

## ICT Skills for 60 Schools Project

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### Report on training conducted in 2007

Like the 120 Schools Project, the aim of the 60 Schools project was to expose as many schools as possible to the Partners in Learning ICT Skills for Teachers course. This project also involved liaison with provincial department officials both to request their permission to conduct training in schools and to ensure that they developed an understanding of what the Partners in Learning approach hoped to achieve.



Whilst all provinces were offered the opportunity to nominate schools for this intervention, some provinces were more proactive than others about nominating schools and therefore received a greater share of the training on offer. Some schools also requested training themselves through our website, through meeting SchoolNet personnel at the ICT in the Classroom Conference or other events, or through hearing about training from trainers or other schools that had received training. In some cases, to supplement the list of schools provided (or to narrow it down if too many schools were listed) trainers based in the different provinces were also asked to nominate schools in their areas which they believed would be receptive to the ICT Skills for Teachers course.

In addition to the approximately 40 schools that received training through this project in 2006, the following schools received training in 2007:

| Province      | School                                | Training Dates                               |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| KwaZulu Natal | Moy Primary School                    | 16, 17, 18 March and 31 March and 1 April    |
| KwaZulu Natal | Africa Centre (Ikusasaletu)           | 10 – 14 April                                |
| KwaZulu Natal | Africa Centre (Ingaqa Primary School) | 16 – 18 February and 13 -14 April            |
| KwaZulu Natal | Intakemazolo Intermediate School      | 22 - 14 February (no follow-up training yet) |
| KwaZulu Natal | Kwazenzele High School                | 2 - 4 March and 23 – 24 March                |
| KwaZulu Natal | Silwanetshe Primary School            | 31 May – 2 and 3 June and 18-19 July         |
| KwaZulu Natal | Masihambisane                         | 18 - 20 May and 3 - 4 July                   |
| KwaZulu Natal | Funulwazi Primary School              | 11-13 April and 26 to 30 May                 |
| KwaZulu Natal | Bhekameva High School                 | 18 to 20 May                                 |
| KwaZulu Natal | Mtwalume High School                  | 30 March 2007 – 1 April 2007                 |
| Eastern Cape  | Gcinibandla Senior Primary School     | 10 - 11 March and 16 – 18 March              |
| Eastern Cape  | Lutaweni Junior Secondary School      | 2 – 4 March                                  |

|              |                                  |  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Eastern Cape | Phondolwendlovu Senior Secondary | 23 – 25 March                              |
| Eastern Cape | Sandi Senior Secondary           | 23 – 25 March                              |
| Eastern Cape | Ngxeleni Village School          | 4 – 6 and 11 – 12 May                      |
| Eastern Cape | Mfabane Junior Secondary         | 27 – 29 March (no follow-up training yest) |
| Eastern Cape | Mt Nicholas                      | 30 - 31 April and 1, 7 and 8 May           |
| Eastern Cape | J.F.Mati Senior Secondary        | 2 – 4 March                                |
| Eastern Cape | New Generation Primary           | 2 – 4 April                                |
| Eastern Cape | Uitenhage                        | 16 - 18 March                              |
| Eastern Cape | Byllettes Combined School        | 23 – 24 February and 9,10,16 and 17 March  |
| Eastern Cape | John Bisseker High               | 18 - 20 May (no follow-up training yet)    |
| Eastern Cape | President Primary                | 2 - 6 July                                 |
| Free State   | Ipetleng Secondary School        | 19 - 20 January and 10 – 11 February       |
| Free State   | Olympia Primary School           | 16 - 17 February and 2 – 3 March           |
| Free State   | Ntsoanatsatsi Primary            | 2 - 3 March and 24 – 25 August             |
| Free State   | Credo Primary                    | 16 - 17 March and 17 - 18 August           |
| Free State   | Tshepang Secondary School        | 18 - 19 May                                |
| Free State   | Phambili Primary                 | 26 - 27 March                              |
| Free State   | Ikemesetseng Primary School      | 26 – 29 March 2007                         |
| Free State   | SHS Mofube Primary School        | 23 - 24 March and 4 - 5 May                |
| Gauteng      | Thutong Secondary School         | 20 - 22 April and 19 - 20 May              |
| Limpopo      | Florapark Comprehensive High     | 1 - 8 November 06 and 22-23 January 07     |
| North West   | St Theresa’s High School         | 12 - 17 March                              |
| Western Cape | Springdale                       | 23 February - 24 March                     |

Like the training in the 120 Schools project, trainers often were faced with inadequate computer facilities and teachers who had little prior computer experience, as is illustrated by these quotations:

*“Most of the educators were using the computer for the first time. I was forced to explain the basic literacy skills (mouse handling, how to use the keyboard, writing capital letters etc.) The group, on average, after teaching basic literacy skills, was able to engage with basic skills, was able to engage with basic skills, able to login and logout and do some basic manipulation. On average the group is still on the basic level.”*

*“The computer centre has forty computers connected to each other by the network. However, ten of them were out of order. There is no access to the internet. Some of the computers are not loaded with MS Publisher and are old type. In most computers the floppy drives and the USB drives are not working due to exposure to dust. The computer centre is exposed to a lot of dust everyday.”*



In other schools, the computer facilities worked well and the staff was very receptive to the training:

*“Very excited and motivated group who enjoyed themselves with the training. The novices appreciated the fact that they could work at their own speed. This enhanced their confidence as they worked on the computer.”*

*“The school had all the necessary programmes available on computers as well as the internet. It was great working with such a competent staff complement. They all got stuck into the course and definitely attempted a lot on their own.”*

Whether working with novice or advanced computer users or in poorly or well equipped labs, all the trainee reports indicate that teachers found value in the course. In fact the self-paced way of learning and the fact that teachers are encouraged to use the resources on the CD means that people of all skill levels can learn something from the course, as this principal notes:

*“Although I am reasonably competent, I have found the course to be very meaningful. I am especially pleased with the responses from my staff who can now do things on their own, and not having to wait on me or one of the other facilitators. It was also good to know that there is always something to return to in the event that one gets stuck somewhere.”*



Whilst many teachers ask for follow-up training, it is hoped that they will take the initiative to develop their skills on their own using the resources and techniques provided during the training as these teachers intend to do:

*“I have learnt to become an independent worker and my computer confidence has improved.”*

*“I have enjoyed the training so much but think I still have much to learn.”*

*“I need to practice more so that I could be an independent learner.”*

*“Learned new tips. Most helpful. I can apply it to my school work!”*

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