



PSP NEWSLETTER

Keeping you up to date with PSP teacher development

2019 TERM 3

From the Director

Excite the children!

Children are naturally curious. They are already on a path of learning from birth, as they engage with people and objects in their spaces, learn about themselves, and make sense of the world around them.

Teachers need to tune into this pathway as they lead and guide children towards learning by tapping into the children's world, connecting with their reality, hooking into their ideas, thoughts, interests, and passions, and then using this knowledge in their teaching.

Children learn better when they are interested in what is being taught, and when they are active and engaged in lessons that encourage observing, listening, exploring, organising, experimenting, asking questions and dialogue. 'Hands-on' or 'doing' lessons allow children to think and explore and use all their senses, as they see, hear, touch, feel, smell and taste. Children involved in practical activities will experiment through trial and error, hypothesise and think through problems and challenges. They will learn from mistakes, and will need to try again, giving teachers an opportunity to develop alternative strategies. Learning in this way deepens understanding of content and helps children master practical skills more easily.

We wish all schools, teachers, learners and parents or caregivers a superb third term 2019.

Dr. Zorina Dharsey

Immediate online feedback on children's Maths progress

PSP is assisting teachers with the sustained implementation of the *Greenshoots* ICT assessment tool in twelve Grade 3 classes in three *Capsule* project schools. This online platform supports teachers in obtaining immediate feedback on their Grade 3 children's Maths learning for the week. Children work through weekly 'Brain Quests' on tablets enabling teachers to track understanding of concepts, and to plan their teaching for the next week in response to the results. Once a term learning is consolidated with the *Greenshoots* termly test.

Each of the three schools has its own challenges, such as

Maths at home

Many people are not aware of just how much Maths learning is possible in our daily routines at home. Everyday activities such as cooking and baking provide many opportunities for deepening an understanding of concepts such as numbers, measurement, patterns etc. And incorporating basic Maths language and thinking into conversation with children can build important problem-solving and thinking skills. Research has also shown that where a parent or caregiver encourages a positive attitude or 'mindset' towards Maths, that child will more likely become a confident learner at school.

PSP is currently developing a FP teacher-support booklet to guide parents and caregivers: '*Practical Maths at home*', which will be finalised and become available in the fourth term to support this initiative.



In Coronation's Capsule project, PSP is supporting Foundation Phase teachers with how to raise awareness amongst parents or caregivers of the many informal opportunities there are at home to lay a solid foundation in Maths. Parents and Foundation Phase children from Sonwabo Primary in Guguletu enjoyed one of these Saturday morning workshops.



internet connectivity, language barriers, scheduling access and the use of tablets or the computer lab etc. However schools and Foundation Phase teachers are becoming more familiar and confident with the programme, and are starting to experience its immense benefit as a diagnostic tool

to guide their planning and teaching for their specific learners.

ABOVE:

Grade 3 learners at Sonwabo Primary, Guguletu showing what they know through a *Greenshoots* 'Brain Quest'.

RIGHT:

Grade 3 learners at St Augustine's Primary, Ravensmead also working through a weekly 'Brain Quest'.



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.

International Inquiry-based Science Education Conference



The PSP together with collaboration partners, WCED, AIMSSEC, SDU (UCT), SUNCEP, UWC and CPUT hosted a 5-day international conference at the CTLI, attended by participants from Benin, Cameroon, India, Italy, Morocco, and Tunisia.



The conference, facilitated by two French trainers, encouraged the development and sharing of ideas for inquiry-based investigations, towards the shared goal to support and improve

school Science and Maths education from Grades 1–9.

However successful implementation of IBSME requires trainers who are knowledgeable of inquiry-based methods to train teachers and support them in classrooms.

The PSP is excited to be actively involved with this initiative, as the IBSME approach to Science education strongly resonates with the PSP, which has been integrating essential elements of the IBSME methodology for years.

PSP and partners are working with the WCED Subject Advisors to promote this IBSME methodology in the Western Cape.



Suanne Rampou (second from left), WCED's Head of Natural Sciences engaging with delegates at the conference.

PSP BELIEVES...

When children work with real objects it deepens their understanding and also creates excitement.



WHAT TEACHERS SAY

“I have learnt that it pays to be thoroughly prepared. Loved the integration with the Mathematics and I could see who of my learners still struggle to plot a bar graph or are unable to interpret the bar graph.”

Grade 4 teacher from Highbury Primary, Belhar.

TEACHER EXCURSION TO THE SAAO



Who: Grade 6 teachers

When: Tuesday 3 September

Time: Leave the PSP at 2:30 pm sharp

What: Tour the Observatory; learn about SALT and radio telescopes; visit the optical telescope; make your own telescope; explore opportunities for learners.

Important Notice: Book your place by Tuesday, 27 August.

Latest PSP Maths book launched

Over 100 teachers, funders and PSP friends celebrated the launch of PSP's *Practical Maths for the Intermediate Phase* teacher-support book in April.



Guest speakers were Anton Pillay, CEO of Coronation Fund Managers (above right) and Granville Stander, Director of the Metropole South District.



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