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Hullo, dear Colleagues and friends in this final term of 2007.  
We welcome teachers back after the very short September break - we hope that they retain their motivation and energy to make these last 9 weeks of the year still rich with learning as they prepare their learners for the year end.  
One of the PSP's most important events happened last term - our Annual Mass Planning Forum, where teachers prioritised their INSET needs for 2008. More than 140 teachers came to decide on the specific topics for support in the Learning Areas of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Language & Literacy, Social Sciences and Environment for next year. We have drawn up the Programme of short courses for 2008 according to these expressed requests. (See it in this PSP News) Thank you to all the teachers who participated in this exercise.

We also have some exciting news about our PSP capacity in Natural Sciences for next year - watch this space in the next PSP NEWS!

**Kind regards from the PSP team:**  
Mascha, Gcobisa, viv, Vava, Nadiema, Ntsiki, Rose, Sandra in the Boland. (Nthabi will return to us in December, after her maternity leave).



One group of Natural Sciences teachers deciding on needs for 2008 at the Annual Mass Planning Forum

### SAASTE CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS

The South African Association for Science and Technology Educators (SAASTE - Western Cape) held their successful Mini-conference on 14 & 15 September this year. The theme was "The Voice of Science and Technology Educators" and a pleasing 235 teachers from across the province participated in the 27 sessions. The excitement amongst the teachers was tangible - there was a real desire to share and build knowledge together.

Well known Prof George Branch from UCT gave the key-note address on Aspects of Evolution. This presentation was very well received as everyone seemed deeply interested in developing their own understanding around this topic. Nadiema and Ntsiki from the PSP presented an active workshop with 20 delegates on Using Indigenous Knowledge about Clay Technology for LO3 - Intermediate Phase.

SAASTE are hoping to run a similar conference in the rural areas early next year.



Roleen Ellman from SANBI and Norman Davies in the SDU working with clay in the workshop on LO3.



Nadiema and the PSP display at the SAASTE Conference



### THE CTI HAS INTRODUCED CLASSROOM SUPPORT BETWEEN BLOCKS OF TRAINING

The PSP concluded its final Natural Sciences course for Intermediate Phase teachers at the CTI for 2007. Our facilitators visited a few course participants in their classes. In general our facilitators were very encouraged by the active science investigations that the teachers had prepared and implemented. They were also pleased to see evidence of the Shared Writing from the course.



CTI follow up: Parkhurst Primary : Shantel Abrahams with her grade 6 learners



CTI follow up: Alicia Barends from Uitkyk Primêr. Lutzville and her grade 5 learners

This is a significant move to try to 'bridge the gap' between the course and the classroom. We all know how important it is to have support when we are trying to improve our practice. The CTI is hoping to bring in follow-up courses for participants from previous years.

### PSP TEACHER SUPPORT FOR 2008 ANNUAL MASS FORUM

On the advice of the PSP Advisory Committee, we held our Annual Mass Planning Forum in September this year. It was a very successful event where close to 150 teachers (including principals) arrived to participate in prioritizing the needs for PSP teacher support in 2008. (Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Language, Social Sciences and Environment)

This is a crucial process for PSP teacher support as the programme of courses and workshops for 2008 is drawn up according to these needs.

This year the principals also participated in the Forum and shared their processes to facilitate teachers attending the courses at school.

We are grateful for the teachers' engagement with us!



More than 140 teachers participated in the PSP Annual Mass Planning Forum to decide on the priorities for Teacher Support in 2008.



We are very excited about the Zenex-Spark Project at the PSP. Teachers have participated enthusiastically in our workshops on Literacy and Maths. In follow-up school visits, we have been encouraged to find evidence that workshop ideas being carried out in classrooms with considerable success. Learners too are keen to tell us what they are doing.

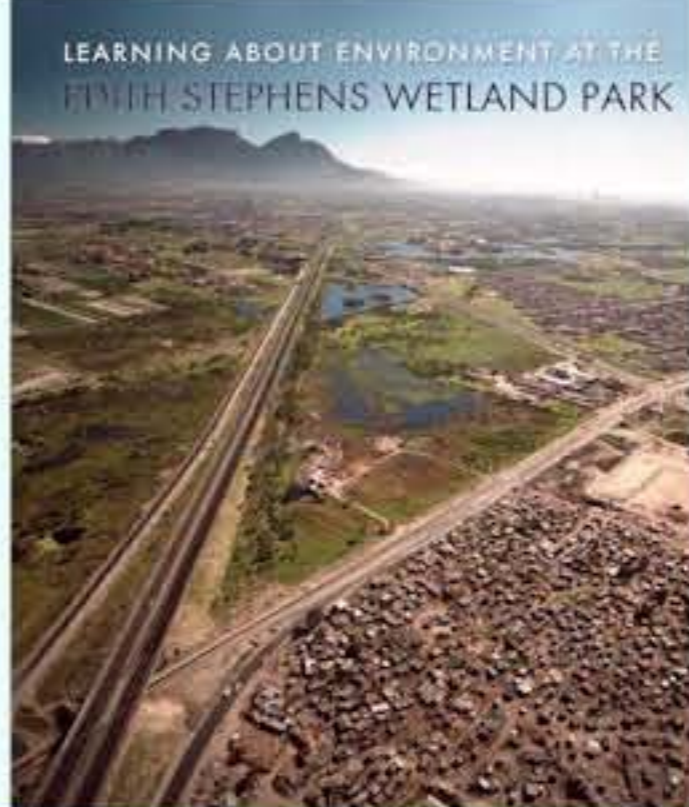
On a visit to West End Primary (to collect some base-line tests), one of the Grade 1 children came up to tell us, "We're still reading!" And then we realised that the Shared Writing carried out during the Literacy school visit, was still being read. The work continues this term, both in workshops and school-based sessions. We look forward to sharing with teachers the excitement of learners' progress.

### SPRING IS HERE We have a real 'wetland' again!

In the 2nd term issue of PSP News we looked at the state of the seasonal wetland during autumn. We saw how the first winter rains for 2007 started to fill the area and spark new growth of sedge plants and some wetland plants. Winter is almost over and the Cape Flats have received lots of rain. The wetland is very "damp and soggy" now and the area has become a fully fledged wetland again. We can see lots of Arum Lilies (inyibiba) and Waterblommetjies are also in some of the pools of water.

Lots of different waterbirds have moved into the wetland to feed and to breed. Spoonbills, egrets, coots, gulls and cormorants are seen regularly in the back pools wading or swimming through the water, looking for water insects to eat. Some duck species, like Cape Shoveler and Red-billed Teal, prefer the higher-lying grassy patches to build their nests. These areas are also ideal to hide their nests from predators such as mongoose, crows and even stray dogs.... We continue to watch this magic process with wonder. Thanks to Doug Harebottle; ADU, UCT

### PSP's latest EE teacher resource!



### OUT OF THE BOX ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE IN BOLAND

The Boland cluster of schools had an exciting workshop session on the Old Mutual's 'Out of the Box' environmental resource in September. Mr Cornelius of Stettyn Primêr made a special presentation, where they showed a DVD of the environmental programme running at their school, with the highlights and successes. Stettyn won the award for excellence in the 'Out of the Box' Project in the Western Cape. Their enthusiasm was quite infectious!



Mr R Booysen, P Settlely, M Joseph and Gallie



Mr Luitjies, Me Van Wyk and Mr Rhode



### PSP CLUSTER PROJECT PROVIDED MUCH CLASSROOM SUPPORT THIS TERM

In the PSP Cluster Project our facilitators are developing good relationships with teachers where they welcome the PSP facilitators into their classroom as a support. The PSP is assisting teachers to implement their NS plans in class. In the fourth term the planning support will continue as well as the school support visits.



Grade 5 learners at Surrey Primary using electricity to make a fan



Grade 6 learners from Vusamanzi Primary using the Astronomy Cards to do research