



Summary Report on Telkom Schools Connectivity Project October 2015

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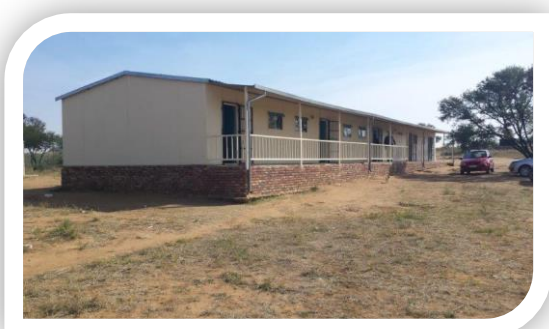
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Background to the Project

SchoolNet South Africa was appointed to conduct professional development workshops required for teachers in the thirty six Telkom Foundation Schools in three provinces namely Eastern Cape, Free State and the Western Cape. All schools are multi-grade farm schools and despite their size still express a need to help learners gain a more global perspective to live and be aware of opportunities that are available to all learners irrespective of their circumstance.

Project Schools

12 Eastern Cape Schools		14 Western Cape Schools
Bhongolethu JP		Achtertuin Prim
Hukuwa J.S.P	10 Free State Schools	Agterwitzenberg Prim
Lower Didimana J/S Primary	Adamsonvlei Farm School	Boplaas Prim
Masakane Junior Primary School	Bovaal School	Britsum Prim
Whittlesea Primary School	Hamsverwacht Primary	Die Eike Prim
New Hope Combined School	Hou-Aan Farm School	Ezelfontein Prim
Nozipho JPS	Itokisetseng Combined	Koue Bokkeveld Prim
Poplar Grove J.S.P.S	Sekgweng Inter. School	Kromlin Prim
Shiloh Junior and Senior Primary	Stilte Farm School	Paardekloof Prim
Sozizwe Junior Primary School	Summerville Farm School	Rietfontein Prim
Thembisa J.S. Primary	Vetrivier Inter School	Skurweberg Sec
Yonda Combined Primary School	Vierhoek Inter School	Tandfontein Prim
		Wanganella Prim
		Voorsorg Prim



SchoolNet trainers use the cognitive apprenticeship model of training where the shaping and fading technique is used to encourage teachers to develop self-reliance in order to become independent learners.

The instructional design of the materials included in this initiative was framed by the context a teacher faces and attempts to use just-in-time learning strategies and not just-in-case. 21st century teaching and learning as well as project-based learning feature prominently in the SchoolNet philosophy. The focus is to monitor teachers' implementation of what they have learnt during our courses and to understand what more might be needed to help teachers progress beyond attendance of courses to integrate ICTs into teaching and learning activities that engage learners.

SchoolNet's role in this project was to facilitate training in two types of interventions, one for *Principals and Senior Management Teams* and the other for teachers on *ICT Integration* and to support the teachers through their change of teaching and learning practice.

The Principals/ Senior Management Teams started on their journey in the **Change Leadership** course which comprises seven modules. This course was offered to all principals and SMT from each of the project schools. Training started in April 2015 and will be completed in March 2016. Each module will be facilitated approximately once a month and this will allow participants time to actually implement activities at school and achieve badges in between modules, thus realising the aims of the change leadership process as it unfolds.

ICT Integration: An analysis of the schools' and the teachers' experiences of ICT showed that we needed to work on foundation skills and then progress to more intermediate to advanced courses depending on the teachers' level of expertise. ICT integration training began with Intel's Getting Started course.

Overview of SchoolNet SA activities

- All schools were invited to a briefing meeting per province and SchoolNet representatives provided an overview of the project and discussed our expectations of teachers during the professional development activities.
- Change Leadership coursework files were printed and distributed to all Senior Management Team members at each project school.
- Base line surveys on ICT integration were completed by the majority of schools
- 15 teachers attended the national ICT in the Classroom conference 2015, in KwaZulu Natal
- Change leadership training has been conducted in the Eastern Cape, and in the Western Cape where senior management teams have completed 4 of the seven modules. The Free State schools have completed up to Module 3 and catch up sessions were organised for other senior management team members who could not attend previous sessions. The remaining



modules will be scheduled as per schools' availability especially during examinations in the fourth term until March 2016.

- ICT integration training has been facilitated in each of the provinces:
 - All schools in the Eastern Cape attended two days of Intel Teach Getting Started training
 - All schools in the Free State attended two days of Intel Teach Getting Started training
 - Three schools in the Western Cape have attended training. Scheduled clusters had to be rescheduled based on the ANA test preparation. The remaining schools will be scheduled before the end of 2015.

Telkom Sponsors Teachers to the ICT in the Classroom Conference

Fifteen teachers from the Telkom project schools were selected to attend the national ICT in the Classroom conference, at St Mary's in KwaZulu Natal. The conference themes focused on:

- Curriculum delivery through digital content
- Technologies for foundation phase
- Learning with Mobile Technologies
- ICT Leadership in the School
- Connecting Classrooms
- Innovative Teaching

The following teachers were selected to attend the conference in KwaZulu-Natal

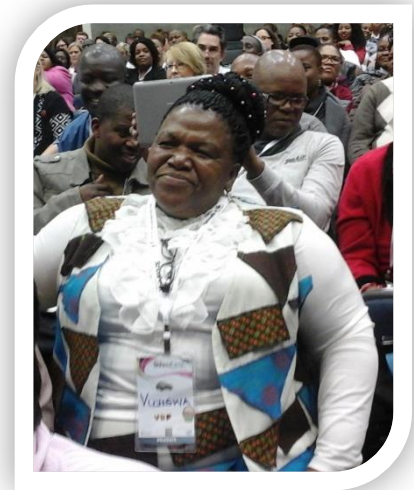
Neliswa Zini	Shiloh PS	Dikiledi Kola	Adamsonvlei PS	J. Ockhuis	Voorsorg PS
Mzikayise Luwalala	Yonda PS	Michael Masitsa	Vierhoek PS	Elaine Calitz	Britsum PS
Bulelwa Msola	Poplar Grove PS	Dikotsi Ramolelekoa	Sekweng CS	Candice Koopman	Wanganella PS
Dazola Mpote	New Hope PS	Thabo E. Monyane	Itokisetseng CS	W.van der Merwe	Bokkeveld PS
Vuyiswa Matrose-Futshane	Bhongolethu PS	Hendrik Kleynhans	Bovaal IS	A. Present	Boplaas PS

Comments from teachers subsequent to the conference:

"WOW, what a GREAT EVENT! It was my first , great time to experience such an amazing, great event ever , "TELKOM SCHOOLNET CONFERENCE 2015' "Everything was GREAT : Welcoming, exhibitions 4 beginners, the flight, the food, guest house, the tutors who were well prepared, the different sessions, the mood and atmosphere which was conducive for learning .

We learnt a lot : -How to integrate curriculum CAPS and Technology.-How to create learning activities using free tools e.g. You Tube, Sway etc. -Sharing and collaboration using Social networking and blogging. -Learning how the 21st century child learns because whether we like it or not TECHNOLOGY is here to stay. It is true that we are not going to be able to predict the skills that people will need in 20 years to come.

AS teachers we need to rethink the way we teach to make sure our students will be successful in future. That's why myself, Vuyiswa and my colleagues came to a conclusion after the conference that we form a cluster and report back to our teachers and colleagues in neighboring schools to make sure that what we've learnt from the conference is known and implemented successfully." **Vuyiswa Matrose-Futshane (Bhongolethu PS)**



"The trip was excellent, everything was organised very well, the presenters were always punctual. I learned of many applications of technology. The place where we were accommodated was excellent. We were taken care of and the shuttle was always on time.

Personally, I will like the school-net to organise the same educational trip for other educators, so that they can learn about the importance of technology and the applications that learners can use. The officials of SchoolNet, were always caring and supported us. I can name few of them if you allow me, Zodumo, Randall and others who were supportive to us. I will say to school-net officials: Keep it up, guys !!! Do to other what you have done to us. Thank you for the opportunity and thanks to Telkom for sponsoring us." **DS Ramolelekoa (Sekweng Comprehensive)**

"The Conference was a good learning school. I absolute realize how important and easy technology make our lives and learners change lives. A sense of positivity prevailed. The speakers was good and professional. Thanks for all the arrangements and spoiled during the conference. We appreciate it very much." **Elaine Calitz (Britsum PS)**

School Visits and Baseline Surveys

All schools in the Eastern Cape were visited and baseline surveys completed. The results of the survey revealed that teachers were novice users and had limited or no experience in the use of ICTs for teaching and learning nor for personal development.

According to principals of schools in the Free State many of the staff were computer literate but lacked the skills to integrate their ICT skills with teaching and learning. Some schools did note that some of their teachers didn't own computers and had limited



to no ICT skills. Power failures during lessons seem to plague the school. There was a strong perception by the older generation that computers require highly skilled personnel to operate them, and that students will be exposed to adult or pornographic materials.

The Western Cape is most comfortable with this sponsored equipment. There is positive approach towards information technology at schools. There are highly motivated principals who are in the process of creating a management program for schools. Educators are encouraged to take laptops home to prepare lessons. The schools invested in paid-for software, - in particular the Platinum Work book series for learners and had uploaded the software to computers. There is a time table being implemented and the Interactive whiteboards and data projector are used on a cyclical basis.

Surveys will be conducted once again in order to understand the impact of the Telkom Foundation's project.

Change Leadership Training

The table below is a reflection of training completed in each of the provinces.

The Eastern Cape has completed 4 out of 7 modules with an attendance of 90% at each workshop. The Free State has completed 3 modules and had to host catch-up lessons for additional SMTs who had not been available at the start of the project. The Western Cape has completed 4 modules and is displaying 76% attendance at workshops.

	Eastern Cape	Free State	Western Cape
Change Leadership	36	30	42
Module 1	35	27	40
Module 2	28	25	33
Module 3	26	26	31
Module 4	41		24
Module 5			
Module 6			
Module 7			
TOTAL	130	78	128
Average Attendance	32.5	26.0	32.0
% Attendance per module	90	87	76

Eastern Cape

Sosizwe PS was selected as a training venue for all the modules as it was most central to all the schools. They completed 4 modules and the trainer reported that the modules addressed authentic situations Participants developed a positive attitude and elected to extend training times to cover more aspects during the workshop. Teachers were engaged in different activities showing abilities that displayed understanding and willingness to put to practice what they had learnt during training.

Free State

The training took place at Lejweleputswa District Teacher Development Centre which was the most convenient location for the senior management teams. The trainer reported that the teachers were enthusiastic during the training. Changing the teacher's attitudes towards technology, ICT

professional development for teachers and day to day classroom practice were common threads in all discussions relating to the changes these principals would like to see at their schools. The activities within the course are designed to evaluate the skills level of participation and showcased that the schools are in a desperate need of basic skills training.

Western Cape

The district completed 4 Modules. The skills gained during the course would help the senior management to have a specific set of skills in order to effectively perform their jobs. Managerial skills are what the manager uses to assist the organisation in accomplishing its goals. Specifically a manager will make use of his own abilities, knowledge base, experience and perspectives to increase the productivity of those with whom they manage. The trainer reported that the training went well on these four sessions. Koue Bokke and Skurweberg were used as training venues. The district official's i.e. Harriet Lackey and Mr Juan Benjamin supported the teachers during training and they also commended Telkom and SchoolNet SA for their role in supporting the schools in Cape Winelands Education Districts.



ICT Integration Training

In the Eastern Cape, we have seen 81% attendance at the workshops, the Free State 64% and Western Cape 72%. The attendance of training has fluctuated due to June exams, ANA tests and we anticipate the fourth term also being busy with exam preparations.

	Eastern Cape	Free State	Western Cape
Intel Getting Started	122	83	116
workshop 1	99	53	83
workshop 2			
TOTAL	99	53	83
Average Attendance	99	53	83
% Attendance	81	64	72

The Intel® Teach Getting Started course was selected as the most suitable as many teachers highlighted limited knowledge of ICTs and inability to integrate ICTs into teaching and learning. Although simple in its design, this course is an entry level ICT skills course that includes activities focused on computer skills and 21st Century teaching which deals with learner-centred approaches to teaching and learning.

The course aims to accomplish the following:

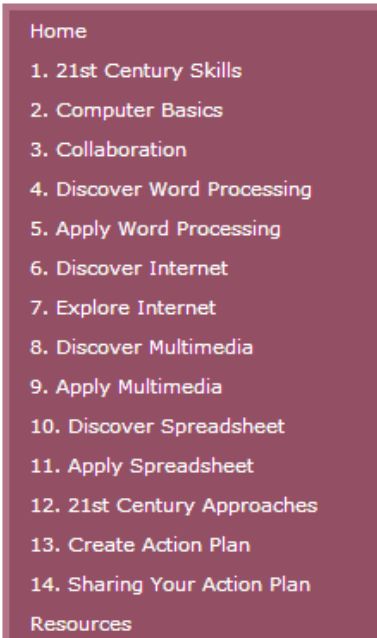
- Introduce 21st century teaching and learning skills and approaches, such as learner-centred approaches, critical thinking, and collaboration;
- Involves planning, executing, reviewing, and sharing meaningful and relevant activities;
- Requires the development of an individual action plan detailing how each teacher will apply new skills and approaches to enhance productivity and professional practice in their respective schools over time.

Mr E.N Sintu (Soziwe J.P School) captures the essence of his participation in this project:

“The workshop changed my mindset completely. Before I knew nothing about a laptop or a computer as a result I neglected it although we have very few computers at school. Now when I am in the laptop room. I want to know something from the laptops but sometimes I find it difficult because it instructions me that there is no Internet connection. So when we want to research something sometimes we are disappointed because of the Internet connection. I am also very proud because we manage to do September class schedules from laptops for the first time. I teach and monitor classes when they are in laptop room. The learners know how to use the laptops including the laptop's terminology and parts of the computer. They also know how to save their work.

I have started to teach my learners through the projector using our laptops. What is interesting is that my students become very excited, disciplined and concentrate. When we are laptop rooms all they want to do is their best and finish in time. Even the slow learners try their best. If they made a mistake or work disappears, immediately they raise their hands and look for help unlike they are in normal classes because they are shy. Problems are easily rectified the projector has done a lot and made our work easier. I noticed that the instructions are easily followed because they hear and see from the projector.

My wish is that next year I will start from the beginning of the year and their tasks and activities will be in their laptops.”



Home
1. 21st Century Skills
2. Computer Basics
3. Collaboration
4. Discover Word Processing
5. Apply Word Processing
6. Discover Internet
7. Explore Internet
8. Discover Multimedia
9. Apply Multimedia
10. Discover Spreadsheet
11. Apply Spreadsheet
12. 21st Century Approaches
13. Create Action Plan
14. Sharing Your Action Plan
Resources

Conclusion

Training will continue until March 2016 and where schools are ready for more intermediate to advanced skills then these will be provided. Schools are eagerly awaiting internet connectivity as this will further their teaching and learning experiences.

The attendance at professional development workshops does not guarantee change in practice and hence it is noteworthy that Telkom has advocated for sustained support of teachers in their project schools. This support can only build stronger more capable teachers who will be the free thinking educators we need in our schools.

Omeshani Naidoo
Operations Manager

www.schoolnet.org.za

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