



Western Cape Primary Science Programme, Edith Stephens Wetland Park, Lansdowne Rd, Philippi 7785
P.O. Box 24158, Lansdowne, 7779 Tel: (021) 691 9039 Fax: (021) 691 6350
e-mail: info@psp.org.za

Hallo, dear Colleagues!

The PSP is once again humming with activity and energy. Apart from our full programme of exciting courses and workshops on offer to teachers (in the first week we had 6 workshops running at the same time over two days in different parts of the Province!), we are also hoping to finalise the development, fine-tuning and production of teacher materials that were planned some time ago – all this by the end of this year.

Because PSP materials often emerge from our interaction with teachers, - we must be sure the ideas work in class – our materials development can take a long time! We have many materials in the pipeline.

Please note the Barriers to Language Learning Workshops this term for Foundation and Intermediate Phase teachers: See the Programme!

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



Blacksmith Plover (its new name is 'Lapwing') at ESWP. Do you know its Xhosa name?

These plovers also breed at Edith Stephens - a nest with three chicks was found in the seasonal wetland in August 2004. The numbers have increased and today hardly a sports field or open area or pasture on the Cape Flats is without a pair of these noisy but beautiful birds.



Teachers at the Cape Teaching Institute (CTI) course in May enjoying the practical experiences in Natural Sciences LO3



Looking at the science behind indigenous clay technologies



Making traditional beer and bread



The planning process



WCED CONFERENCE ASSESSMENT SOLUTIONS 2005

Ms Tonga from Luzuko Primary School (Gugs) and I were asked to deliver a presentation at a WCED conference on Assessment during April this year in Paarl. My colleague, Mrs Fawzia Damon also gave lots of input on integration strategies to alleviate the arduous task of assessing and meeting all learning outcomes. This was made possible by drawing up different rubrics for specific Learning Areas according to the assessment standards. The presentations were well received and at our second session we ran out of handouts! Rose Thomas from the PSP promised to send them to those who requested them.

I would strongly advise schools who experience problems with assessment to come and join the PSP Assessment Working Group as it is very beneficial and open to all.

The Conference was a good experience and I thank PSP for affording me the opportunity of sharing our experiences with fellow educators.

Dorothea Mouton – Parkfields Primary School.



Ms Dorothea Mouton, Mr Mogamat Mustapha Galant (Principal) and Ms Fawzia Damon in front of the beautiful mural painted by grade 4s at their school: Parkfields Primary, Hanover Park



EXCITING DEVELOPMENT IN THE PSP CLUSTER PROJECT

During the second term the PSP facilitators visited schools from EMDCs East, Central and South Metro-who are participating in the PSP Cluster Project 2005 on planning, assessing and managing the NS curriculum. The facilitators were happy with the progress made by most schools to bring their curriculum plans to finality. The facilitators also helped individual schools in the areas where they were having difficulties.

These schools gathered together at the end of the term to share and reflect on how the implementation of their RNCS plans was going at their schools. Teachers brought their own educator's portfolios, and samples of learners' work with assessment rubrics.

In this session teachers requested the PSP to run workshops on NS Learning Outcome 3 and Learning Outcome 1 during this term as these LOs have been identified as the areas that teachers are struggling with. These workshops happened at the very beginning of this term.



LO3 workshop: Teachers working on Indigenous Technologies around fibres – here they are testing flammability

The PSP looks forward to observing and assisting teachers who will try out some lessons on these Learning Outcomes in their own classrooms.

There will be another gathering for all the participating schools this term where we will share our experiences around LO3 and LO1 in the classroom.

Remember: Tuesday 30 August at 2:30pm

PSP ANNOUNCES NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



From left to right: Ms Ntobizodwa Nxawe; Lwandle Prim. Schl. (Khayelitsha), Ms Nomakhaya Ningiza, Chumisa Primary (Khayelitsha), Ms Nomakhaya Mbeki; Ntwasahlobo Primary (Khayelitsha), Mr Solomzi Mfunda; Imbasa Primary (Crossroads), Mr Siphon Tyalibongo (not in the picture) from Iketto Primary; (Guguletu)

BLACKSMITH PLOVER (LAPWING) A WELL-KNOWN BIRD AROUND ESWP

When you enter Edith Stephens Wetland Park, you will often be greeted by a pair of long-legged, black and white birds at the gate, or on the lawns next to the retention dam or in the experimental garden area next to the PSP building. These birds are known as Blacksmith Plovers (now called Lapwings). They were given their name because their call sounds like a blacksmith's hammer hitting on metal. If one approaches too close they will usually take off, fly up and give their characteristic 'klink', 'klink', 'klink' calls just to warn you that you are too close! Should they be nesting and you venture too close to their nest, they will often fly up, call loudly and repeatedly and then dive-bomb you to try to get you to move away from the nesting site.

PSP's NATURAL SCIENCES COURSES AT THE CAPE TEACHING INSTITUTE (CTI)

The PSP was awarded the tender to run the intermediate phase Natural Sciences courses at the Cape Teaching Institute this year. We have already run two courses with great success, with one more in October. There are 50 teachers in each course.

Teachers are taken out of their classrooms for a full three weeks. Many stay in residence and in addition, the WCED supplies a substitute teacher back at the schools. These courses also bring together a diverse group of teachers of different languages from many different kinds of schools: i.e from city, rural and multigrade schools. This provides a very rich and stimulating learning environment.

The presenters and teachers had a very intensive and productive time. The PSP provided experiences for the teachers on some of the most important science content and modeled ways to teach it. The teachers had to plan together and produce a Natural Sciences learning programme as well as work schedules and lesson plans. These were handed in as assignments and teachers were given feedback. By the end of the course each teacher had produced a complete year plan including assessment tasks for the Natural Sciences.

The courses were exceptionally well received by teachers but were not all hard work! We all had a great deal of fun, got on well together and learnt so much from each other.

This has been a wonderful opportunity for the PSP to consolidate our work into a comprehensive course over a three-week period. It also allowed us the continuity and time to deal much more deeply with topics, giving rise to some real growth and learning for all concerned.

WE applaud the WCED for providing this opportunity for teacher development on a bigger scale.

While teachers felt much more empowered to teach Natural Sciences after the courses, we believe that follow-up support at schools will be essential. We hope that the Curriculum Advisors will be in a position to provide the kind of support that is informed by the processes that the teachers have gone through.

INTEGRATING LITERACY AND NATURAL SCIENCES AT DIETRICH MORAVIAN



Mrs Sarah Genever of Dietrich Moravian Primary School, Philippi going over the information she and her learners in grade one had recorded when they investigated Mini-Beasts in Natural Sciences.

We were very impressed with how much these young children had found out.

Recording their findings in the form of a mind-map is a wonderful way to help children as they learn to read. These children were reading their own words that they had dictated to Mrs Genever.

The 'Out of the Box Environment Education for Transformation' pack was developed and compiled by the Maths Centre, South Africa. The pack is made up of a Kit (a box of equipment) and a Kit Guide. The Guide is a collection of cross-curricular teaching ideas on topics related to the Environment. It suggests possible links to all eight Learning Areas at different grade levels.

The Old Mutual Foundation is sponsoring this kit to schools as part of a pilot phase and approached the PSP to introduce and support the possible use of this kit at schools. The PSP believes that selected activities from the 'Out of the Box' resource could successfully be incorporated into the plans and practice of teachers.

This 'Out of the Box' resource pack has been incorporated into two of the PSP rural projects as well as with a cluster of six schools in the Peninsula that are currently "twinning" with schools in the United Kingdom.

'OUT OF THE BOX' A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE

