets for children to carry on working at home. In another instance, the school distributed meals amongst destitute families. Teachers offered messages of support and comfort to their traumatised children and families and joined PSP online sessions in their numbers to equip themselves so that learning could continue.

We believe that with support teachers will successfully manage the unpredictable 'storms' of school and classroom life going forward.

We wish all schools, teachers, parents and learners a peaceful festive season. Stay safe.

I write this from the Republic of Congo-Brazzaville, where I am participating in a collaboration with the Cape Town Science Centre (CTSC) for 10 days to develop Environmental Education activities for primary school children. I am learning so much here and am thrilled to represent the PSP's vision and mission further into Africa.

Zorina

Dr. Zorina Dharsey



Zorina working with children in Congo-Brazzaville, making a puzzle, masks and bird feeders.



Annual Mass Planning Forum 2020

New techniques and strategies



The PSP process of consulting with teachers annually regarding needs and priorities for courses for the following year was successfully concluded on 13 November. Over 170

teachers responded to our online survey and questionnaire. An online Annual Mass Planning Forum gathering was held on MS Teams with over 40 teachers to reflect on the past year and provide motivation for going forward.

Thank you to Landie Diamond, Principal of Westlake Primary (2020 recipient of a national teachers' award), pictured on the right, and also to PSP Advisory Committee member, Theola Phillips from Yellowwood Primary for their most inspiring speeches, speaking to the core and deep strength of teachers.



PSP is truly grateful for the support and encouragement received from our funders who have shown consistent trust in our work and enabled the PSP to support teachers to overcome this difficult year.

Practical work as key feature of PSP online



PSP facilitators have moved quickly to make their online courses and small group sessions practical and interactive. PSP is recognised for its hands-on courses, with concrete learning experiences – both for teachers and learners. We are

extremely proud that facilitators have managed to achieve this by using real objects in the sessions and inviting teachers to participate actively in the virtual workshop space.



ALL PSP COURSES IN 2021 ARE SACE ACCREDITED



School registrations for 2020 will be carried through to 2021



Conclusion of Cluster and JMP two-year cycles



There was excitement and sad farewells at schools as the two-year 2019-2020 cycles of Cluster and Joint Mentorship projects were concluded.

Science facilitators visited teachers at their individual schools for the first time since lockdown in March 2020, the purpose being to reflect with teachers on PSP support during the pandemic.

There was a full turnout of teachers, keen to share their experiences. All teachers sincerely valued the practical workshops and felt PSP support had been crucial.

Online work had been a challenge at first – especially the limited access to the internet and the cost of data. However teachers were motivated to find other ways, e.g. using their own cell phones, sometimes forming teams of teachers clustering around one cell phone or laptop. This teamwork made them feel part of a learning community.

Many teachers also received one-on-one online coaching and tutoring from the PSP mentors and facilitators. This

was most valuable as it helped teachers deal with professional uncertainty and the associated emotional fatigue.

Many WCED subject advisors joined the workshops and were extremely encouraging.

Teachers explained how they had used the material sent in hard copy after the workshops. Schools worked out various ways to use this material with learners:

- Some material was printed for the children in class
- Some was transformed into large copies for each classroom to be used on the wall as teaching aids
- Some was hand-written onto charts and served as lesson prompts
- Some teachers used a laptop and worked with small groups of children at a time clustering around it
- Most schools made printed packs of the material for children who could not attend school
- Some schools with electronic facilities were able to project the material in their classrooms.

New PSP clusters and first-time teacher support projects will start again next year for further cohorts of teachers for 2021- 2022. PSP facilitators have already shared virtual meetings with all the districts and have communicated the details of the roll out of the projects, depending on circumstances.

PSP participates in a new project

We were approached by the Trim Tab Foundation (which forms part of the Rupert Education Foundation) to participate in a project to improve education outcomes in seven primary schools in the Somerset West/Strand area. PSP will focus on Foundation Phase Maths and Life Skills. The project was launched online in June at the following schools: A.C.J. Pakade Primary School, Christmas Tinto Primary School, Dr. G.J. Joubert

Primary School, Sir Lowry's Pass Primary School, Silukhanyo Primary School, Solomon Qatyana Primary School, and Temperance Town Primary School. PSP facilitators have established positive relationships with teachers in the project and are now conducting a blend of both online and physical contact with the schools, thereby deepening these relationships further. This bodes well for positive outcomes in 2021.

PSP BELIEVES...

Teachers' resilience is key to helping them adapt confidently to changing conditions as we move towards a different reality.

PSP MATERIALS: NEW PRACTICAL MATHS BOOKS



PSP's full colour Practical Maths books for Intermediate Phase teachers, Foundation Phase teachers as well as Practical Maths at Home for parents of children aged 4 – 9 available now.

Please find the order form on our website at www.psp.org.za.

EASY BOOKING FOR COURSES 2021

Our new database springs into action soon. Teachers will be able to book for courses with just a touch of a button on their sms reminder, which will take them to the course topic and dates to 'join'. More details to come!

"Keep up the good work you doing. As teachers we know most of the stuff and then people like you come and invigorate us with your fresh ideas. Like the way you make us feel."

Foundation Phase teacher, Sir Lowry's Pass Primary after problem-solving workshop on 19 August.



PRIMARY SCIENCE PROGRAMME (PSP)

5 Palatine Road, Plumstead 7800, Cape Town
Website: www.psp.org.za | Email: info@psp.org.za | Tel: +27 (0)21 691 9039

