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Hullo, dear Colleagues!

While this holiday was hopefully a happy and restful one for most of you, we have been shocked and saddened to hear about the accidents that claimed the lives of some of our colleagues; Mr Lunga Mda, who served on the PSP Advisory Committee (see article further down) as well as colleagues in Environmental Education from the WWF SA and from the National Botanical Institute (NBI). We grieve with the families and loved ones of those who were so suddenly called away.

The PSP has been advised to change the format of the Annual Mass Planning Forum - it was always at the beginning of each year - now it will be at the end of each year. We will thus run separate planning meetings in the different Learning Areas in the 4th term. Please see the planning dates elsewhere in this PSP Newsletter.

We are thrilled to congratulate our dear Vagriuah Kariem on graduating with her Masters in Science Education (M Ed) from UCT in June this year. We are very proud of her wonderful achievement!



With all good wishes Mascha and the PSP Team: Gcobisa, Rose, Nontsikelelo, Vagriuah, Zowi and our new part-time workshops assistant, Xolisa Manziya

THE PSP ANNUAL MASS PLANNING FORUM TAKES ON A NEW FORM

Following from the recommendations from teachers at the Annual Mass Planning Forum in February this year, the PSP has been advised to run separate, planning meetings for different Learning Areas in the 4th term each year to assist teachers with their plans for the following year.

This will take the place of the big Annual Mass Planning Forum each year.

The PSP therefore invites teachers to the following planning meetings in the 4th term at **Edith Stephens Wetland Park**.

- Natural Sciences: (grades 4 - 7)**
Thurs 16 October: 2:30 - 3:30pm:
- Mathematics: (grades 4 - 7):**
Wed 22 October: 2:30 - 3:30pm:
- Language/Literacy: (grades 4 - 7):**
Thurs 23 October: 2:30 - 3:30pm:
- PSP Cluster Programme: (for 2003 cluster schools): Tues 21 October: 2:30 - 3:30pm:**
- Social Sciences (2-day Planning of the SS Curriculum - grades 4 - 7):**
Wed and Thurs 8 & 9 October: 2:30 - 4:30pm:



Ruth Versfeld - facilitator for Social Sciences

Ruth has been involved with the PSP for over 6 years - running very popular Social Sciences workshops for the PSP and providing excellent support to teachers.

She is an experienced teacher - and was also involved in starting the Adult Education Centre at St Francis in Langa in the 1970's.

Her special focus has always been on Geography and History - but she has a passion for Language development across the curriculum. She was also involved in the Language Support Research Project for the WCED in 2001.

Ruth strongly believes that teachers should be prepared to use different teaching methods, be prepared to take risks and try again, if it doesn't work - but most of all she believes that teachers should acknowledge their own abilities and believe in themselves!

Currently Ruth is writing text books on Social Sciences and Life Orientation for the Intermediate Phase. The PSP and teachers are very lucky to have such an expert working with us!



PSP AND ORT-TECH - productive partnership

In response to the many requests from teachers for assistance with the new Technology curriculum, the PSP has successfully piloted a partnership with ORT-TECH (based at the MTN Sciencentre) through the PSP Cluster Programme. ORT-TECH developed and ran a short 16-hour introductory course on Technology, which included the planning and assessment of this new Learning Area to the 2002 PSP cluster schools.

The PSP has received excellent feedback from teachers. If we can raise the funds, we wish to continue this partnership, which will strengthen the Planning and Assessing of Natural Sciences and Technology at more schools.



Kevin and Pamela from ORT-TECH



Mr A Jardine(Principal) & Mr Joemat both from Belthorn primary School at one of the Technology workshops

Lala Ngoxolo, dear Lunga



Lunga Mda, tragically lost his life in a car accident in July

The PSP is saddened by the tragic loss of Mr Lunga Mda who lost his life in a car accident on the 14 July near Beaufort West.

Lunga was voted onto the PSP Advisory Committee in 2002 and made an important contribution to the governance of the PSP. He was one of those people who makes things happen in a committee. He always came up with practical, realistic ideas and was always there to make it happen in our Advisory Committee. We will all miss his sincere friendliness and most of all, his commitment and strong leadership qualities in the PSP.

Our sincere condolences go to his family and also to the staff of Hlengisa Primary School in this very traumatic time for them all. We wish a speedy recovery to Mr Petros the principal, as well as to the other colleagues who were injured in the accident.



TWO OCEANS AQUARIUM

The Two Oceans Aquarium is offering a range of excellent and FREE workshops for teachers this term. The topics are:

- You've probably eaten some sea plants today
- The Cape Floral Kingdom
- Sandy Shores
- Rocky shores

These workshops start at 15:30pm and will last about 1 ½ hrs.

Please contact Winnie at tel: (021) 418 3823 OR e-mail them at: education@aquarium.co.za



Scientific Investigations courses:
 The PSP is exploring this Natural Sciences Learning Outcome with teachers at present. It is exciting work!



PSP EVALUATION - next steps

In the light of the Stage 2 Report (which is available on the PSP website: www.psp.org.za), and in consultation with the reference committee, the following next steps were decided upon:

1. Assessment is a critical issue and must be prioritized in the next phase.
2. Earlier phases provided positive information on teaching, classroom environments, activities and responses to the PSP. However the tests mainly showed what the learners cannot do - and little evidence of what they CAN do. Therefore the central question for the next phase is to investigate what the learners can do and relate their knowledge to their experience of science.
3. Prof Cliff Malcolm and his Evaluation Team will design assessment tasks and collect the data. They will run a workshop with the participating teachers in preparation.
4. It was agreed that a sample of 10 teachers, from the schools that had already been part of the classroom studies would be randomly selected and that data from 500 learners would be collected.

This would provide important input to teachers and the PSP, in curriculum design as well as the further development of assessment. Thank you, again to the teachers and schools, who are availing themselves to participate in this important study.

LEARNING CAPE FESTIVAL 2003

The Learning Cape Festival is an initiative to highlight, encourage and celebrate all opportunities for learning in the Western Cape. The Provincial Government together with the WCED has mobilized various sectors around this concept and have articulated objectives, amongst which are:

- highlighting** key education and training areas to promote economic growth and social development
- exposing** people of all ages to a wide range of learning opportunities
- fostering** ongoing collaboration amongst education and training providers at all levels,
- encouraging** local learning initiatives in communities and in organisations throughout the urban and rural areas of the Province

The PSP will participate in this Learning Cape Festival and invite all science & technology teachers to attend the "Mega Event" for teachers, which will happen on Friday & Sat 29 and 30 August in the civic center, Cape Town.

THIS SHOULD BE AN ENRICHING AND FUN EXPERIENCE.

