



PSP NEWS 1st TERM 2006

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Hallo, dear Colleagues

2006 is upon us - it's hard to believe! We know that teachers are very special human beings and somehow they become energised each year when they greet their children again. Let us hope that this year becomes one with much inspiration and fulfillment for teachers as they tackle their many challenges at school.

At the PSP it's "all systems go". We have planned some excellent courses in line with the requests / priorities expressed by teachers at the Annual Mass Planning Forum last year and we hope that teachers and their learners will benefit from the PSP support. Please see the Programme of Courses included in this Newsletter.

With best wishes from the PSP team: Mascha, Gcobisa, Nthabi, Nadiema, Rose, Viv, Vagriuah Ntsiki and Sandra in the Boland.



Mrs Palesa Tyobeka: National DDG : General Education



PSP's Annual Mass Planning Forum - 2005

PSP ANNUAL MASS PLANNING FORUM A SUCCESSFUL DAY

Many, many teachers attended the PSP's 'three-in-one' Annual Mass Planning Forum day last term, despite the difficult time of year for teachers to meet. We had our PSP Certification 2005 AND a major power failure (!) as well as a happy Celebration all on the same day! It was wonderful to see so many sister NGOs, Institutions, WCED partners and some funders there as well.



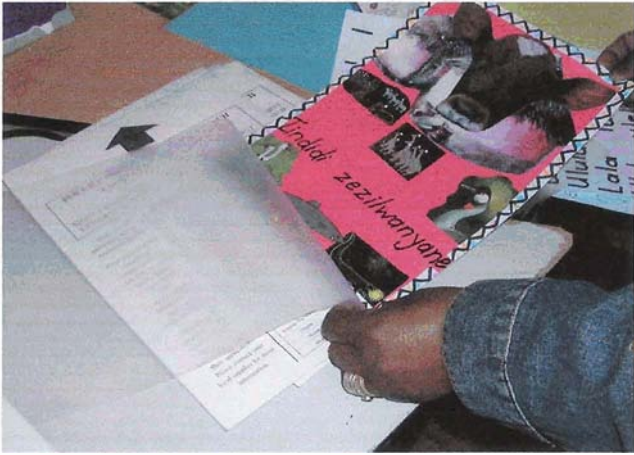
Teachers deciding on the Mathematics needs for 2006

After the business part, where teachers met in different Learning Area groups to prioritise their needs for in-service support for 2006, the main attraction of the day was our guest speaker, the National Deputy Director General: General Education, Mrs Palesa Tyobeka. She gave a powerful and personalised address, in which she encouraged teachers to keep strong. She gave pertinent tips from her own experience for coping in difficult circumstances at schools.

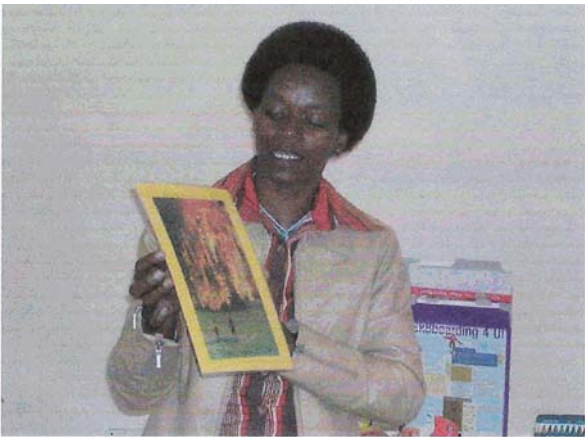
We are very grateful to Mrs Palesa Tyobeka for her interest in our work. Through her we have established an exciting relationship with the National Department of Education, which we hope will be mutually beneficial.



MAKING RESOURCES FOR LITERACY DEVELOPMENT



At our last language and Literacy courses Viv provided many ideas and teachers made materials to encourage and develop the literacy skills of their learners. On the first afternoon every teacher found, cut out, mounted and laminated two or three pictures.



We asked the teachers to trial the materials with their learners and to report on what happened the next day. We were impressed to hear what the teachers and learners had done. Some Foundation Phase teachers had taken in pictures to stimulate discussion, writing and reading. And some had made zig-zag books with their learners.



PSP NEWS

Intermediate Phase teachers worked with jig-saw stories on the second afternoon. This was quite a challenge. They worked together to make sense of the story and to write down the missing parts.



When we worked with the Grade 5s at Litha later in the year, we were impressed at the way the children talked about the pictures they chose, and then wrote down their questions.



COME AND SEE THE AFRICAN DARTER AT EDITH STEPHENS WETLAND PARK

The African Darter has been breeding at the retention pond at Edith Stephens Wetland Park this past winter and spring. This bird is sometimes called the 'snakebird' due to its habit of lying low in the water with only its head and long, slender neck above the surface. Its long, pointed beak is used to spear (or stab) fish, which it catches when it dives below the water. The African Darter's wing feathers are not waterproof and you can often see these birds perched on a branch with their wings spread out, drying in the sun and wind.



When they want to breed, they build large nests with sticks, usually in trees and lay 3-4 eggs.

Many birds also roost (sleep) at Edith Stephens and up to 123 darters have been counted flying in at dusk, where they share the space on the trees with the cormorants, African Sacred Ibies and Cattle Egrets.



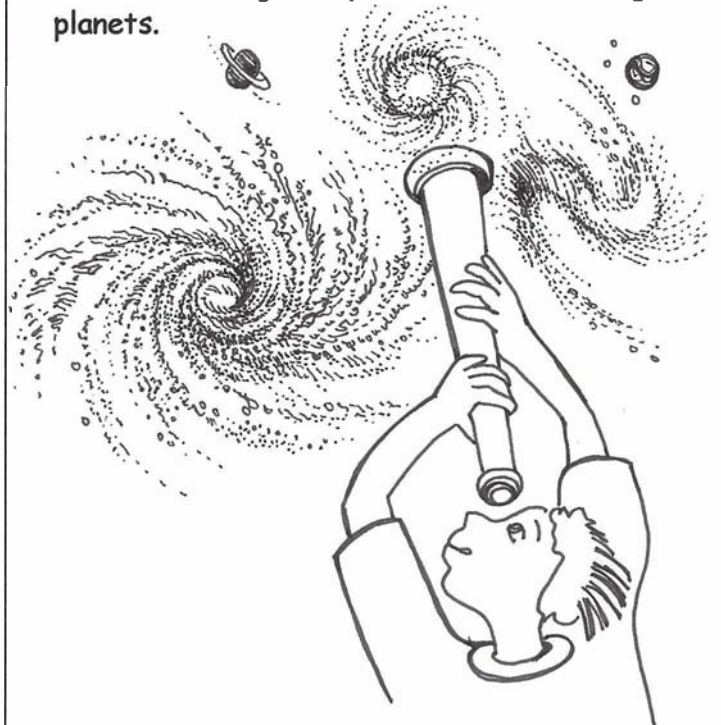
African Darter swimming in the water



Thanks to Doug Harebottle of the ADU at UCT

ASTRONOMY CARDS GOING AHEAD BRISKLY

Through productive partnerships with the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) as well as The Shuttleworth Foundation, the PSP is making good progress with developing a set of 16 exciting Astronomy Cards for learners. They will be large and colourful and will deal with interesting aspects of astronomy including the birth and death of stars, traveling in space and discovering new planets.



**GREAT COURSES AT THE CTI
(Cape Teaching Institute) LAST YEAR**

Various service providers successfully presented a wide range of courses for 1350 teachers at the CTI during 2005. This year the CTI plans to train even more teachers (through the service providers) and also to convene two Teacher Conferences: One on Maths during May and one on Reading in August. This is very exciting.

The PSP presented the three courses in Natural Sciences for Intermediate Phase teachers and the feedback was very encouraging.



Here Nosipho Sulelo from Nomlinganiselo (New Crossroads) is carefully observing layers of soil particles in water. With her in the group are: Nozi Gazi from Mokone (Langa) (right), Phumla Mpengesi from Isiphiwo (Khayelitsha) (back to us), and Ntombizodwa Tshandu from Chuma (Khayelitsha) (left).

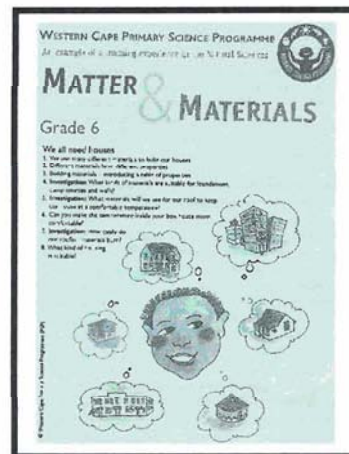


Making a model to help explain the moon orbiting around the earth. Here educators Leon Caesar from Welcome (Heideveld), Quinton Carelse from Firgrove (Strand) and Deon Campher from Symphony (Belhar) do a 'show and tell'.



Teachers making their own telescopes under the guidance of Sivuyile Manxoyi from the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO). In the photo we can see Primrose Jongile from Enkululekweni (Kraaifontein), and Bukiwe Qenqani from Siyazingisa (Guguletu) inserting the lenses into their telescopes.

Latest PSP Materials



Nicci Cairns
Gcobisa Mbili

