



PSP NEWS 1st TERM 2008

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Hullo again, dear Colleagues in 2008!

It's a new year with new beginnings, new hopes, new dreams and new learners in your class! We wish you a wonderful new school year, full of inspiration and energy to take your learners on a fantastic road of experience and learning. Your learners too, have deep hopes and dreams for their learning!. We at the PSP plan to assist and support you all the way. 🍀

This year we have an exciting new programme of **excellent short courses** across the curriculum. Please find the programme in this Newsletter (or faxed to your school) to see what's on offer and when. Please also share this with your colleagues in the other Learning Areas.

Let's hope this year becomes a really rewarding one for you and your learners!

Good luck from us all at the PSP:

Mascha, Gcobisa, Nthabi, Vava, Viv, Nadiema, Ntsiki, Rose, Sandra in the Boland and Zorina.

BOOKING IN ADVANCE FOR PSP COURSES IS ESSENTIAL

Please help us to prepare adequately for the courses. We ask teachers to decide in advance which PSP courses to attend. Please find the Booking Form in the Programme and negotiate with your colleagues in the different Learning Areas who will attend which courses. Fax the form to Nthabi at the PSP: 021 6916350 to ensure your place. There are only 40 places for each course.



Teachers Dream is a GreaterGood SA campaign which aims to help South African educators bring learning to life.

In 2008, Teachers Dream is working with the PSP to assist teachers already involved in our projects to make their *learning* dreams come true. To find more about Teachers Dream please ask the PSP facilitators or contact Teachers Dream directly on (021) 794 0580 or visit the website at www.teachersdream.co.za

WELCOME TO ZORINA

We believe we have hit the jackpot with our new appointment, Zorina Dharsey - yes, Zunade's sister! She has just joined the PSP team.

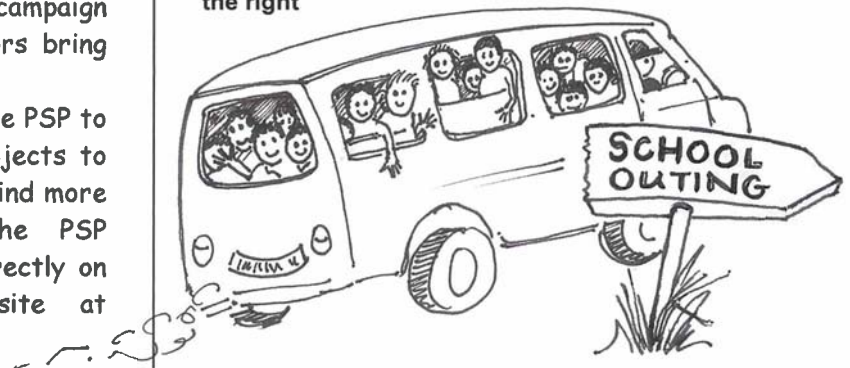
Zorina is highly qualified and comes with years of experience of primary Science and Mathematics teaching at Fairview Primary in Grassy Park. Zorina was tops at her school and we look forward to further growing the PSP's teacher development and support with our new team member.

Zorina feels excited about this change in her life and the new challenges it presents she's looking forward to networking with teachers at a different level. She will also be continuing with her PhD in Teacher Development through the University of Stellenbosch.

We wish her a happy stay with the PSP.



Ntsiki Mahote with our new colleague, Zorina Dharsey on the right



FOUNDATION PHASE NUMERACY STARTS AT THE PSP THIS YEAR

After many requests from teachers to include Numeracy into our PSP programme, we are pleased to announce that we have planned 4 hr courses for each term for Foundation Phase teachers this year. We are very excited about this new development. (See the course programme!)

The PSP Mathematics is presented in partnership with MEPP (Maths Education Primary Programme). They have considerable experience in Mathematics and Numeracy education and have worked with the PSP in numerous projects.

We are grateful to the Old Mutual Foundation for their support for our PSP Mathematics.



Gabeba Agherdien from MEPP will continue to present the PSP Mathematics workshops this year.

MOTHER-TONGUE TEACHING IN SCHOOLS PSP takes a critical look

The PSP is very interested in the mother-tongue teaching and learning project which is currently being piloted in certain schools in the Western Cape. The view is that learners are more likely to reach their potential and become confident, active leaders in society when their mother tongue has played a significant role in their development and learning. It is believed that learners need to become proficient and literate in their mother tongue before they are able to learn another language effectively. The PSP will take a practical look at this, in order to understand the issues involved and thus inform our practice in various projects.

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MARINE AWARENESS WEEK BECAME A MARINE AWARENESS TERM

The PSP Cluster Project focused on Marine Awareness during the last term of 2007, after a substantial number of copies of the environment magazine, *EnviroKids* was donated to the PSP by I&J and the City of Cape Town for the current 40 Cluster Schools.

This Marine Awareness work included:

- Distributing *EnviroKids* magazines to the 171 Cluster School teachers
- Information on the importance of Marine Week
- A 2-hour work session held at each school for Natural Sciences teachers.

Facilitators visited teachers during October and November to support those who wished to use the magazine in their lessons.



Grade 4 learners at Kenmere Primary School absorbed in *EnviroKids*.

School outings

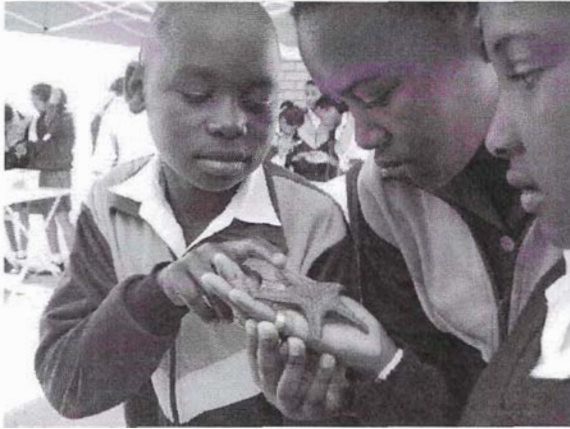
Inspired by the project, *EnviroKids* negotiated with the following organisations to provide hands-on activities related to the marine environment.

- *Table Mountain National Park: People and Conservation* sponsored 10 bus outings to allow learners to visit the rocky shore in Kalk Bay
- *The Two Oceans Aquarium* offered 10 sponsored outreach school visits to PSP Cluster schools.
- *The City of Cape Town Environmental Education and Training* unit sponsored two bus outings to visit the rocky shore at Wolfgat Nature Reserve.

These activities were a great success and served to enhance the learner's knowledge and awareness of our oceans and marine life.

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The PSP would like to acknowledge the sponsorship and activities offered by all partners in this project. Special thanks to Roberta Griffiths of *EnviroKids*, Sharon Mattinson (I&J); Lindie Buirski and Jerome September (City of Cape Town); Penelope Furness (TMNP); and Weston Barwise and Mr Peterson (Two Oceans Aquarium).



Grade 6 learners from Surrey Park Primary enjoyed the Two Oceans Aquarium Outreach visit to their school in October last year.



Grade 7 learners from Delta Primary School enjoyed their visit to the Rocky Shore in Kalk Bay, facilitated by the Table Mountain National Park.

LATEST TEACHER SUPPORT MATERIALS

PSP in partnership with the WCED

The DVD and Teacher's Guide on *TOOLS FOR PLANNING YOUR NATURAL SCIENCES CURRICULUM* has been completed. It is available from Edumedia (Tel: 021 689 9536) and also from the PSP (Tel: 021 691 9039).



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VOLUNTEER STUDENTS HELP TO START A CAMPAIGN TO CLEAR THE WATER HYACINTH

The Edith Stephens Wetland Park managers were provided with a wonderful opportunity to start clearing the water hyacinth, which covered the whole surface of the retention pond the last year.



30 engineering students from the University of Wisconsin Madison (USA) were joined by 20 UCT engineering students to start removing the Hyacinth from the edges.



They worked vigorously for 4 days and produced mountains of Hyacinth on the banks of the retention pond.

GEDIG OPGEDRA AAN EDITH STEPHENS

Die gawe dame, Edith Stephens
Bring groot genot in baie lewens.
Met die pragtige natuur
wat 'n mens so aangluur.

Hier kan jy die volgende bestudeer:
Goggas, diertjies, voëls, water en die weer,
Wie sou ooit kon raai,
'n Wetlands in Philippi, ag tog so fraai.

Van werksinkels en besoeke
Kry jy ook 'n gratis bus en handboeke,
Die Almagtige se skepping,
Wat 'n wonderlike ontdekking.

Dankie Edith Stephens
Vir die genot in baie mense se lewens.
Me R. Hendricks, Primrose Park Primary School

CLUSTER PROJECT REFLECTION / CERTIFICATION End of year one



More than 160 teachers from the urban cluster schools arrived at the PSP on 13 November to share their experiences of the first year of the Cluster Project and to receive certificates.



Teachers were asked to reflect in their groups on the highlights and also the problems they experienced in the Cluster Project thus far.



Then teachers voiced their reflections. Mrs Mdutwana from Leiden Primary in Delft took the mike....

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Below: Mrs Endale from Leiden Avenue Primary, Delft talked about her experiences. Careful notes were taken of the teachers' reflections. These notes are being used to inform our further work with these clusters.



Thank you to the District officials (East, North and Central), who supported this day and also handed out certificates to teachers.

