



Annual Report

11 November 2014 - Executive Director

Contents

Overview	2
1. Project highlights in 2014.....	2
1.1. Learning Gains through Play	2
1.2. Intel Teach.....	3
1.3. Microsoft Partners in Learning	4
1.4. Vodacom	8
1.5. CSIR – ICT4RED – Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape.....	11
1.6. Commonwealth of Learning.....	11
1.7. Free State Province	13
1.8. Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership ICT Training.....	13
1.9. Nokia Mobile Maths Project	14
1.10. AYV and I*EARN	14
1.11. Samsung Education	15
1.12. Telkom Foundation	15
1.13. Eskom Science Expo	15
1.14. Google Educator Groups (GEG).....	16
2. Advocacy	16
3. Partnerships 2014	17
4. Accreditation.....	18
5. SchoolNet SA Staff	19
6. The future	19

Overview

SchoolNet ended the 2014 financial year with over 18 million rands worth of projects having been undertaken. The value and number of projects appears to increase every year but this year we entered into more partnerships and embarked on more new projects than usual. Current major projects include: Intel, Microsoft, Google, Vodacom, CSIR, Telkom, Department of Basic Education, Department of Communications, Department of Correctional Services, Department of Science and Technology and the DG Murray Trust. This demonstrates that SchoolNet continues to fulfil a need in the education sector and is capable of continuing to manage large projects and attract additional work from new funders.

SchoolNet has been focusing on the objectives outlined in its strategic plan, namely creating partnerships, promoting quality teaching and learning, supporting teachers to improve literacy and core subjects and less prominently, engaging with youth employment initiatives. Fortunately through our many partners, we have been able to align new projects to these objectives.

1. Project highlights in 2014

1.1. Learning Gains through Play

SchoolNet South Africa is being funded by the D G Murray Trust in South Africa to study the benefits to learning through the use of play and innovative technologies (Xbox Kinect and Intel tablets) in ten schools in two provinces in South Africa, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.



The D G Murray Trust has determined that the greatest impact can be made in the early primary years and that the focus of this project should be on play. Hence the selection of Kinect games and Android Apps for learners in grades R and 1. Workshops are provided throughout this 3 year initiative, for Senior Management Teams in Change Leadership as well as in professional development for all Grade R and 1 teachers in all 10 schools. Face to face support in classrooms is included as well as ongoing digital and online support.

Government officials responsible for e-learning in the district in their respective provinces have been invited to all workshops. The officials in Metro East have devoted immense time and effort to making the project a success.

These SMT workshops provide the platform for effective information sharing between schools and for deep reflection around the change leadership process. The D G Murray Trust is aiming to foster a community of practice among the 10 schools. Therefore although schools are within a circumscribed region the funder specifically recommended the selection across a range of quintiles.

The project uses games and play as a vehicle for learning but a key factor in the design of this project, is the element of gamification built into the professional development strategies in the form of badging learnt from

experiences in the CSIR's ICT4RED programme. The evaluation of the learning gains is following a developmental approach where the project is tracked and documented and where the evaluators work closely with the project team to interpret and adapt as the project progresses. The Theory of Change has undergone a rigorous process of design. The targeted literacies are visual, oral (English Acquisition), fine and gross motor coordination. Apart from tracking learning gains in these four literacies, the intention is to explore the relationship between cognitive and motor development. Data relating to both has been captured before the start of the project and will be compared for successive years subsequent to the use of innovative technologies across the curriculum.

1.2. Intel Teach

FIFA legacy Schools Connectivity project

Intel Teach project funds focused on training in the USAASSA/Department of Communications special project schools and the 1650 schools in the FIFA legacy Schools Connectivity project. The FIFA Legacy Schools project is a collaboration between the Department of Communications (who provided infrastructure and installations), the Department of Basic Education (who selected schools and provided contact details) and Intel SA (who provided Intel Teach Getting Started training through SchoolNet SA). Each clustered workshop was structured to be a master training for three educators (two teachers and the principal) per school who would then return to their respective schools and train the rest of their staff.

Activities for FIFA Legacy project per quarter of 2014

Q1: All 7 launch schools were provided with three days training at each school prior to the launch which was held for the first time via video conference. The video conference was hosted in Mangaung, Free State with the 6 remaining schools connecting via video conference hosted by Telkom. The project was launched with the Deputy Ministers of the Department of Education and the Department of Communications.

Q2: Due to the delays in the infrastructure supplied by Telkom, training workshops in many instances were cancelled. In this second quarter, SchoolNet was able to confirm and complete 6 workshops with 42 schools completed.

Q3: Intel provided funding for 20 clustered workshops (140 schools) and these were completed according to plan. Schools have cited many challenges connectivity that was provided by the project and these have been communicated to the Department of Basic Education.

Q4: Funding for 31 workshops was provided and all training has been completed with a total of 67 workshops completed and 408 schools trained. This leaves 103 workshops to be completed in 2015. These schools will receive training before the end of March 2015. Northern Cape, Mpumalanga and Kwa Zulu Natal remain provinces with the least number of workshops completed. This is being addressed with the respective provinces by the Department of Basic Education.



Part of SchoolNet's contractual obligation was to support the trained teachers in their delivery of the course to colleagues at their respective schools. However, funding for this item has not been forthcoming because Intel is still working on their 2015 focus areas.

Intel Easy Steps

The Intel Easy Steps course targets digital literacy for out-of-school youth, unemployed community members and focusses on helping participants achieve the following: understand the basics of computers; use computer applications such as graphics, word processing, spreadsheets and multimedia applications; use web-based applications such as Internet Search, Email, and Instant Messaging; communicate, collaborate and create products such as brochures, flyers, budgets, websites and a portfolio of evidence. The latest version of Easy Steps includes a module on entrepreneurship.

Activities for Easy Steps project per quarter of 2014



Q1: Two workshops were scheduled; one was in Sunnyside Vodacom Centre and one at Adams Mission School in Amanzimtoti.

Q2: Combined with some of Q3 there were 48 schools included for Easy Steps in the She Will Connect project.

Q3: Ten workshops were completed as follows: KZN (1); GP (1); MP (3); NW (3); NC (1); LP (2)

Q4: Ten workshops were completed. Six were communities that had expressed an interest in having training; four workshops were completed for World Vision and a further three workshops are scheduled for the South African Women Entrepreneurs Network (SAWEN) during November 2014.

The Department of Correctional Services training

The DCS contracted SchoolNet SA to complete 10 Getting Started workshops in correctional services facilities across South Africa. This was completed successfully despite issues around connectivity as well as teachers at the facilities not having regular access to ICTs. Teachers who work in prisons feel isolated from other educators and current events in South African education networks; this project is helping them to feel included.



1.3. Microsoft Partners in Learning

Microsoft Global Education Forum

The Microsoft in Education Global Forum celebrates the achievements of educators and schools who are creating engaging and innovative learning opportunities for students. This year the Global Forum took place in Barcelona, Spain between 11 and 14 March 2014. It was attended by more than 260 Microsoft Expert Educators and 300 School Leaders from 75 countries.



SchoolNet SA coordinated the logistics of getting the fourteen delegates from South Africa and Lesotho to Barcelona to attend the Forum. These included three Expert Educators, six representatives from Microsoft's three Innovative schools (St Cyprians, St Mary's and Eunice), and two judges, Phil Mnisi and Brian Schroeder. Megan Rademeyer served as a lead judge at this event, both scoring projects and interviewing teachers and guiding new judges through the adjudication process.



Congratulations go to Microsoft Expert Educator Cheryl Douglas of Bishops in the Western Cape who was the Global second runner up in the "Educator as Change Agent and Innovator" category for her project entitled "Human Impact on the Environment". All delegates agreed that the opportunity to network with dynamic teachers from around the world; to share projects that build knowledge and challenge thinking; and to learn more about the latest trends in educational technology was a once in a lifetime professional development opportunity.

Lesotho Literacy for Life

At the end of 2013, teachers and final year Lesotho College of Education teaching students were given Windows 8 mobile phones as part of the Matuto™ Literacy for Life partnership. They were encouraged to use the Chekhov Phone App to create and publish stories in their home languages and to share these through the Windows App store so that new readers would be able to access a range of stories in different languages.

Fiona Beal provided content for the popular Literacy for Life Facebook group, Sesotho speaking Mathapelo Sehume was able to review some of the stories that were uploaded (and contributed her own story!), and Megan Rademeyer travelled to Lesotho in May 2014 to run a workshop for teachers who were battling to use the Chekhov App.



Unfortunately not as many stories were shared as we had initially hoped. This was attributed to initial glitches with the app, data being unaffordable for many former education students who are now unemployed and the political instability in Lesotho. Nonetheless, some stories have been created, and a number of the Lesotho Literacy for Life participants are now participating in the African Storybook project which we hope will lead to stories of a better quality being shared.

Limpopo TV White Spaces

Five schools in Mankweng, Limpopo were provided with connectivity and Microsoft Windows 8 devices through the TV White Spaces pilot project in April 2014. SchoolNet SA was appointed to provide professional development to teachers from these schools. Champion teachers therefore received training on Windows 8

in the Classroom, Using Content and Connectivity for 21st Century Teaching & Learning, and an introduction to Office 365.

SchoolNet provided logistical support and “local knowledge” for the evaluation of this project, which is being led by a researcher from the University of Southampton who is also evaluating other TV white spaces projects around the world.

Despite challenges with this project, including erratic connectivity at some schools and unreliable electricity at others, it has been heartening to see some teachers embracing the opportunity to use technology in their classrooms. We were especially proud of Simon Matlebjane of Mountainview High School, who was selected as the ISPA Super Teacher of the Year for the work he is doing with training his colleagues. In 2015, we hope to see teachers and learners expanding the scope of what they use the technology for and that they will begin to share what they are doing with their community of practice.



Partners in Learning Materials Development and Online presence

In 2014, the new branding for the Microsoft Partners in Learning Materials was finalised, Office 2013 tip sheets completed and the new materials were uploaded to the SchoolNet SA website. The Partners in Learning offering of courses now includes a blended version of the Peer Coaching course (face to face and online) and materials on Office 365.



Fiona Beal of SchoolNet SA continues to manage the Microsoft Partners in Learning Twitter and Facebook accounts on behalf of Microsoft. Posts about Microsoft tools and activities feature regularly on the

SchoolNet SA blog. These social media posts align to SchoolNet’s goal of promoting free tools that are useful to teachers as well as providing guidance as to how these tools can be used to enhance teaching and learning.

Microsoft Innovative Educator Program

The Microsoft in Education Global Forum will be taking place in Redmond, Washington in March 2015. Once again, SchoolNet SA managed the online application process and recruitment of participants. Over 50 learning activities were received; it was pleasing to note than many of the applicants had benefitted from previous SchoolNet professional development. After reviewing all of the entries, 16 teachers from South Africa and Lesotho have been named as Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts.

All 16 Microsoft Innovative Educators will receive online instruction and access to Microsoft tools, and then in January 2015 a final selection will be made. Some of the MIEs who do not make it to Redmond, Washington will attend the Microsoft Forum in Dubai in February and still others will be sponsored by Microsoft to attend the SchoolNet ICT in the Classroom conference taking place in Durban in July 2015.



Microsoft Partners in Learning sponsored training sessions

In recent years Microsoft has focused its efforts on developing Partners in Learning materials and training capacity so that training sessions can be run cost effectively by provincial departments of education or through training initiatives of other organizations. Whilst it is not the intention to offer vast amounts of training, Microsoft does still cover the costs of some strategic training sessions that are part of pilot projects or that will develop capacity. Below are some training sessions that were sponsored by Microsoft and facilitated by SchoolNet SA in 2014:

- Two Office 365 training sessions took place on 20 February 2014 at the Microsoft offices in Bryanston and the Free State training session took place on 17 May at the ICTise Unit of the University of Free State.
- Two rounds of ICT Leadership for Education Managers for clusters of school leaders in the Free State.
- ICT Skills for Teachers training for lead teachers and officials in the Libode District from 16-20 July 2014.



Microsoft Teaching with Technology



In 2014, our challenge was to encourage teachers to access and complete the Microsoft Teaching with Technology course, which is a free, online course offered through the Partners in Learning Network.

Our support for this task took a variety of forms:

- At the Department of Basic Education National ICT Core Training Team Workshop, potential trainers were introduced to the course and encouraged to complete it.
- Microsoft’s Victor Ngobeni and Megan Rademeyer are filming a Microsoft Virtual Academy of the Teaching with Technology course. Teachers throughout Africa will then be encouraged to watch the videos on each module which include local examples of the content covered.
- Afternoon kick-off sessions for selected schools.
- A webinar series to promote the course and to support teachers who are working through the materials on their own.

1.4. Vodacom

Training and Support for Vodacom ICT Resource Centres

In 2013, Vodacom Foundation appointed SchoolNet SA to continue to provide training and support to the nine provincial Vodacom ICT Resource Centres and this project has continued into 2014. We have now completed the ICT Leadership for Education Managers course for each of the nine centres and are in the process of completing the Peer Coaching course with teachers from four of the Vodacom Supported ICT centres. We continue to gather training statistics that the nine original Vodacom supported centres have conducted themselves subsequent to our training of trainers and we provide certificates for teachers who have completed the Intel Teach Getting Started, Microsoft ICT Skills for Teachers, or SchoolNet Sizanani courses, which centre managers or trainers are now rolling out to teachers.



Department of Basic Education Teacher Centre Management Training

SchoolNet SA was commissioned by Vodacom Foundation to collaborate with the National Institute for Curriculum and Professional Development in order to design and deliver the Teacher Centre manual (in both print and digital formats) and to offer centralised training to representatives from every Teacher Centre in South Africa.

Representatives from 131 centres spread across all nine provinces arrived at Southern Sun OR Tambo for a week-long workshop from 10 – 15 August 2014, which was facilitated by a team of fourteen SchoolNet SA staff members and trainers. The theme of the Teacher Centre Managers course was “Building functional Teacher Centres and competent Centre Managers to support quality learning outcomes”.

The programme was designed to expose participants to the latest relevant policy documents, particularly the draft Norms and Standards for Provincial Teacher Development institutes and District Teacher Development Centres. The intended outcome was for workshop participants to provide informed input to this document. Other policies that featured included the e-Education White Paper, The Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development in South Africa and the Action Plan to 2014. SchoolNet combined two existing courses, the recently developed ICT4RED Change Leadership course and the Centre Managers Training course that had previously been used for the nine Vodacom Centres to cover change management aspects of this training.



Guest speakers from the national department were co-opted to address participants in their respective specialist fields. These included H Mohammed, M Simelane, Dr A E Nkosi, P Mnisi, K Manona, HM Mveli and S Isaacs and their topics included strategies for teacher and subject advisor support in the delivery of CAPS and the improvement of ANA and NSC performance.

The week long programme was opened by the National Minister of Education, Ms Motshegka and the closing ceremony was presided over by Deputy Minister Surty. Support for the training throughout the week from DBE directors and chief directors was exceptionally good.



The final component of this project is to gather evidence of behavioural change amongst centre managers and to encourage the implementation of what they had learnt at the course. The provision of support and mentoring to the delegates inclusive of visiting selected Teacher Centres across all nine provinces to see the evidence of skills and knowledge being transmitted will be undertaken by SchoolNet SA in the first quarter of 2015. This will include a badging process whereby Centre Managers are awarded digital badges for completing specific activities.

National ICT Core Training Team Workshop

The National ICT Core Training Team Workshop, sponsored by Vodacom Foundation and offered in partnership with the National Department of Basic Education took place between 15 and 19 September 2014 at the Cape Teaching and Leadership Institute (CTLI). The over-arching theme of the workshop was “Using Technologies Optimally for Quality Learning and Teaching”.



The objective of the workshop was to deliver a clustered, centralised 5-day Training Program to a core group of trainers who would then be able to run training sessions within the teacher centres and provinces. The intention of these courses would be to both develop skills of teachers to integrate ICT into their teaching and learning programmes and to see how technology can be used to support curriculum delivery for improved learning outcomes.

During the five day workshop, participants were trained as trainers for the Intel Teach Getting Started course. They were introduced to the Intel® Teach: Elements - Project Based Approaches course and have the opportunity to become trainers for this course upon submitting an acceptable project plan. Delegates were also shown the Microsoft Teaching with Technology course which they were encouraged to complete online. Upon their return to their provinces they were encouraged to introduce other teachers to this course as teachers could then complete the course independently. It was hoped that by having the skills and ability to offer well-designed, relevant, accredited courses to teachers in their provinces that core ICT trainers will be able to roll out worthwhile professional development to others, and that the offering of these courses would be standardised across the provinces.

In addition to the formal courses, delegates were exposed to a range of social media and content portals which they could use for their own professional development, to coordinate training sessions and to make delegates aware of at their training sessions. During the workshop, delegates had an opportunity to register for and explore the Vodacom Digital Classroom, the Microsoft Educator Network, and the UkuFUNda platform on Mxit. They were also given a brief overview of Twitter and were encouraged to tweet during the workshop and beyond using the hashtag #DBEICTTrainer. Furthermore, presentations on maths and science.com and Siyavula raised awareness of these content repositories which Core ICT trainers could then share with teachers they work with.

The final component of the five day workshop involved provincial teams working together to construct a provincial training plan for rolling out ICT integration training. This was possibly the most crucial aspect of the workshop as it was hoped that it would ensure that the trainers shared their knowledge and skills with others and that across all nine provinces a worthwhile number of teachers would be providing training of a high quality.

Vodacom Business

This project presented three schools with a mobile trolley of tablets and access to the Internet. SchoolNet was responsible for assisting teachers to use the Vodacom Learning Management System which was

developed in India. This proved somewhat problematic as functionality was minimal at the start. It slowly increased to allow teachers to customise e-books for use during Maths and Science lessons. This worked really well with Grade 10s and the learners remarked that learning was exciting; where typically a textbook could only teach them so much, they were able to extend their own learning through the digital access.

The research conducted by Dr Jacqueline Batchelor (University of Johannesburg) made it clear that tablet projects must not just end when the project term ends. She requested that further efforts for development be made, particularly around the Senior Management Team buy-in to the project, as well as further training for Teachers in Grade 11 and 12. Unfortunately Vodacom Business was not able to continue with this programme and sought rather to evaluate their entire model and approach to providing devices in the education space. We look forward to more sustainable projects from Vodacom Business in the future once they have completed their assessment.

1.5. CSIR – ICT4RED – Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape

The ICT4RED is in its third year of implementation and the 14 phase III schools are doing exceptionally well. SchoolNet has received many accolades for the management of the professional development and the change leadership implementation; this is directly due to the competent and conscientious project management skills of Hlengiwe Mfeka and Omashani Naidoo. Currently phase III teachers have completed seven modules of Teacher professional development and the Senior Management Teams have completed five Change Leadership modules. This is swifter progress than has been the case with the previous two cohorts.

A carnival fun day is being hosted at Get Ahead College in Queenstown in November to provide extension activities as well as awareness opportunities for all teachers involved in this project and to understand what further development is possible through education partners in SA. This project is due to end in March 2015 with a graduation ceremony for the 103 teachers involved in the phase III schools.

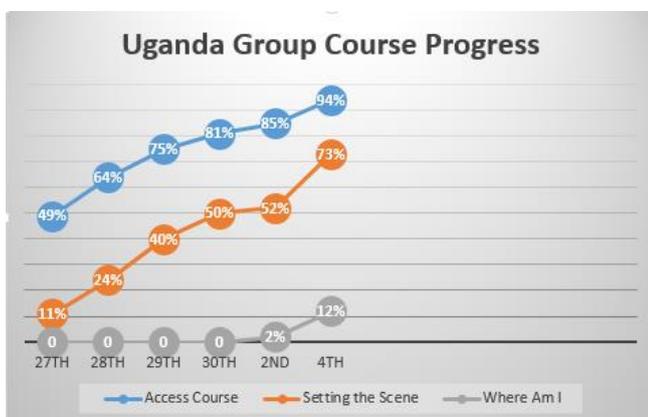


1.6. Commonwealth of Learning

The Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI)

In 2014 SchoolNet continued to administer and tutor the CCTI for a number of Caribbean countries (St Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda) sponsored by COL - as well as one African one, Lesotho. Twice during 2014 the Commonwealth of Learning drafted contracts and SchoolNet signed for modules to be undertaken in Trinidad and Tobago but they did not take off.

The highlight this year was being invited to contribute and participate virtually in the graduation ceremony held in Antigua for all students who had completed the course over the previous two years. It was a most prestigious ceremony with speeches from The Minister of Education and much of the senior ministry staff as well as Mark Bullen from COL as well as the virtual addresses from the Executive Director of SchoolNet and the coordinator of the SchoolNet tutor team, Gerald Roos. All of our tutors were invited to attend the ceremony virtually via the streaming facility of a live Google Hangout. The two hour video is available on YouTube.



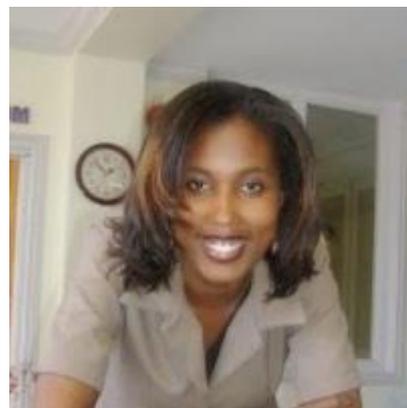
Uganda has just embarked on module 1 of the newly revised course now in November 2014. A face-to-face orientation course convened at a rural training college venue for 100 teachers was conducted by Senzo Ngcobo and Gerald Roos. Although connectivity for the online course is now proving to be a major obstacle, the current progress is not too disappointing. Additional tutors are Randall Pienaar and Claire Dean.

CCTI Revisions

SchoolNet SA was commissioned to make further revisions to the course materials for the CCTI. This is the 3rd iteration since COL adopted the content from UKZN in 2010. However a major departure from the initial model has now taken place in that the course is not only tutored online but the materials and interaction is now taking place using a learning management system based on a Word Press platform after having tested many other options.



The revision process this time was a lengthy one and authors wrote directly into the LSM. Authors were Kevin Sherman, Fiona Beal, Deb Avery, Gerald Roos and Peter de Lisle. Two recent graduates from the CCTI, Semonique Harry from St Vincent and the Grenadines and Temika Christian from Antigua conducted reviews of the materials and the process was completed by a highly competent proof reader from Pietermaritzburg, Cathrine Dowse. The course is available here <http://cctionline.org/>



The first country to experience the revised content has been Uganda where it appears to have been well received so far despite the poor connectivity – here is a comment on the design of the CCTI from Aron Mugaiga (London College of St Lawrence, Uganda):

“...its approach to professional development with ICT teacher integration, is exceptional in that: a. It is hands on (we are learning by doing- mention creating blogs, online learning and collaboration etc.) b. It brings out the magic of social learning- as observed, we are already learning in online groups c. Basing on the article-learning in the modern social workplace, I realise that CCTI course addresses well the three social learning skills areas In conclusion, CCTI course is a course with a difference as outlined above; it is worth pursuit and comes at a right time.”

Commonwealth of Learning MOOC

COL commissioned the University of the West Indies Open Campus to develop an undergraduate certificate based on the CCTI. This was supposed to have happened during 2014. The planning is still underway. Janet Thomson has now been contracted to assist with the writing of materials and mentoring. The qualification is called, *Using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to Enrich Teaching and Learning*.

1.7. Free State Province

SchoolNet SA was contracted by the Free State Department of Basic Education to facilitate a wide spectrum ICT course as part of their long term strategy. This included 20 ICT Skills for Teachers workshops; 5 ICT Leadership for Education Managers workshops and 10 Deploying Technical Solutions (Help Desk) workshops. A new school was substituted into the programme by the Department and therefore one outstanding workshop for both Help Desk and ICT Skills for Teachers is remaining before this phase of this programme can be completed.

1.8. Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership ICT Training

The Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership is working with six Gauteng “Schools of the Future” in a pilot project that aims to showcase how technology can be used to enhance education in the province. SchoolNet SA was requested to train school leaders from the six schools in ‘Management and Usage of ICTs in Public Schools’, and then to offer one round of ‘Intel Teach Getting Started’ training at each school as well as a kick-off session for the ‘Microsoft Partners in Learning Teaching with Technology’ course.

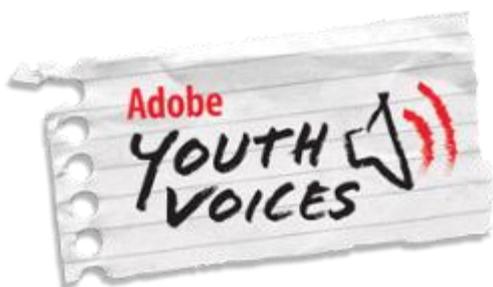
While the first course, 'Management and Usage of ICTs in Public Schools', which was conducted as two clustered sessions was well received, and four of the six schools have enjoyed the 'Getting Started' course, scheduling the remaining sessions for two of the schools as well as the kick-off session of the 'Teaching with Technology' course has proved to be challenging due to their inadequate infrastructure. SchoolNet SA is working with the project manager of the Schools of the Future project in an attempt to resolve this and to continue with the remaining courses.

1.9. Nokia Mobile Maths Project

The Nokia mobile maths service is now available for all FET learners and has full curriculum content which is CAPS-aligned. All MTN users have zero-rated access to the <https://momaths.nokia.com/za> service. SchoolNet South Africa is responsible, along with Mindset, Kelello Consulting and the University of Johannesburg for marketing the service. SchoolNet's main responsibility is for hosting and managing the logistics around the competitions for learners and this will be completed by the end of March 2015.

1.10. AYV and I*EARN

Adobe Youth Voices and the International Education and Resource Network.



Once again South Africa has been requested to train teachers to participate in the Adobe Youth Voices competition. Another grant for 2014-2015 was presented to SchoolNet and we currently have six teachers completing their Adobe Youth Voices online course. Once this course is completed they are required to work with their learners and complete media projects which focus on a social challenges or topical local issues. In 2015, a further six teachers will attempt the course; SchoolNet will host Adobe workshops for these teachers to further develop their skills in Adobe Premiere Elements and Photoshop elements.

Ms Mathapelo Sehume made a superb job of representing SchoolNet South Africa at the 21st IEARN (International Education and Resource Network) conference in Argentina in July 2014.

Mathapelo wrote a comprehensive report on the whole conference and being active and highly tech-savvy, made sure that she kept us informed of her whereabouts and exploits throughout her travels. This photo



with Ed Gragert was particularly nostalgic for him because he first partnered with SchoolNet back in the 1990s soon after he had started IEARN and has long cherished our relationship.

Further photos of Mathapelo's experiences in Argentina appear on the SchoolNet Gallery and can be accessed from [here](http://goo.gl/u7dF3L). <http://goo.gl/u7dF3L>

SchoolNet's Fiona Beal is looking at ways to include the African Storybook project as part of a Global IEARN Folk Tales project.

Omashani Naidoo, is a keynote speaker at the upcoming online 2014 Global Education Conference (<http://gloaleducationconference.com>) which is a free and virtual event for students, educators and organizations. This event takes place during International Education Week (November 17-22, 2014) and is focused on presenting global-connecting opportunities and activities for participants. In particular, the goal is to highlight initiatives that will inspire others to connect, collaborate, and take action in a global context. Omashani will be presenting on the range of SchoolNet activities in SA.

1.11. Samsung Education

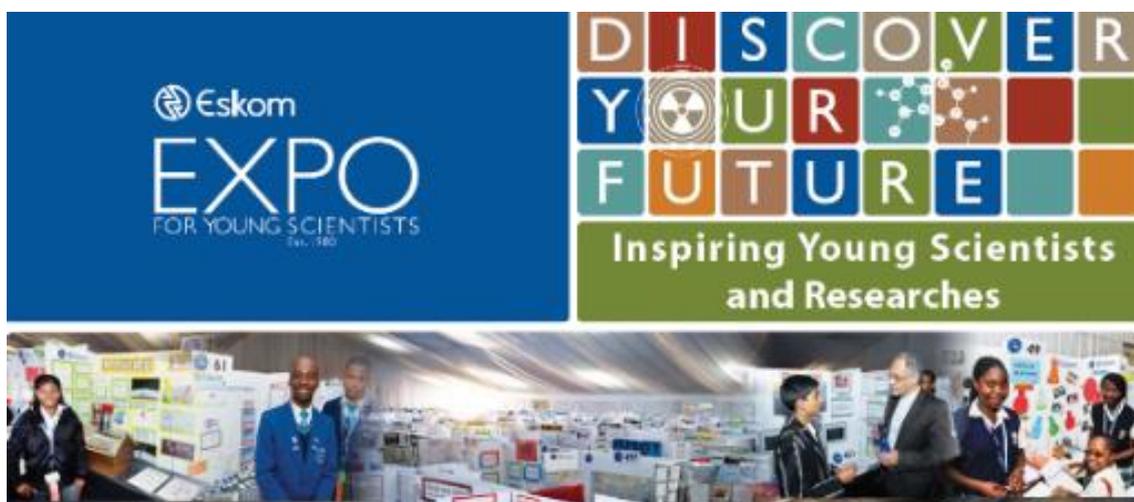
Samsung requested SchoolNet to draft an education concept note so that Samsung could formulate their education focus. SchoolNet attended a planning workshop with Candice Adams and their education consultant who explained the model of the Samsung School which is basically a Learning Management System with some content.

Samsung is providing solar powered containers which house a range of ICT equipment. This equipment is designed specifically to be used by teachers within the classroom. Obviously Samsung see a role for SchoolNet's expertise however they have indicated that budgetary constraints are an issue. The proposed training and concept note is now in the hands of the Corporate Social Investment team for them to decide how best to proceed in 2015.

1.12. Telkom Foundation

In 2014, SchoolNet was contracted to facilitate ICT workshops for the winners in the National Teachers Awards. Each of the teachers won 20 laptops for their schools, with Wi-Fi connectivity as well as teacher professional development training. SchoolNet was required to assess the schools' ICT needs and then propose appropriate training workshops. Eight of the 12 schools have completed these workshops and the remaining four are due to be scheduled before the end of 2014. SchoolNet is currently proposing for training in a further 36 schools to happen in 2015. Presently Telkom Foundation is deliberating about the type of infrastructure that they will be providing to schools and therefore our proposal has to encompass training for either Tablets or Laptops. SchoolNet has a range of courses that speak to both options so the decision can be made once the infrastructure is certain.

1.13. Eskom Science Expo



SchoolNet SA was contracted to revise and reconceptualise the course materials relating to the Science Expo for Young Scientists. The main objective of the course is to empower science learners by equipping their teachers with the resources and skills to facilitate good science projects and to become familiar with the judging criteria. SchoolNet contracted Gerald Roos to design the materials for both the facilitators' and the actual teachers' courses, to facilitate a trainers workshop for delegates from all provinces and to develop support documentation as well as submit the courseware for accreditation with SACE.

The Coursework for regional coordinators and judging of science projects were both completed. Master training has also been completed and the course materials are just about to be submitted to SACE for endorsement.

1.14. Google Educator Groups (GEG)

In July 2014, SchoolNet was contracted by Google to develop and expand their GEG programme in South Africa. SchoolNet has been instrumental in growing GEG leaders who are practising teachers to voluntarily promote ICTs through local chapters and host regular events to keep teachers motivated and encouraged to share, collaborate and integrate ICT into teaching and Learning.



To date, four GEG chapter workshops have been hosted; with SchoolNet's trainers having facilitated four kick-starter workshops. A further three workshops are planned before the end of 2014.

SchoolNet is privileged to have just been selected to run the first ever Google Teacher Academy in Africa. This is potentially being planned for October 2015.

SchoolNet is also hosting two Google Summits in partnership with the Ed Tech Team in October 2015; one at Parklands

College (WC) and the other at Selbourne Primary (EC).

2. Advocacy

Conferences provide SchoolNet with the opportunities to preach the gospel around technology integration. Every year the number of conferences in our field appears to be increasing and 2014 was no exception.

E Learning Africa Conference

Ms Hlengiwe Mfeka and Ms Omashani Naidoo represented SchoolNet South Africa at the E-Learning Africa conference in Kampala, Uganda in 2014

Omashani, was invited to present in a panel discussion with Martin Kizito and Victoria Kisarale Serunkuuma (Head teacher Gayaza High School /Uganda); Henry Kavuma (DBE-South Africa) and Keith Magee (Camarra Education/Ethiopia).



The topic was *“Teachers in the 21st Century: Opportunities provided by e & m-Learning”*. Ms Naidoo, presented on the relevant work that SchoolNet is currently doing. She described a selection of SchoolNet initiatives that focus on how teachers can learn different ways of integrating technology into teaching and learning.

Ms Naidoo also presented on *Mobile Technologies- Tablets for Teaching: Myth or Truth?* and again outlined tablet projects in South Africa with an overview of the pitfalls as well as examples of both good and bad practice. This presentation was very well received.

ESN ICT in the Classroom Conference

SchoolNet presenters were out in force in October this year at the ESN Conference in Cape Town. Janet Thomson and Peter de Lisle presented on the DG Murray Xbox project, Omashani Naidoo presented on Intel programmes and then with Hlengiwe Mfeka on creating media with Purpose as well as a workshop on Change Leadership, Megan Rademeyer presented on Microsoft Teaching with Technology and Fiona Beal presented on Foundation Phase ICT Integration, Using Google Chrome and Digital Storytelling. Almost all presenters at the conference had some connections with SchoolNet and all speakers were local.

E-Learning Summit, Eastern Cape, 2014

The Department of Education in the Eastern Cape held a summit around the uses of ICT in education on 17th July 2014 in East London. SchoolNet was invited to participate and Omashani Naidoo represented us. This was an inaugural meeting where the department gathered stakeholders and pledged to conceptualize a broad ICT in Education Framework.

SNSA online presence

SchoolNet has accumulated numerous followers through our online presence, the most popular of which appears to be our blog. Fiona Beal is responsible for all SchoolNet SA online posts on Facebook and Twitter but to date has written 218 blog spots so far in 2014. It is the most vibrant part of the SchoolNet Website and changes almost daily <http://schoolnetsa.blogspot.com/> Fiona curates SchoolNet videos on our YouTube channel along with project managers who upload videos, mostly illustrating teaching in classrooms of project schools or training workshops.

3. Partnerships 2014

SchoolNet has recently formed a partnership with the Metro East District of the WCED following the roll out of the D G Murray project there. Subsequently SchoolNet met with Priscilla Booyesen of the Rupert Family Trust and Dale Simons of MIDO Technologies who is the project coordinator for the Franschoek Schools Project. The Rupert Family Trust is supporting six schools in Franschoek in the Cape Winelands District and is now considering how to introduce ICT integration across the curriculum. The schools already have computer rooms provided by the WCED’s Khanya project and yet the teachers are fearful of using technology. The intention is to provide new technologies in the near future although the decision around the selection of devices has not yet been made. SchoolNet SA has been requested to provide a proposal for a professional development programme for teachers at the project schools lasting from early 2015 until the end of 2017.

Through our involvement with the Project for Educational Tablets in Schools (PETS) run by Michael Rice in Barrydale, we have also met with Rethink Education who have developed a fascinating interactive platform

for learners to study Maths, Natural Sciences, Physics and Chemistry in the South African curriculum. The platform delivers interactive content in a chat-style format whereby students engage via their phones but, if so required, they can enter into an interactive dialogue around any specific topic.

During 2014 SchoolNet worked with the following new partners either on existing projects or planning future projects: NICPD, CSIR, Google in Education, D G Murray Trust, SAIDE, Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership, Eskom Expo, the Department of Correctional services, Inspired Teachers' Conference and a number of provincial departments of education. We trust that some of these relationships will flourish in the coming years and look forward to participating in wider collaboration within the field.

4. Accreditation

The following SchoolNet SA courses have been accredited by SACE:

- Management and Use of ICTs in Public Schools
- Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT integration (all modules): ICT Leadership, E-learning in the connected classroom, Learning, Teaching & Thinking with ICT, ICT in schools, ICT and roles of the educator, Finding, evaluating & developing digital Educational resources, Assessing ICT Integration, Project approaches to learning with ICT, Managing learning & teaching with ICT,
- Microsoft Partners in Learning: Innovation workshop
- Microsoft Partners in Learning ICT skills for principals
- Microsoft Partners in Learning ICT skills for teachers
- Microsoft Partners in Learning: ICT integration- One Step Further
- Microsoft Partners in Learning: ICT Integration: WebQuests
- Microsoft Partners in Learning: Deploying Student Technical Support Solutions (Help Desk)
- ICT 4RED Learning and Teaching with Mobile Devices,
- Intel Teach Elements: Assessment in 21st Century Classroom
- Intel Teach Elements: Thinking critically with data
- Intel Teach Elements: Collaboration in the digital classroom
- Intel Teach: Getting Started
- Intel Teach Elements: Project based approaches
- SchoolNet SA: A journey with tablets



Most courses have been awarded ten SACE professional development points, when offered by SchoolNet SA as the registered training provider. Some courses qualify for more points such as the CCTI which is 30 points as is the full version of Microsoft's Peer Coaching.

Currently submitted and/or being processed are the following courses: Google Education Group Curriculum, Intel One – to – One, Microsoft Peer Coaching – Blended learning, Eskom Science Expo curriculum and the newly revised version of the CCTI.

5. SchoolNet SA Staff

SchoolNet South Africa is well known for having staff members who are dependable and proficient. Their reliability is a key factor in SchoolNet's success. Another factor is their stability - the photo below was the same photo from the 2013 annual report - there have been no changes other than the addition of Kumari Kuni who has competently filled the role of office manager and has quickly assimilated into the Johannesburg office.



The SchoolNet board has been a great source of wisdom and have provided excellent guidance to the organisation throughout the year on a broad range of issues. The Chairman of the board Mashala Kwape has been very supportive throughout the many legal issues that arose during the year. Sadly Muavia Gallie stepped down, after 10 years' service on the board, to take up duties with NECT. His insight and education acumen will be missed. New members are currently being recruited to the board.

6. The future

There are a number of new projects on the horizon for 2015 including an exciting tablet project with the Telkom Foundation and a partnership with Samsung. SchoolNet will be continuing research into the use of the Xbox to improve literacy in grades 1 and R until March 2017. We anticipate that the Vodacom projects will expand to include further deliverables for the NICPD at the national Department of Basic Education and fulfil some of the criteria for becoming teacher continuing professional development centres which may eventually even offer pre-service qualifications.

We will be assuming that Google, Intel and Microsoft will continue their commitment to South African education with SchoolNet as their preferred provider for teacher development. Therefore In 2015 SchoolNet will be building on previous relationships and successes and continuing to find more innovative ways to enhance learning through the effective use of technology.

Janet Thomson, Executive Director, November 2014