



# PSP NEWSLETTER

Keeping you up to date with PSP teacher development

2018 TERM 2

## From the Director

To inspire active learning and practical understanding of concepts in class, teachers need concrete resources and Maths and Science equipment.

PSP has crafted and refined a range of quality materials over many years to guide teachers towards a practical teaching and learning methodology which engages children's senses as they examine, manipulate and organise objects and materials. Using multiple senses allows more cognitive connections and associations to be made with a concept and helps children process information and strengthens retention and understanding.

PSP's teacher support books, classroom cards and posters are developed through a process which starts with teachers identifying topics or concepts they find hard to teach. These are researched and innovative 'hands-on' lessons are developed and tried out in PSP workshops and in classrooms. Our resources are further distributed to schools and teachers at training workshops and during school visits.

Through PSP's Cluster Project, we were thrilled to recently provide 31 participating schools with Foundation Phase Maths and Intersen Science kits containing essential apparatus. This is strategically scheduled for the second or last year of the project cycle, as by then teachers have developed strong relationships with PSP facilitators and have shown commitment to transforming their teaching using practical methods.

We are grateful for the kind donations received from donors and friends.

Wishing all schools, teachers, learners and parents an awesome second term 2018!

Dr. Zorina Dharsey

## Recycling materials to make Foundation Phase Maths resources

PSP volunteers, Wanda Patten and Lynne Gleeson, assisted by senior girls from Herschel Girls School and boys from Bishops Prep and their teachers, have initiated a wonderful project. They make teaching and learning classroom resources for Foundation Phase Maths teachers and children, using recycled materials. Piloted through the MSP project which supports 15 primary schools in King William's Town, Eastern Cape, plastic bottle tops, cardboard boxes, paper plates, fabric and wood offcuts etc. have been re-purposed. They are transformed into concrete, colourful, hands-on resources and ideas. Teachers have been most enthusiastic and grateful for this extra support. We are excited about the possibilities of the project going forward.



Teachers at the Eastern Cape Foundation Phase Maths workshop working on fabric number boards, donated to the schools in the MSP Project.



Numbers represented in different forms: bottle tops showing symbols, isiXhosa words, and dots. Numbers on sand paper emphasise texture and help children to feel the numbers.

## Receiving Maths resources

The schools participating in the PSP Maths Cluster in the South District received their Maths kit apparatus at the start of this term. On the right, teachers from Perivale Primary unpack the equipment, match the items to the Maths concepts and sign the MOU. Then they develop a system for management of the equipment for all their Foundation Phase teachers. This Maths equipment has been sponsored by Coronation Fund Managers, as part of the *Counting with Coronation* project.



### PSP COURSES: IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

Book your place 2 days before every course.

Courses start at 14:30 (FP) and 15:00 (IP & SP).

Don't be late as there may not be space for you.

SACE points awarded for full attendance.

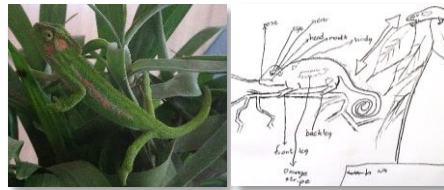
# Drought conditions can still provide thrills

PSP's Hands-on-Environment (HOEP) project brought 255 children to the Nature Reserve last term. Wendy Hitchcock, PSP's environmental expert has had to adapt her activities to the current drought conditions, as it is difficult for a class of children to find many healthy plants and animals to observe at present. However even dry leaves or dead plants can lead to rich discussion about the drought.



This tortoise, hidden in dry leaves, was observed during one HOEP class visit to the Nature Reserve.

A big surprise came when one class of Grade 4 children from Bongoletu Primary School in Gugulethu discovered a chameleon! This became a wonderful highlight of the day.



Children brought it into the classroom, let it hide in an indoor plant, and observed it. They made drawings with labels and discussed the chameleon's adaptations for survival. Changing colour is part of its camouflage. Chameleons turn black when they feel threatened.

Such personal encounters with animals in the natural environment can deeply influence children and help develop an active love for nature.

*"To see the interaction between the plants and animals when the children explore outside was one of the best things of the day."*

**Nosiphiwo, Gr 6, Mkhanyiseli Primary**

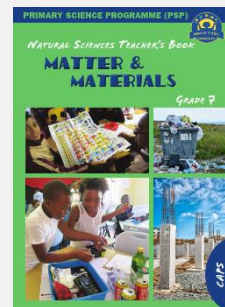
## PSP BELIEVES...

Teachers need comfortable spaces to work in!



**Goodbye to hot afternoons in the PSP classroom!** In response to the desperate need for a more user-friendly classroom space (with temperatures reaching up to 40°C), the PSP has installed air-conditioning – thanks to generous donor funding. We have thus transformed the classroom into a comfortable, cool space to work in.

## PSP RESOURCES



The full range of PSP's Natural Sciences teacher support booklets has now been completed with the finalising of *Matter & Materials: Grade 7*, available in English and Afrikaans.

## PSP CONFERENCES IN 2018

At the end of a PSP project cycle, the PSP usually hosts a conference. Here teachers showcase their work and share their learnings and inspiration with a wider audience of teachers and educationists. Three PSP project cycles conclude at the end of this year, and the conference dates have been set.

Please diarise the following dates and watch this space for more details.

**Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018**  
**Maths Cluster Conference**

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018**  
**JMP Conference**

**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018**  
**MSP Eastern Cape Conference**

# PSP involved in national initiative to align Science teacher training



We are excited by the initiative of the Human Resource Development Council's Mathematics and Science Standing Committee on Pre-service Teacher Education to establish common Science and Maths content for pre-service teacher training at universities.

This will allow for coherent teacher training aligned to the CAPS curriculum, and better student mobility across institutions.

Novosti Buta, PSP Programmes Manager, has provided much appreciated input into their meetings.

We look forward to successful National Government processes to remedy this serious shortcoming in the current pre-service training of Science and Maths teachers.



Participants at the HRDC Maths and Science Standing Committee on Pre-service Teacher Education meeting held in March at the University of the Free State.

## PRIMARY SCIENCE PROGRAMME (PSP)

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