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PSP NEWS 1st TERM 2002

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Colleagues!

Welcome to 2002 – we hope you had a good start to the year and that this year proves even better than last year!
It was very encouraging to see so many teachers attend our Annual Mass Planning Forum this year.

This is an important annual exercise where the PSP negotiates a plan of INSET support with interested groups of teachers. Following these discussions, the programme of courses and cluster work in Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Maths has been drawn up and appears with this PSP Newsletter.

Thank you to all the teachers who participated in this process – we hope you will find this programme useful!

PSP Advisory Committee

The PSP is expanding the Advisory Committee of teachers. As you know, the PSP currently has a committee of 7 elected teachers / principals, who meet at the start of every term and advise and give direction to the activities of the PSP. They also form part of the PSP Joint Management Board, together with the PSP Trustees and 4 other members. However the term of office of the present advisors is coming to an end and we will shortly elect new members onto the Advisory Committee. We therefore request that schools nominate teachers to serve on this committee. The PSP will supervise an election process amongst teachers in the next few weeks. So, please consider carefully and nominate a teacher in whom you have faith and who is ready to take on the responsibility. We will announce the new Advisory Committee at the PSP AGM, early in term 2.

Good luck with all your activities this term!
Mascha and the PSP team: Rose, Sandra, Vagriuah, Gcobisa & Zowi

ANNUAL MASS PLANNING FORUM 2002 - WELL ATTENDED

Close to 300 teachers from over 50 schools attended the PSP Annual Mass Planning Forum at Uluntu on 5 Feb. After the speeches and information updates from WCED and other institutions, teachers agreed on the programme of PSP support for the year. See term 1 programme included.

- **Planning the Science Curriculum** in three small clusters of schools in term 1 – followed by support from TIP with **Managing the Curriculum** and possible language support
- Natural Sciences courses on Earth & Beyond will commence in term 2
- Social Sciences courses start in term 1
- Maths (more than 60 teachers!) articulated their needs and the PSP undertakes to identify a Maths provider to address these needs to start in term 1.

Update on C2005 - Jenny Rault-Smith, Director Curriculum Development, WCED

- Some highlights from her speech were:
- The major challenge for the WCED is to develop fair OBE methods of assessment – especially for grade 9 (GETC).
 - For teachers, the challenge is to use new methods of assessment. "The progress of the learner (or lack thereof) needs to be assessed throughout the year so the appropriate support can be given to the learners. The search for the most appropriate assessment methods is ongoing".
 - Curriculum 2005 is designed to develop learners who are caring, intelligent problem solvers with the ability to communicate well.
 - When the new National Curriculum Statements are introduced the aims of education will not change. However the curriculum described by the statements will not be implemented for some time and teachers will receive full training beforehand.
 - Until then teachers should carry on with implementing C2005, drawing on the relevant content, which they know.

NEW FOCUS IN PSP PROGRAMME Planning the curriculum in school clusters

Last year the PSP conducted a survey in a number of schools to find out what teachers' most pressing needs are for PSP to support this year.

Over 90% of schools said that they needed support in planning their science curriculum for the year.

In response to this we received a mandate at the Mass Planning Forum to facilitate a process of planning in 3 clusters of 5 schools in the EMDC's Central, South and East. This process will run for 8 hours i.e 4 x 2 hour sessions with ALL the science teachers. There will also be 2 x 1 hour follow up sessions in each school. This will start in the first term. Schools were given application forms at the Mass Planning Forum and these also explain the criteria for the commitment required from schools.

Schools can then request to be part of a cluster. If you need more details please phone us at PSP Tel: 637 8179. Speak to Sandra or Gcobisa



Sandra from PSP facilitating the process of Planning with teachers in the Boland

HIV-AIDS

Our thoughts go out to our colleagues in education and their families who are either living with or have died from Aids-related diseases



INVITATION to take part in the PSP research

Are you a teacher, who is:

- Active and committed?
- Interested in the teaching and learning of science?
- Willing to try new ideas?
- Interested in your own personal development?
- And in the development of your learners?
- Supported by your school management team?

Then this is your opportunity to contribute to finding out what are the best ways of teaching science in the primary school.

It is a national priority!

This is a first invitation to any grade 5 teachers who would like to work with the PSP materials over a period of time and be supported as part of a research study in teaching primary science.

Please contact the PSP for more information. Tel 6378179

GETINSET PROJECT COMES TO AN END AFTER 4 YEARS

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The GETINSET Project ended on a high note with an excellent Certification Ceremony and celebration of the success of this project on Sat 2nd Feb in the Baxter.

Many teachers – some from as far as Vredendal – attended the festive occasion. Mr Brian O'Connell, who had helped to establish this unique project delivered an inspiring keynote address. Other speakers included Mr Brian Schreuder, acting DDG at the WCED and three teachers, who had participated in GETINSET. This was a wonderful occasion and left one hoping that such outstanding work could be picked up by other agencies - especially by the EMDC's in their INSET plans for their areas. Funding agencies seem willing to fund such Getinset-type work.

Congratulations to all the staff of GETINSET on an outstanding project!

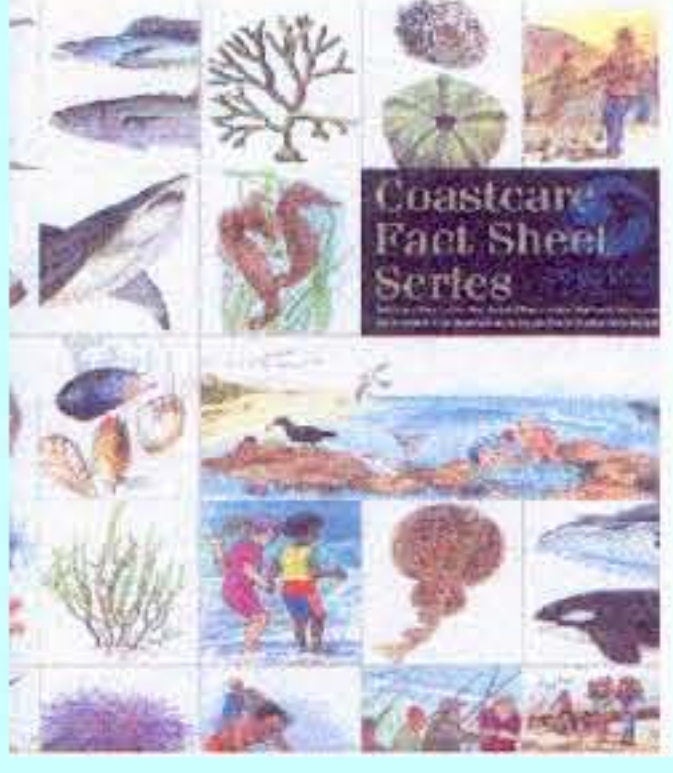
Layout and design: Gcobisa Mbilli and Nicci Cairns

AN EXCELLENT NEW RESOURCE

The Department of Marine and Coastal Management has co-ordinated the publication of the **COASTCARE FACT SHEET SERIES**. This beautiful resource gives a brief introduction to every possible topic on the SA coast.

You can collect one for your school from the PSP or the Two Oceans Aquarium Education Centre for FREE!

Phone Zowi at PSP tel: 6378179
Winnie at Two Oceans Aquarium tel: 4183823.



You can have this beautiful resource for your school library FREE!

ENJOY!



Our guest speaker was Prof Cliff Malcolm, from the University of Durban-Westville. He is the external evaluator of the work of the PSP. His talk on 'Listening to Children' reminded us all about the main purpose of our education (and OBE) ...!



Jenny Rault Smith Director: Curriculum Development

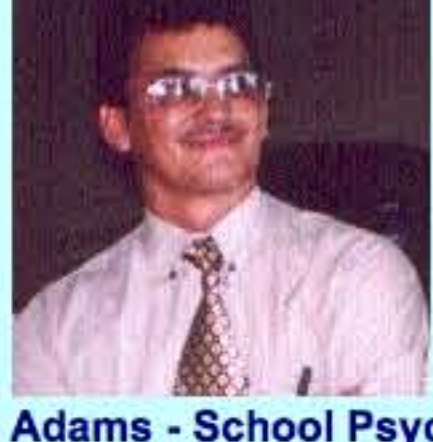


Many, many teachers from more than 50 schools attended the PSP's Annual Mass Planning Forum at Uluntu on 5th Feb. There was a lively atmosphere, as teachers came to see what's new at PSP.

CERTIFICATION DAY IN PAARL

Mr. Opperman, the principal of Newton Primary hosted this pleasant event on 28 January, when 33 teachers received their PSP certificates.

We were inspired by the excellent speech delivered by Mr. Reuben Adams, the psychologist to many schools in the area and he highlighted the important role that teachers can play in rising to the challenges of curriculum change in our schools. Congratulations to all the teachers involved!



Mr Reuben Adams - School Psychologist Guest speaker at the Paarl Certification Ceremony

The WCED have made this e-mail address available for any questions from teachers regarding the curriculum:
Rurchadv@wcedlist.wcape.gov.za

PSP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TIP (Teacher's Inset Project, based at UWC)

As the PSP starts working with small clusters of schools on Planning, we believe it is essential to co-ordinate this support with assistance in **Managing the Curriculum at schools**. TIP are specialists in school management and the PSP and TIP have successfully worked together in the GETINSET Project for 4 years. At last the PSP is starting to incorporate this management component into our school-based support. We are excited about this PSP/TIP partnership – and hope it will contribute significantly to the growth and development of many schools.

LATEST MATERIALS DEVELOPED BY THE PSP

