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PSP NEWS 2nd TERM 2004

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Hullo, dear Colleagues!

The PSP's External Evaluation of three years has come to an end. Prof Cliff Malcolm, our evaluator, presented his findings at our Annual Celebration on 20 April. The final report (stage 3) is available at the PSP as well as on the PSP website. It has been a privilege for the PSP to work with and develop a close relationship with Prof Cliff Malcolm. We found it a rewarding, challenging and very useful exercise from which we have learnt extensively.

Many exciting events are planned for this term:

- A Video-conference between Norma Road Primary and two UK schools
- The filming of a HOEP (Hands-on-Environment Project) workshop followed by two teachers in action with their learners - for broadcast on SABC 1 television on 30 May
- A range of exciting new courses in Social Sciences, Language, Natural Sciences, now also Foundation Phase science and Mathematics. Good luck with this full term! Regards from us all at the PSP.

DO YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN ASSESSMENT?

Prof Cliff Malcolm (the PSP Evaluator) has encouraged the PSP and teachers to explore ways of helping learners to reveal what they really know about science and how we could go about assessing this.

The PSP invites any interested teachers to be part of a small **Working Group on Assessment** to further develop our knowledge and practical understanding about this issue. Please contact Rose at PSP: Tel. 691 9039

THE PSP IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE ITS NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE



From left : Ruby Gxula - Siyazakha Prim, Mcebisi Mnconywa - Luleka Prim, Silulami Nkqezo - Litha Prim, Phillip Nkosi - Ummangaliso Prim, Xoliswa Sitetyana - Ikhwezi Lesizwe Prim & Gugu Katsha - Soyisile Prim



From left : Nozipho Gazi - Mokone Prim, Zola Mqoboka - Siyabulela Prim, Mandisa Ntlatati - Qingqa Mntwana Prim

Thando Mgudlwa- Impendulo Prim, Nonkosi Kaleni - (not in the pictures)



PSP BOARD OF TRUSTEES



From left: Solomon Makosana, Donald Campbell, Mascha Ainslie & Mcebisi Mnconywa who was elected as a trustee at a recent Joint Advisory Committee meeting.

SPECIAL FOCUS FOR SCIENCE COURSES THIS TERM

This is a reminder that the science focus for this term is on investigations (as was decided at the planning forum). As you know this is Natural Sciences Learning Outcome No.1 in the RNCS. Learners will have to be assessed on investigations and this is new for most teachers and children. Our courses will thus explore different kinds of investigations and methods to teach children how to do investigations and also how to assess them. Please check the dates for your grades!

2004 CLUSTER PROJECT

The 2004 PSP/WCED/TIP cluster project commenced in the first term. Twenty schools from the South, Central and East EMDC's participated in this project. Some 95 teachers including HODs and Principals attended the courses.

The aim of the Cluster Project is to support teachers and management to develop a coherent Natural Sciences curriculum and assessment year plan in accordance with the RNCS and also to develop a system for managing the planning process.

During the first part of the course teachers attended four afternoon sessions on Planning and Assessing run by the PSP and this was followed a few weeks later by two work-sharing sessions and a school visit. Teachers were provided with PSP resource materials.

The second part consisted of four afternoon sessions and a follow up session, on management, run by TIP. The WCED arranged the initial information sessions during which schools were invited to apply for cluster support. The courses were well attended and we were impressed at the high levels of commitment by the teachers and SMTs. We would like to make special mention of the numbers of Principals who attended the whole course. We commend their commitment to the process.

The involvement of the principals will help to establish a practice of team curriculum planning and assessment and also policy development in the schools and to establish closer networking between schools.

Most teachers in the cluster schools now have plans and assessment strategies for science in advance of the RNCS implementation. They are in the process of compiling their own teacher portfolios and refining their plans. The PSP's Cluster Project support continues through the regular work sessions, where teachers share and develop further plans.

PSP ANNUAL CELEBRATION 2004

We held our Annual Celebration on 20 April 2004. We were delighted that so many people were able to join us on this occasion and would like to thank everybody who came to celebrate with us.

We thank Mr. Ron Swartz, The Director General (HEAD) and others from the WCED, for taking the time to be with us in person and for their support and encouragement. We will keep Mr Swartz in touch with our developments, particularly as we move forward with the thorny issue of assessment!

We were very pleased that our external evaluator, Professor Cliff Malcolm was able to speak on this occasion. He presented the findings of the evaluation and spoke enthusiastically about the teachers with whom PSP works, and their learners, and affirmed the good work that they are doing. We believe that the findings of Prof Cliff Malcolm's team around testing are very significant for assessment in the primary school and provide us all with considerable challenges to work on.

We so appreciated the generous turnout of teachers who once again showed their interest and commitment to education. It was a particular pleasure to entertain them in the park at Edith Stephens.

We would also like to thank the children for their contributions. Wasn't the Imbongi amazing! (Olwethu Gamedala from Siyabulela in Langa) and the children from Impendulo who played the recorder and the trumpet.

It was lovely to have the teachers, children, Advisory Committee and Trustees as well as our close network of educational partners and colleagues all under the same roof.

Last, but not least, we are very grateful to our funding partners, particularly those who stepped out of their busy schedules to join us for this special PSP occasion.



Group of service providers at the Certification Ceremony

TWW @ WEST COAST WINELANDS PROJECT

The first year of operation of the TWW @ Westcoast/Winelands Project was celebrated on 30 March 2004 with a Certification Ceremony (for circuits 1 - 5) held in the Paarl EMDC offices. The hall was packed with about 400 teachers who traveled long distances to attend this festive event. The guest speaker was the EMDC Director, Mr Jannie Beukes and the MC was Mr Pierre Boonzaier.

NATURAL SCIENCES IN THE FOUNDATION PHASE