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Greetings, dear Colleagues and best wishes for 2005 - may this year be a good and productive one for us all!
Education authorities countrywide are optimistic that our schools have got off to a good start' this year - we hope that this positive attitude enthuses teachers in their classes - especially as the Intermediate Phase starts implementing the RNCS. Certainly the PSP is full of optimism and hope that things will improve for teachers this year.
The PSP is also very excited about this year's interesting courses, activities and materials that were planned at the teachers' meetings last year. We hope they will benefit many teachers.

Please note that some dates for Maths courses have been changed. (See the programme) The Maths support is offered in partnership with IMSTUS.

Please also remember the PSP is there to assist teachers and their classroom interaction ...please call on us!

Best wishes from Mascha and the PSP team: Viv, Vagriuah, Ntsiki, Rose, Sandra, Gcobisa and Nthabi.



WELCOME TO NTHABI



Nthabeleng Marubelela has joined the PSP as a full-time Administrative Assistant. She has been active in the PSP office for some time now - and we officially welcome her with open arms!



African Snipe - another interesting bird that came to nest at Edith Stephens Wetland Park after the rains last year. The last African Snipe nest in the Cape Metropole was recorded 14 years ago!



THE TWW@WESTCOAST/ WINELANDS PROJECT MOVES INTO ITS 3rd YEAR

During the last two years this very exciting partnership project has worked with 198 primary schools in all the circuits of the EMDC. The partners: SDU, IMSTUS, ORT-TECH and the PSP have provided training and support in the fields of "Tegnologie, Wiskunde en Wetenskap" and have built sound and productive relationships with around 1500 teachers thus far.
This project has had wonderful active support from the EMDC officials. We acknowledge and thank the Standard Bank of South Africa as the main sponsor of this project for 2004.
We look forward to a year of consolidation with teachers and careful collaboration with the EMDC officials in 2005.



THE PSP CLUSTER PROJECT READY TO GO IN 4 EMDCs

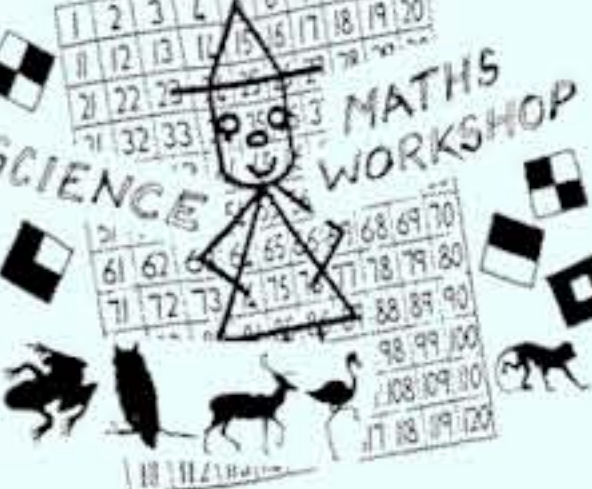
In close co-operation with the EMDCs (East, South, Central and the Breede River / Overberg) the PSP Cluster Project assists schools with the Planning and Assessing and Management processes of the Natural Sciences curriculum.
The PSP and TIP (based at UWC) will support the planning that has already taken place at Intermediate Phase level at these schools to aid their implementation and management of the RNCS.
This support takes the form of courses for Natural Sciences and Management in clusters and also includes school-based follow-up and support at each individual school.
This is followed up by Ongoing Sharing and Support sessions in clusters each term, where teachers work through samples of school plans and learners' work. They share successes and challenges with one another.
31 Schools have committed themselves to this process in 2005 and the PSP is rearing to go!

BOLAND MATHS & SCIENCE PROJECT (BMS) set to continue

The BMS Project continues this year with nine new schools - (mainly on the Villiersdorp road) committing themselves to the project. Sandra Rossouw, the full-time PSP Science & Maths facilitator in Worcester will offer courses, meetings on Natural Sciences and Mathematics as well as classroom support. She will also follow-up with schools of the previous BMS clusters in the Ceres and Robertson areas.



Sandra Rossouw (middle) planning with Ntsiki and Rose. We welcome Sandra as a full-time staff member.



Mcebisi Mnconywa, acting Principal of Luleka Primary School, Khayelitsha. He was voted in as a Trustee of the PSP last year. We are delighted!

HOEP

Hands-on-Environment Project for teachers of Language, Natural Sciences, Geography etc
Grades 4 - 7

- Based at Edith Stephens Wetland Park, one of Cape Town's hotspots of biodiversity
- Workshops to prepare teachers with practical activities for their learners
- Bring your learners to the park for activities in the natural environment
- Free bus transport available for learners
- Language outcomes also used to explore the natural environment

Tel. PSP at 691 9039 to book a FREE bus for your class of learners and find out more A big thank you to the National

Lottery Board who fund the HOEP

MANAGING WATER AT EDITH STEPHENS

Edith Stephens is also suffering in the hot and dry conditions here at the moment. With the water restrictions we are thinking of ways to save water and also save the trees and shrubs that have been planted here from dying.

This wetland park is a fantastic resource and we are very concerned that the shrubs and trees don't die.

Luzann Hendricks, the manager of Edith Stephens is looking at implementing innovative ways to water the plants and keep them damp. For example, involving the local community to help carry water (in buckets) to these plants and mulching with stones. She's also thinking of finding a way to use the ground water in the retention pond to save the plants.

The seasonal wetland (conservation area) is also completely dry - and all the water birds have left the area in search of other more permanent wet areas across the Cape Peninsula.



PSP MATERIALS UPDATE

The PSP is currently updating all the Natural Sciences Learning Experience booklets on all four content areas in line with the requirements of the RNCS. Thus far we have completed Matter & Materials grades 4 & 5 and Life & Living grades 4 & 5. We will keep you informed of our progress



ASSESSMENT COURSES

This term we will be running a series of two-day courses on assessment. So look out for them in the Programme. As you know we have been consulting with some teachers in a small Assessment Group in 2004 and will continue to do so this year. We have all learnt a great deal about ways to implement assessment so that it is manageable in a primary school classroom.
We have also begun to explore different kinds of assessment tasks and ways of asking questions to get learners to reveal what they know. It is relatively easy to set tasks that require learners to mimic what was done in the classroom, but it is more difficult to set tasks that will stimulate the learner to reveal their own thinking and insights. We need both kinds of tasks to tell us about the progress of the learners.

We hope to include what we have learnt from teachers in the courses as well as provide examples of assessment for the teachers to critique and improve on. See you there!

CHEETAH OUTREACH PROJECT resource materials - free to all schools

A set of wonderful materials developed by this project is waiting to go to all schools for free! The PSP has helped with the distribution to schools.
IF your school does NOT have a set yet, you can collect it from the PSP, or phone Dawn or Desmond at tel. 0828724007

