

Microsoft Partners in Learning



Microsoft sponsors teachers to attend Innovate 2008 Conference

The Innovate 2008 conference, hosted by e-Schools' Network with Meraka Institute took place at The Cape Academy for Mathematics, Science and Technology in Cape Town from 1 – 3 October 2008. Microsoft generously sponsored five teachers to attend the conference, and in turn they gave presentations about the Partners in Learning projects which they have been involved in. The five sponsored teachers, and their presentations, were as follows:



Annette Brown was the winner of the 2008 Peer Coach of the Year prize and was presented with a laptop at the conference in recognition of the work she has done. Annette has participated in Partners in Learning Peer Coaching and WebQuests training which have helped equip her with skills to integrate ICTs into her teaching. Annette's presentation, "ICT in Grade 4" showcased three successful science projects which her learners have undertaken.

Ngaka Ralekoala showcased how the Deploying Student Technical Support Solutions (HelpDesk) course has assisted his school in solving some of their basic computer problems. Ngaka along with SchoolNet SA HelpDesk project manager, Themba Mabaso presented multiple sessions at the conference which gave teachers a taste of the HelpDesk course and which showed them how to do some basic computer troubleshooting.



Sarietjie Musgrave, presented a session entitled "Think.com as a project learning platform" which used her winning Microsoft Innovative Teacher project as an example. Sarietjie is a WebQuests and Peer Coach trainer and an Innovation workshop facilitator. She is able to draw on a range of skills to develop and implement inspiring projects which have succeeded at both the Pan-African and South African Innovative Teacher Awards.



Claire Dean and **Brenda Hallowes** both participated in a group presentation on the "Empowerment of teachers through Peer Coaching". This presentation was done in conjunction with their fellow peer coach facilitators Nomty Gcaba and Sarietjie Musgrave as well as the SchoolNet SA peer coach project manager, Omashani Naidoo. The presentation showcased some of the successes of Peer Coaching which equips coaches with the skills to help their colleagues integrate ICT into teaching and learning.

We are confident that the knowledge and experiences which these five teachers gained at the conference will enable them to continue their professional development and the great work that they do using ICTs in their classrooms.