



PSP NEWSLETTER

Keeping you up to date with PSP teacher development

2019 TERM 1

From the Director

A questioning child is one who is learning.

Teachers should encourage, and provide ample opportunity for children to ask questions. Doing so will increase their participation in lessons, promoting active learning.

Critical thinking: Children ask questions to check on what they know and understand and to get more information. This process builds their critical thinking skills and brain power.

Communication: Questions are an important form of communication. Children look for information and guidance from knowledgeable people they can trust, such as parents and teachers. The information they get helps them make sense of the world around them and their place in it.

Children's questions help teachers: They reveal aspects not fully grasped or parts of the lesson misunderstood, giving teachers the opportunity to redirect the lesson and address misconceptions immediately. Children's questions also reveal curiosity and interest in the lesson, enabling the teacher to keep them actively engaged.

Children turn to the people they love and trust to help them learn. Strong relationships with parents and teachers that encourage and support questions help them to learn and grow.

Wishing all schools, teachers and parents a brilliant first term.

Dr. Zorina Dharsey



PSP welcomes Sarah Kleinsmith



We are delighted to welcome Sarah as a full-time Foundation Phase specialist and PSP team member. She brings many years of teaching experience in both Foundation and Intermediate Phases as well as her recent years as a Foundation Phase

Subject Advisor with the Central District, WCED.

Sarah co-ordinates the FP Maths development and support in two collaborative projects with Coronation Fund Managers and Sanlam. We wish her a happy and productive stay with the PSP team.

PSP's Innovation courses take off



Foundation Phase Life Skills (isiXhosa and English Natural Sciences) is included in PSP's Innovation course programme this year.

Children love exciting experiences with the natural world, especially in the Foundation Phase. This stimulates their curiosity for real engagement with the world around them. It prepares the ground and feeds into Natural Sciences for the Intermediate Phase and beyond.



Facilitators Nadiema Gamielien and Zozo Nxawe inspired teachers when they focused on animals and plants and integrated this with language development during first term courses. Courses provided a supportive space for questions about insects and sharing of knowledge and understanding regarding the life processes of all plants and animals.

"I am now aware of how I can introduce my children to insects and plants and how to really engage them."

"I will use concrete resources [...] to stimulate their ideas and motivate them in the lesson."

Grade 3 teacher from Ntwasahlobo Primary, Khayelitsha

"I loved the practical activities and the sharing of knowledge on animals and plants."

Grade 3 teacher from Vuyani Primary, Guguletu

"I see how good it is to bring living insects into the classroom."

Grade R teacher from Ummangliso Primary, Khayelitsha.



Wendy Hitchcock's Natural Sciences course with Grade 7 teachers focused on how plants and animals have evolved in order to survive. In this activity (photo left), someone has to dress up in 'survival gear' to demonstrate

the adaptations that plants and animals have to develop to withstand the weather and other threats in their environments.

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.

PSP spotlight on early Mathematics



Foundation Phase teachers discussing Patterns in the course held in January. Courses are run in isiXhosa and English.

A young child who can understand numbers, sort objects and see and make patterns is set to fly in Mathematics at school and will build on this critical foundation for future success. The importance of the Foundation Phase teacher therefore cannot be overstated – it all starts here!

The PSP will be working with all the Foundation Phase Mathematics teachers of 27 schools over the next two years, to promote excellent Mathematics teaching and learning.

By building teacher confidence we can see marked improvements in classroom teaching strategies and children handling real objects to deepen their learning. The PSP is strongly positioned to work with the teachers and schools to make a difference in learning outcomes.



Ntombizodwa (Zozo) Nxawe is the Co-ordinator of the PSP's Foundation Phase Maths programme. Zozo is Foundation Phase trained and her years of teaching experience include Foundation, Intermediate and Senior Phase Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Our Foundation Phase Mathematics projects are supported by Coronation Fund Managers and Sanlam.

PSP BELIEVES...

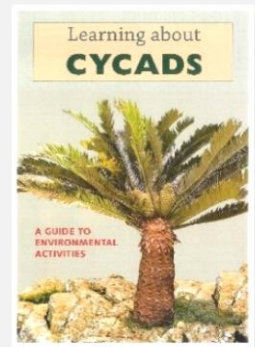
Children must ask their own questions in order to learn.



PSP SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

PSP / BOTSOC / WCED collaboration goes ahead this term

Using the resource, *Learning about Cycads*, the PSP will run five curriculum-integrated workshops with Nature Conservation officials and GET teachers in various districts on awareness of endangered and threatened species.



PSP Home Language Project

The PSP (PIRLS) Home Language project works with four isiXhosa and four Afrikaans and/or English medium schools to promote READING AND WRITING FOR MEANING.

The findings of the PSP baseline assessment of the schools indicate that teachers and children need to grow their higher order thinking skills with writing and reading.

One important way to achieve this is through creative writing and exposure to many books.

Many books kindly donated by *Book Dash* and *Biblionef* cover a wide range of genres and topics to encourage reading for pleasure. Thank you *Book Dash* and *Biblionef*!



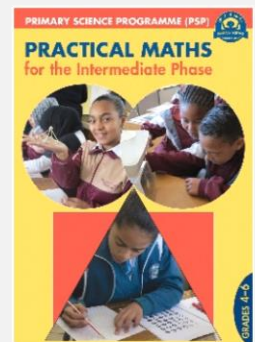
Co-ordinator Vava Makhubalo (above) handed the books donated by *Biblionef* to delighted teachers and children at Sikelela Primary School, Guguletu.



PSP MATERIALS

Practical Maths for the Intermediate Phase

PSP's latest resource book will be launched in April.



PRIMARY SCIENCE PROGRAMME (PSP)

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