

## KZN Change Leadership Workshop: ICT Policy – 26 May 2015

The SMT's from the five schools in the Learning Gains through Play project in KZN attended the Change Leadership workshop held at Thembelihle Primary School in Howick on 26 May 2015. The purpose of the workshop was to facilitate the Change Leadership sixth module on ICT Policy. The Planning ICT Policy is an additional module included in the Change Leadership course, as another way of supporting the schools with ICT implementation. Schools often need support when weighing the right advantages and disadvantages and making the appropriate decisions with regard to a policy plan and the ICT co-ordination.



A worthy principal Mrs N F Buthelezi from Triandra Primary school who is part of the Learning Gains through Play project was presented with a Microsoft Surface Tablet computer during the workshop. *Read more...*

### Programme

The programme started on a high positive note, with prize giving of worthy and deserving SMT's. It was a great joy for Flo Shenge from Triandra Primary when she was presented with a Microsoft Surface Tablet. Regrettably, the other two recipients, Mr Zondi and Mr Mkhulisi were absent. Subsequently, Mr Mkhulisi (Howick Circuit Manager) arrived as per our request. He had only received our e-mail later in the day and said that the department server had problems. Another photo had to be taken and this time learners had left the school. He was really pleased about the recognition of those who are performing beyond expectations and to hear about teachers who will



be attending and or presenting at the Conferences.

### Coursework

The workshop started by principals sharing new developments after the last visits in April:

#### Triandra

- Thembi Maphumulo is now sharing a Grade R class with Thandazo while she proceeds to teach senior level classes
- Teachers have begun using new Apps and new X-box games – they enjoy the dance and music one. Thembi highlighted that some of the games are challenging for the little ones, but she couldn't remember the names of those games (Teachers were encouraged to make notes of the games which they find more useful)
- The new timetable for sharing technology is in place and being infused to a day to day program
- Flo remarked that they have noticed improvements from Grade 1 learners in Mathematics
- She also shared how she had used an Xbox to teach her grade 7 class on Volcanoes lesson
- Xbox is also used by Intermediate and Senior phase learners

#### Qhamukile

- The timetable has helped a lot to avoid commotion amongst teachers, not knowing in advance who will use technology
- Physical Education lessons are replaced by Xbox – it used to be a mission for teachers to take learners out to do physical activities, in most cases they ended up not doing it but not anymore with the use of an Xbox indoors

#### Thembelihle

- The principal, assisted Nonhlanhla to set up a new Xbox at the Pre-Primary school – Damon reported that she has used it with the learners
- There were ongoing discussions about moving few tablets to the Pre-Primary school because of security concerns, but Damon reported that the final decision has been made to move them. He will deliver them sometime this week
- Joyce has started a 'fitness programme' for the teachers using Xbox
- Damon commended the timetable, that it has given teachers direction and clear structure how technology would be shared – he promised to send it to SchoolNet SA the following day

#### Cedara

- The time table ensures that teachers are integrating technology in their lessons
- Technology is introduced to senior grades other than Grade R and 1 classes – this is possible as it is a small school however the foundation phase is the priority
- Linda shared that she is now confident using 'Share it' to share Apps from her phone to her tab and to the learners' tablets – she was very proud of herself about this
- She reported that technology is now used frequently compared to before
- The school is part of the 'Load shedding Eskom project' and they use Xbox to watch DVD's given – it was exciting to learn that they now understand and make use of the Multipurpose functions of the Xbox

- She has planned to bring all her staff to the workshops because they are a small number so that they get first-hand experience and they are able to help one another with the project activities

It was interesting to see that the principals were informed or clued up about the happenings or the progress of the project at their schools - It was an indication that they are also involved. All schools in the project have submitted their ICT sharing timetable.

After sharing, participants were split into two groups; unitary group to brainstorm pros or the benefits of having an ICT Policy, and the other group brainstormed cons of not having one.



Subsequently, they were presented a hand-out with scenarios to work on, in their initial groups. These two activities helped a great deal to get the participants understand an importance of having an updated and adopted ICT Policy. It also opened their minds to different items to be included in the ICT Policy.

Lastly, the facilitator gave each person a template to guide them as they create their school ICT Policy. Each line item in the guide was discussed with the participants and they asked questions and made contributions to other items of their interest. They were requested to do a draft, which they will deliver to the entire staff for editing and compilation of the final document.

At the conclusion, participants were given a course evaluation form to fill out. Flo suggested that the schools form clusters to share best practice and an opportunity to collaborate and to plan together. This idea was welcomed really well because it was followed by discussion about which schools would cluster with others. Clusters were made as follows:

- Thembelihle, Triandra and Nogqaza
- Cedara and Qhamukile

The first cluster meeting of the schools will happen on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July (Thursday) the last week before schools open.

### Conclusion

School Management Teams appreciated the workshop and felt that it met their needs at the right time.

28/05/2015