



## From the Director

### Continuing all children's learning

To help children continue their learning we need teachers who are equipped to implement appropriate strategies to meet the diverse needs of learners, and be flexible in their approach to address each individual child's learning requirements.

In turn, teachers would benefit from strong leadership to help them find workable solutions to children's learning challenges. Supportive leaders will help teachers navigate around new and different obstacles encountered in classrooms.

As our systems and processes remain disrupted due to COVID-19 and children have serious knowledge and skills gaps, we must:

- ❖ find out where children are at in terms of their learning;
- ❖ urgently put intervention measures in place for struggling learners;
- ❖ develop innovative ways for children to continue learning;
- ❖ find ways to integrate technology meaningfully to support teaching and learning.

We find ourselves in a transitional period of shaping new ways of teaching and learning in the classroom.

We wish all schools, teachers and learners a safe and healthy 3rd term 2021. Take care.

Dr. Zorina Dharsey

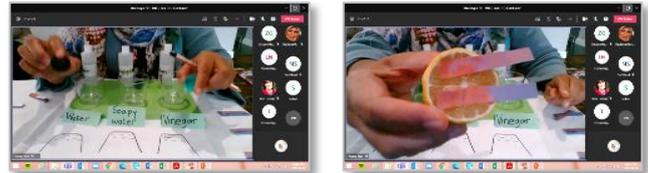
## Teamwork online

Facilitators plan together, sharing new ideas, strategies and experiences and provide evidence of how classes are functioning, how teachers are managing, and which methodologies are helping improve teaching and efficient classroom management.

Having two co-presenters allows courses to become more conversational with free flowing of ideas, and encourages teachers to interact more easily.

After each course facilitators reflect with the team and review and document new learnings that may be of benefit to teachers. Rose Thomas observed, "Such regular teamwork builds deep learning amongst facilitators."

## Improving PSP online work



Rugaya Essa demonstrates testing for acids and bases in a course on Natural Sciences Grade 7

PSP facilitators have been focusing on improving their courses, making them more 'real' through livestreaming practical activities, e.g. mixing actual concrete in a course on Matter & Materials Grade 6, and videoing other activities for teachers to model in their classes.

In a Grade 7 Maths course, Novosti Buta demonstrated how learners can make their own protractors so as to understand what a protractor is and how to use it.

These courses have been followed up with face to face classroom support visits, where facilitators have observed implementation of ideas and strategised further with teachers on how to do practical work in class, while adhering to safety protocols.

### Immediate feedback from participants:

"I would like to express my gratitude to you for coming in today and sharing your knowledge and your skills with me. I've learnt to be consistent and balanced in my approach; to rarely raise my voice and treat every student the same way. I also watched your teaching technique. With your questioning strategy you ensured that you were meeting all the learners' needs and you called on all the learners rather than just those who raised their hands quickly. You ensured that all of them participated. You explained the work thoroughly and took your time so no one felt left behind."

**Grade 6 teacher: Mentee, Nxolo Primary School, Khayelitsha**

"Evening Nadiema, many of the things that were discussed in the course I see you make use of during your lessons. I especially liked some of the other teachers' feedback where I also try to use summaries and more basic explanations when teaching the content subjects. I also discovered that my learners like pictures/illustrations so I will be using more of that and also more practical demonstrations. I loved the idea that Florence gave about the Popsicle sticks, will be using that. One of our new teachers was also in the workshop so I will be sharing ideas with him too."

**Grade 4 teacher: Mentee, Hillside Primary, Bishop Lavis**

ALL PSP COURSES IN 2021 ARE SACE ACCREDITED



## Intervention courses

The restrictions over the past 16 months have predictably led to serious backlogs and gaps in children's learning. This has necessitated 'normal' teaching to become 'intervention' on a major scale. Teachers are faced with at least half their classes in need of intervention. We also note that learning or academic deficiency often leads to discipline challenges, compounding the problem.

We were requested to run a course on Intervention in June, which attracted over 100 participants, including teachers from Limpopo, North-West,

Gauteng, Eastern Cape, KZN, Free State and Northern Cape.

The course, presented by our director, Dr. Zorina Dharsey, dealt with actual cases, teachers being reminded that 'Intervention' is a strategy to help children learn. The essential element is to find out what children CAN do and what they know. This determines the starting point for an activity.

A second course on Language Intervention strategies will be presented in Term 3, once teachers are ready for this follow-up course work again.

### PSP BELIEVES...



All children are open to different forms of joyful learning.

### BOOK FOR ONLINE COURSES

On 27 June SA moved to COVID-19 adjusted alert level 4 for 14 days.

Please look out for PSP's amended training and support dates.

Coming soon!

## New Cluster Project schools launch into Science investigations

After various virtual workshops, the PSP Science Team were invited to demonstrate and support investigations in classes in East Macassar schools for the first time.

Teachers' positive, spontaneous feedback from the lessons during the following workshop proved to be a powerful inspiration for others to try the practical work under COVID conditions, providing wonderful experiences for Grade 5 learners.



Please book for PSP courses using the link provided when you receive course notices.

You can also use the same link to update your details with the PSP, ensuring that you receive up to date information and invitations. This will also enable you to access your own records of course attendance and classroom support. Remember, all PSP activities are accredited by SACE.

### MATHS KITS FOR PROJECT SCHOOLS



Seven primary schools in the Somerset West / Strand areas received their Maths kits as part of the PSP / Rupert Foundation Phase Maths Project. Principal, Mr Leukes and FP HODs at GJ Joubert Primary School are excited to use this new equipment in the classroom.

## Maths fun in the Overberg



Grade 1 learners from the multi-grade class (grades 1-3) at Proteem Primary, Bredasdorp in the Overberg show off their number plates.

Grade 1 learners consolidated their 'number sense' lessons with an activity to divide paper plates into 8 parts, draw numbers of dots in each segment, then choose the correct written number on the pegs, compare and peg to the right number of dots. A proud moment for all.



### PRIMARY SCIENCE PROGRAMME (PSP)

5 Palatine Road, Plumstead 7800, Cape Town

Website: [www.psp.org.za](http://www.psp.org.za) | Email: [info@psp.org.za](mailto:info@psp.org.za) | Tel: +27 (0)21 691 9039

