



# PSP NEWSLETTER

Keeping you up to date with PSP teacher development

2018 TERM 3

## From the Director

### Inquiry-based teaching and learning sparks excitement

Children are naturally curious and Inquiry-based Science and Maths education (IBSME) builds on their innate inquisitiveness, inspiring them through active learning, inquiry, problem-solving and cooperative learning.

The IBSME approach stimulates children's interest in Science topics and Mathematics problems by encouraging them to undertake investigations either by themselves or in collaboration with others. The strategy allows children to be challenged by a problem, to conceptualise a question and then to explore possible explanations that respond to their questions. An important component of the strategy is for children to explain their thinking as they work, and then to communicate their findings.

The teacher is active throughout the lesson, guiding the children and asking questions to help them consolidate their understanding. The teacher also gives feedback throughout the lesson which helps children understand how they are progressing. This teaching strategy has children learning the basic principles of Science by thinking and working as researchers do in laboratories.

PSP has for years integrated essential elements of the IBSME approach in all our work with teachers. We are thrilled that Science and Mathematics education is receiving greater attention and backing from many circles in view of declining achievements in these subjects, and we are optimistic that it will receive greater financial support as well!

**PSP wishes all schools, teachers, learners and parents an AMAZING third term 2018!**

Dr. Zorina Dharsey



## PSP goes to Paris



Together with delegates from 22 countries, Zorina Dharsey represented South Africa and PSP at the 9th *International Seminar of La main à la pâte* in Paris, an

international conference on Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE) in Paris, France from 18 - 23 June 2018. Zorina was accompanied by representatives from the Department of Basic Education (DBE), Aaron Nkosi and Marongwa Masemula and also from the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences School Enrichment Centre, (AIMSSEC), Lindiwe Tshuma.

### Objectives of the conference included:

- Sharing and transferring the expertise of France's *La main à la pâte* (IBSE) to educational systems and scientific partners abroad;
- Raising foreign participants' awareness of Inquiry-based Science Education, of its implementation in the educational system, and of teacher training;
- Sharing methodological and scientific resources;
- Facilitating an intercultural adaptation of the approach and contents proposed by *La main à la pâte* to the context of each country;
- Fostering international cooperation between the foreign partners of *La main à la pâte*.

Zorina participated in a session at the conference using a practical example: Building an energy efficient house and explaining the design and choice of materials.



Going forward, PSP will work closely with WCED, AIMSSEC, SDU, SUNCEP, UWC, etc. to contextualise and implement Inquiry-based Science Education (IBSE) learning from the Paris conference (including Mathematics education), starting in the Western Cape.

## 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.

# Mentees Represent PSP at WITS University Conference



Two dynamic young teachers, Theola Phillips from Yellowwood Primary (Mitchell's Plain) and Vincent Belu from Wallacedene Primary (Brackenfell) represented the PSP at the Global Teachers Institute AXIS Summit in Johannesburg from 10 - 12 July.

The conference was directed at stimulating conversations around NEW ways of thinking about education and teaching.

Theola commented, "...there was a great sense of unity amongst us all, including young school leaders,

academics and citizens who are invested in driving the educational transformation needed in South Africa."

She believes attending such sessions is essential ... "for us to adapt to the ever-changing profession we are in."

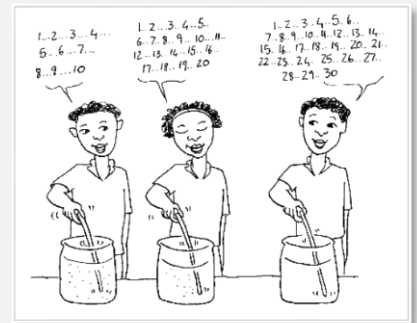


Vincent Belu and Theola Phillips set off to represent the PSP at the Global Teachers' Institute Summit.

## PSP BELIEVES...

It is essential to include first-hand experiences into children's educational programmes.

Dewey



# Determination & Enthusiasm at Counting with Coronation / PSP Maths Conference

More than 100 Foundation Phase teachers braved the cold in June to attend this successful conference, held at the North District offices in Parow.

The focus was for teachers to showcase and present their best practice and we were delighted to welcome three Subject Advisors from the North District as well as Bonnie Goetham, Deputy Chief Education Specialist for Mathematics in the WCED, all sharing the general enthusiasm and sense of urgency about improving Maths teaching.

New ideas and teaching strategies were shared and discussed on topics such as number bonds, measurement; time and length; place value in the Foundation Phase; the data-handling process; use of playing cards in the Foundation Phase.

Teachers' feedback on their experience of the two-year Cluster Project indicates that they have made major shifts in their curriculum and content knowledge. They have been enriched with many new ideas on how to teach Maths.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Upcoming PSP Teacher Conferences:

**Saturday, 18th August 2018**  
JMP Conference

**Saturday, 27th October 2018**  
MSP Eastern Cape Conference  
Overberg Cluster Conference

### PSP Planning Forum:

**Wednesday, 17th October 2018**  
PSP Annual Mass Planning Forum



## PRIMARY SCIENCE PROGRAMME (PSP)

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