



# PSP NEWSLETTER

Keeping you up to date with PSP teacher development

2022 TERM 4

## From the Director

We are delighted with the tremendous success of PSP's Mentorship and Foundation Phase Maths conferences presented this term. We were especially pleased with the insightful and creative presentations by several first-time and veteran teachers of the current project schools.

PSP conferences form part of a multi-modal strategy that provides a range of learning opportunities for teachers, and includes online, blended and in-person practical learning experiences. In addition, we are working on making available recordings of previous online sessions for teachers to access and view in their own time.

Whether teachers attend workshops or conferences, the ultimate aim of professional development is to contribute to the development of an agile and adaptable generation of teachers, capable of meeting the ever-evolving needs of learners.

Professional learning is no longer constrained to a closed school environment or a particular time. PSP embraced the challenge of enhancing our agility by integrating digital technologies into our work and in doing so we have managed to extend our reach to many more teachers. We look forward to building on this in 2023.

We wish all schools, teachers, learners and parents peace over the Festive Season and a splendid 2023.

Dr. Zorina Dharsey

## Planning new project work for 2023

Our planning for 2023 started in October as we consulted with teachers at the Annual Mass Planning Forum online. Teachers had sent in their priority topics for discussion at the Forum.

We were excited to see 220 teachers from 62 schools participating to consider their choices in the FP and Intersen break-away rooms.

An extensive 2023 course programme with both generic and subject content courses will be distributed to schools before the end of the year.

## PSP reaches into ECD

Interactive, fun workshops with 25 ECD practitioners and caregivers were facilitated by PSP at the Child Safety Unit at Red Cross Children's Memorial Hospital.



### Who built the highest tower?

Our sessions aimed at enhancing participants' understanding of how to integrate Maths and Language skills into play-based learning, well before children start school. Each practitioner received a PSP 'Practical Maths at Home' book.

This initiative was facilitated on request and builds on our experience of working with parents of Grade R and Foundation Phase children in the Coronation Capsule Project.



### Working with parents at Sonwabo Primary School

87 Foundation Phase parents attended a workshop at Sonwabo Primary School facilitated by Capsule Project partners, Principals Academy Trust (focus on literacy), PSP (focus on Maths and Numeracy) and Community Action Partnership (focus on sensory development).

This was followed by the School Management Team (SMT) Annual Mass Planning Forum, where 140 devices from 41 schools attended the Forum, including 11 SMT members from 3 high schools. Through this engagement with SMTs, the PSP encourages schools to take advantage of the PSP programme and to align their School Improvement Plans (SIPs) with PSP courses for teachers in 2023.

ALL PSP COURSES ARE SACE ACCREDITED



PSP wishes all schools and friends a peaceful and safe Festive Season



# Focus on heritage in City collaboration

The PSP worked with 35 Environmental Education officers at the Smart Living Education Centre in Greenpoint, Cape Town on 'Our Shared Heritage'.

The aim was to deepen understanding of 'heritage' and to experience practical examples of the fundamental technologies and strategies for survival used by our ancestors. Learning about many important aspects of the value of heritage and how to teach it, participants also posed some important questions about how this could be made more accessible to the public.



*"In Africa people have processed natural materials for hundreds of years to make clay pots and bricks, structures, baskets, hats, mats and thatched roofs using plant material and reeds... we all had fun making some examples."*

**Rose Thomas, PSP**

## PSP BELIEVES...



**Children need many opportunities for creative play and creative thinking.**

## TIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- ✓ Let children play with natural objects - it nurtures the soul. Let them create pictures and make up stories to tell you...
- ✓ Let children continue to read as much as possible.

## MENTORSHIP & FP MATHS CLUSTER PROJECT CONFERENCES



Mr Jevonn Cloete (National Teacher awards winner); Acting Deputy Principal; Rusthof LSEN School, Strand

gave an inspirational presentation as guest speaker at the Mentorship Conference, where 81 teachers participated and fourteen mentees presented their learnings over the last two years.

Ms Almarett du Toit; WCED Chief Education Specialist; Curriculum Development GET was the keynote speaker



to open the Foundation Phase Maths Cluster Conference, where thirteen teachers presented and shared their best practices and experiences of being coached in their teaching of Mathematics. The presentations were held in three languages.

# PSP and R-Maths in Gauteng



**Subject Advisors of the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) receiving training.**

In partnership with the Schools Development Unit (SDU) of UCT PSP facilitators were contracted as Master Trainers in the delivery of a 'train-the-trainer' project (Subject Advisors and Department Heads) for the Gauteng Department of Education's R-Maths training programme.

Subject Advisors will then implement the training of Foundation Phase teachers in 2023 with support from the SDU and PSP Master Trainers.

# Two project cycles completed



Warm relationships developed between teachers and PSP facilitators over two years

in the Mentorship and Cluster projects. Here Nadiema Gamielidien supports her Mentee, Zeenat Gamielidien in her last science lesson.

Listen to the **voice message of thanks** from Zulpha Isaacs from Oklahoma Primary School, Macassar.

**Letter of thanks (summarised) to PSP facilitator, Sarah Kleinsmith from Grade 1 teachers of Northpine Primary:**

*On behalf of Northpine Primary we say thank you for the guidance of the PSP team, especially Teacher Sarah, with her love of Mathematics. The way she works with children really shows her passion and patience.*

*Thank you for the wonderful interactive sessions and practical methods we can take with us into the future in order to keep our children thinking critically...*



## PRIMARY SCIENCE PROGRAMME (PSP)

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