



PSP NEWSLETTER

Keeping you up to date with PSP teacher development

2023 TERM 1

From the Director

PSP has proudly promoted practical science teaching and learning in primary schools for over 35 years. Learning science is vital for understanding Life, such as the solar system, the natural environment and human impact on it, how our bodies work, how viruses affect us, how devices work, how energy and electricity are generated. Learning science helps us to build knowledge and understanding, so that we can ultimately make better decisions about the way we live in the world and contribute towards solving some of our problems.

Experimentation and inquiry are essential for all learning, especially for science. Practical science teaching and learning involves observing or manipulating real objects and materials. It also involves recording observations and measurements and discussing these with learners to encourage interpretation and understanding.

Science teaches children to share what they have learnt, to be patient and to persevere, and to adopt a questioning attitude towards new information. These are all very valuable life skills.

PSP's practical training workshops guide teachers with appropriate strategies for hands-on classroom investigations aligned with the curriculum. Doing practical investigations requires that teachers reflect on the purpose of hands-on teaching, and how this enables learners to develop a better understanding of critical science concepts.

Additionally, teachers are guided with new ideas on how to overcome barriers of limited resources by using recycled material, how to manage working groups in large classes, and how to integrate language strategies into a science lesson. The practical strategies deepen each teacher's toolbox of innovative and creative teaching strategies, which are appropriate for use across all subjects.

Wishing all schools, teachers and learners an amazing Term 2, 2023.

Dr. Zorina Dharsey



The PSP worked with more than 2,700 teachers across our projects during 2022.

PSP champions science teaching

PSP's support of excellent science teaching takes place from Foundation Phase Life Skills (Beginning Knowledge) through to Intermediate and Senior Phase in the science-focused Cluster Project. This support includes classroom coaching and Environmental Education, as well as mentoring individual science teachers in the PSP Mentorship Project, through to the open online science courses reaching large numbers of teachers nationally.

This year sees the start of a new two-year Cluster project cycle, with science teachers from 11 schools committing to science courses and individual classroom coaching and resources in 2023 and 2024.

The first course was held in early February to establish the focus and approach of the science support in this project.



- ❖ Online science courses (national reach)
- ❖ Climate change courses
- ❖ Mentorship of novice science teachers
- ❖ Intersen Natural Sciences (classroom coaching and resources)
- ❖ Foundation Phase Life Skills (Beginning Knowledge Science)

PSP advances science teaching through the projects



LEFT: PSP Life Skills courses with Foundation Phase teachers received positive feedback.



TOP LEFT: Grade 7 science teachers discuss various models of the Earth with facilitator.



TOP RIGHT: New schools in the rural Overberg Barrydale area are keen to participate in this project cycle – pictured here is Lemoenshoek Primary School and science teacher, Ms. Damons showing their science kit.

ALL PSP COURSES ARE SACE ACCREDITED



Booking essential for all courses – see programme for booking links



PSP supports teacher assistants

Trained well, teacher assistants (TAs) can play an important role in supporting teachers and positively impacting learner outcomes. PSP is supporting this initiative through online courses. "The Fundamentals for Teacher Assistants" course run over two days was followed by "Effective Management of Teacher Assistants" for school management teams with 116 attendees.

We were encouraged by attendance from other provinces such as Gauteng, Mpumalanga, and Eastern Cape.

"I really hope to inspire a new generation of skilled teachers", commented Zorina Dharsey, who presented the courses.

– Comments included –

I benefitted from:

- ✓ Knowing how exactly to make use of the TA services and also how they can add value to the school.
- ✓ Planning effectively for our TAs and making them feel valuable and appreciated.
- ✓ Supervision of curriculum activities, especially for example assisting as a Reading Champion and how to integrate with Maths while you're doing Home Language.
- ✓ The questions you can ask learners after you have read a story for listening and speaking.

PSP BELIEVES...



Science and science learning is for everyone.

TOP TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Bring stories to life by using our senses:

- ✓ Make sounds: 'What did you hear in this story?'
- ✓ Use music for effect and atmosphere
- ✓ Use puppets to make your story come alive

READING CHAMPION

SMT Plan and Action: Examples

TA	Co-ordinator	Task	Support	Resources	Timeline	Review
Reading Champion	First Language HoD, Language Grade Head	Support struggling learners under the direction of the teachers	Work with teachers	Resources / Material provided by teachers	9 months	Weekly Report to SMT
		Help FP teachers make Language and Reading resources for learners	Work with teachers Training on storytelling	Material provided by teachers, Gather material for Storytelling, role-play	9 months	Monthly Report to SMT
		Plan with teachers and run a Reading Fun Day	FP Teachers give input and ideas		1 Poetry day 1 Storytelling Day 1 Read to friend day	1 per term Report to SMT



BENEFITS TO PSP-REGISTERED SCHOOLS

Register with the PSP for R1,200 in 2023 and your school will benefit from:

70 free courses for teachers and school management teams; a contribution towards data for courses attended; free course materials and also being a participant in a professional learning community.

SUPPORT THE PSP



Support the PSP with a **MY SCHOOL CARD** to support teachers.

Simply get a free MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card at any Woolworths outlet, choose the PSP as a beneficiary and swipe the card when shopping at various retail partners. A percentage of your spend will be donated to PSP without it costing you a cent!

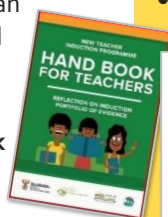
PSP and advocacy: HRDC and DBE Round Table



PSP has participated in the national forums of the Human

Resource Development Council (HRDC), and the DBE Round Table over the past five years.

[Link](#) to the DBE resource book for orientation, induction and mentorship.



Our contributions have included:

- Pre-service training of Science teachers through HRDC sessions.
- Presentations informing how universities can better equip students to be skilled and confident teachers.
- DBE Round Table discussions focusing on how to orientate, induct and mentor novice teachers to bridge the gap from university to schools as qualified teachers.

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