Welcome to our August 2015 newsletter. SchoolNet has been very involved in projects all over the country and we bring you report backs on these. We also remind you of the upcoming EdTechTeam Google for Education and iOS Summits being hosted by Parklands College and SchoolNet in October 2015. In this issue the closing date for the upcoming Microsoft Innovative Expert Educator competition is highlighted. If you are not sure whether you are a SchoolNet member please click on 'Sign up for SchoolNet membership' on our home page at: http://www.schoolnet.org.za/ and join today, so that you don't miss out on our many offerings for teachers.

In this issue:

Register for the upcoming EdTechTeam Summits featuring Google for Education in Cape Town and be in line to win a Chromebook

We invite you to join us for the South Africa EdTechTeam Summits featuring Google for Education. These high intensity one and two day events focus on deploying, integrating, and using Google Apps for Education, iOS and other digital learning tools to promote student learning in K-12 and higher education. The program features Google Certified Teachers, Google Apps for Education Certified Trainers, Apple Distinguished Educators

practicing administrators, solution providers, and representatives from the Google education teams. Register now to send teachers, administrators, tech directors, library media specialists, tech support staff, CTOs, and anyone who is interested in finding out more about leveraging Google Apps for Education and iOS to support student learning. Be one of the first 300 people to register for our upcoming South Africa events and be entered to win! Tickets are going fast so register today at za.gafesummit.com .

Apply to be a Microsoft Innovative

Educator Expert - applications close on 30 October 2015

Microsoft is looking for self-driven educators who are passionate about their careers and inspiring students with outside-the-box thinking. If you have a collaborative spirit, are resourceful and entrepreneurial, relish the role of being a change agent, and work to achieve excellence in education using advanced technologies and social media - then you may have what it takes to be a Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert (MIE).

MIE experts get to share their thoughts on the effective use of technology in education with peers and policy makers. They provide insight for Microsoft on new products and tools that will be used or developed for the education sector, and they get to exchange best practices with their fellow MIE experts. If you would like to find out more about the Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert programme, or to apply by 30 October 2015 visit this site: http://aka.ms /mie

Learning Gains through play project - DGMT Trustees visit Solomon Qatyana School

The DG Murray Trust have been very generous in their support of the Learning Gains through Play project being implemented in KZN and the Western Cape. One year into the project it was time for members of the Board of Trustees from DG Murray to visit one of the project schools in order to see for themselves how their funding was being used.   The visit was scheduled for August 20th and the selected school was Solomon Qatyana Primary situated in Asanda Village in Strand.   Solomon Qatyana is a school that comprises prefabricated classrooms and is often plagued by flooded playgrounds and freezing cold or boiling hot classrooms depending on the season. Mr Rodney Nissen from the Metro East District of the Western Cape

Department of Education and Tracey Butchart, the monitoring and evaluation expert for the project, from SchoolNet accompanied the seven trustees to the Grade R and Grade 1 classrooms at the appointed hour.

Read more about this successful visit on our website here.

Telkom Tomorrow Starts Today

Telkom continues its work through SchoolNet in 14 schools in Ceres, Cape Winelands area, in the Western Cape. Change Leadership training was facilitated in the Koue Bokkeveld circuit for all project schools on Saturday the 15th of August 2015. The trainer reported that 50 teachers were present at the training session. Teachers were split into groups and each group had to create a poster highlighting the positive, negative and interesting issues during the process of writing a new Vision Statement for each of the schools. The workshop also focused on the difference between Change Management and Change Leadership and this elicited dynamic discussions. Teachers also learned to use the jigsaw teaching pedagogy to investigate the activities given in a home group, listen and learn in an expert group and then finally give feedback to the home group. This technique is highly effective for peer teaching and learning.

Read the full report on our website here

Young women, ICT dialogue and the joint launch of the Gender & Children ICT Strategy
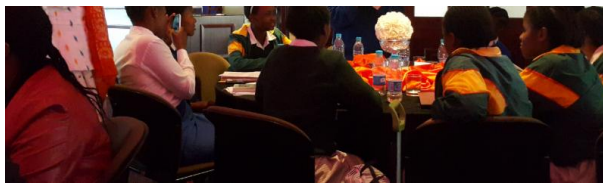
The Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services' (DTPS) Honourable Deputy Minister, Professor Hlengiwe Mkhize, opened the launch of the Gender & ICT and Children & ICT Strategy at Golden Horse Hotel in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu Natal on the 19th August 2015. The Deputy Minister indicated that the DTPS will not be able to implement this Strategy on its own and invited relevant organizations and government departments including parents to support and promote the strategy in all related platforms - the full speech available here:

http://bit.ly/1hF1xcn All or most of the strategies mentioned at the launch are addressed by the Intel 'She will connect' initiative which is coordinated by SchoolNet SA. The DTPS found the feedback useful and will continue the dialogue in the remaining provinces to gain the national perspective. It is projected that that implementation will begin next year.

Read the full report on the website here.

Capacity Building in the Seychelles

In August 2015 SchoolNet's Megan Rademeyer travelled to the Seychelles to conduct a three day capacity building session with curriculum developers at the Seychelles Ministry of Education on behalf of Microsoft. The training involved working with officials from the Centre for Curriculum Assessment and Teacher Support, the Schools Division and the Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education (SITE) to develop strategies for integrating technology into the curriculum and assessment policies. The workshop gave SchoolNet SA an opportunity to work with officials to assist them with

developing their curriculum and to model a range of instructional design strategies that the ministry officials and lecturers can use when they run workshops on ICT integration for teachers.

To read the full report on this training session, go here....

Google GEG Curriculum is endorsed by SACE

The Google GEG (Google Educator Group) curriculum comprises of 18 modules and teachers are able to work through modules that suit their immediate teaching and learning needs. GEG leaders conduct surveys in order to select the most appropriate modules for workshops. All modules have regular pre- and post assessments and completing these asssessments is a great practice for the Google Educator Level 1 exams which is taken after the last module. All teachers who successfully complete all assessments or achieve the Google Educator Level 1 Exams are eligible to earn the 15 continuing professional development points (CTPD) endorsed by SACE. Join our GEG community and stay in touch for news on the GEG programme as well as new Google developments in Education. For teachers who want to become GEG leaders in their communities and start volunteer GEG chapters please write to: omashani@schoolnet.org.za for assistance or more information.

Please read the latest GEG news report on the website here

10/08/15   Cape Town Workshops $199

ADMIN CONSOLE TECHNICAL RETREAT

Do you manage Google Apps for your school or district? Have you configured your Admin Console around the best practices? The default console does not come configured for a school environment so find out what settings you really should change by attending this technical session. In the session will provide a deep dive of the Admin Console, which will include tips on how to manage users, groups, services and Chromebooks with ease. As well as a look at the third party services which will make your life easier and protect and secure your domain.

GET AUTHORIZED BOOTCAMP

Google Educator Trainer (GET) Train the Trainer (T3) Bootcamp serves two purposes: to raise awareness about how Google tools can be used in education to; ignite inquiry, promote collaboration, and allow for authentic publishing and sharing, (with students and among colleagues), and to prepare participants to pass the Google Educator Test and submit their certification application. Become a Google Educator to be recognized for your mastery.

IOS SUMMIT

We invite you to join us for the first EdTechTeam Cape Town Summit featuring iOS for Education at Parklands College in Cape Town, South Africa on October 8, 2015. This summit is a premiere iPad EDU professional development event for educators.

Featuring the same high-energy, fast-paced, and fun style of other EdTechTeam events, this iOS Summit is rich with hands-on learning opportunities. The engaging one day experience includes a moving keynotes, world-class featured speakers, and a wide variety of breakout sessions... all focused on the authentic integration of iOS tools with effective pedagogy. Participants are inspired and empowered to take innovative new steps when they return to their schools and communities.

za.gafesummit.com/cape/#workshops   #gafesummit

Three options available at the EdTechTeam's Google Pre-Summit Workshops in October...

In October 2015 SchoolNet, Parklands College in Cape Town will be hosting the EdTechTeam Google Summit as well as three Pre-Summit workshops. Please see the image above for more details about the Pre-Summit Workshops and visit http://za.gafesummit.com to register.


Free State DoE Deploying Student Technical Support Solutions (Helpdesk) in 10 Clusters

Boaramelo SS, Lekhulong SS, Concordia SS and Sehunelo SS are four schools that attended the Microsoft Help Desk course facilitated by SchoolNet. The trainer's approach to the group was different to the way he usually conducted training and as a result teachers and learners paid better attention. This also created enthusiasm and a competition amongst the groups. Understanding the hardware is the chapter that most trainees enjoyed the most because the training was conducted in a classroom and participants were allowed interaction with most of the common hardware found in the school ICT centre. They were also shown some older technologies as well as some of the latest PC technology. Learners were also asked to perform the following activities at their respective schools. Compile the inventory of the computers in the computer lab, to draw up a rooster for the week and to design a ticket request for their schools. Examples were provided taken

from the internet. They were encouraged to look for PCs that are not working at school and to try and identify the problems. All the learners performed the tasks and the trainer checked the work done and most of schools had done a very good job. The teachers were very excited about the information provided as it empowered them to solve problems they were already experiencing at schools. Supporting security need on the computer was explained and learners realized how they have been spreading viruses unaware at schools and at home by using memory sticks and not having proper protection for the computers. The facilitator demonstrated the installation of the database and then asked the trainees to do the installation themselves. The installations went smoothly. On the last day of the workshop about 2 hours was spent discussing and compiling an implementation plan for the individual schools.

Read the full SchoolNet report on this training on our website here
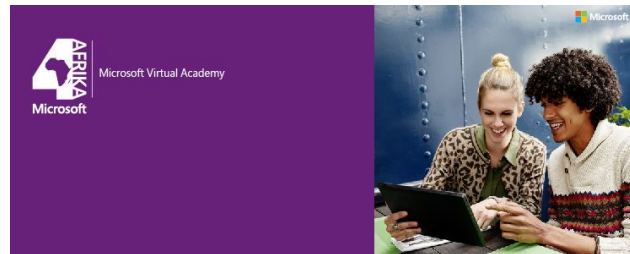
Look out for the Microsoft Virtual Academy Webinars

SchoolNet's Megan Rademeyer and Microsoft's Victor Ngobeni are presenting a monthly Microsoft Virtual Academy webinar on the various Microsoft Education tools and programmes along with suggestions and examples of how teachers can use these tools in their classrooms. Some sessions have been pre-recorded, but as from August 2015, the monthly webinars will be broadcast live. Look out the broadcast dates and time on the Microsoft in Education - South Africa and Lesotho Facebook page if you would like to watch the sessions as they happen. Whilst watching live will provide an opportunity to ask questions, you can also watch the recordings at times that suit you.

Below are the links to the sessions that have been recorded thus far:

- 21st Century Learning Design : https://www.microsoftvirtualacademy.com/en-US/training-courses/21st-century-learning-design-12456
- Office Mix and Skype in the Classroom: https://www.microsoftvirtualacademy.com/en-US/training-

courses/office-mix-and-skype-in-the-classroom-12481
- Tools for Educators in the classroom: https://www.microsoftvirtualacademy.com/en-US/training-courses/tools-for-educators-in-the-classroom-12482
- Microsoft Innovative Educators Programme: http://mva.zoom.ms/

## SchoolNet delegates attend 22nd iEARN Conference and Youth Summit 2015 in Brasilia

iEARN empowers teachers and young people to work together online using the Internet and other new communication technologies. Over 2,000,000 students each day engage in collaborative project work worldwide. iEARN provides a platform for teachers and learners to communicate, apply and share knowledge. The iEARN conference was held at ESAF School of Finance and Administration in Brasilia. A total of thirty-five countries were represented by the delegates who attended the conference. At the opening ceremony teachers were invited to share their testimonials about how iEARN has transformed their lives. Overall, they spoke of their experiences in acquiring technological skills with the courtesy of iEARN i.e. how to use videos and software in class, how they also learnt creativity with their learners, virtual communication and diversity. The next iEARN in 2016 will be held in Pune, India between the 3-8 July and the theme is Fostering Quality in Education.

Read the full report on our website here
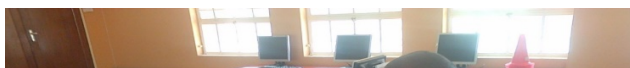
Professional Development of
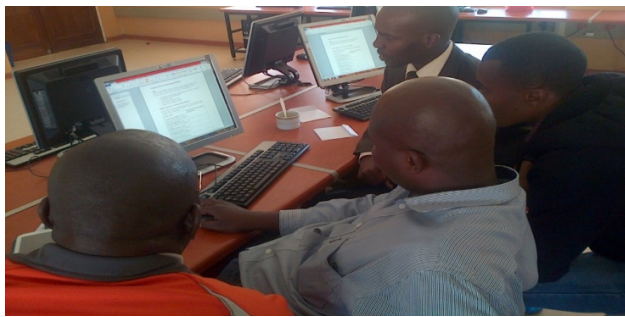
Teachers-Anglo Platinum Community Project

SchoolNet provided professional development to clusters of Maths and Science teachers from schools in the four projects districts. SACE-accredited Intel Teach Getting started and Intel Teach Elements courses were offered which targeted a range of digital literacy skills as part of the introductory ICT intergration programme. Electronic materials were prepared and distributed to different centres for the teachers to use during training. Two teachers from each of the 226 project schools were selected and invited to attend training. The training was conducted over a period of four days in each cluster and centres with connectivity were used as training venues.

To read the full report on this training session see our website here

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If you are not yet a SchoolNet member, please join us here to be kept in touch with our various offerings from time to time. W e hope you'll visit our blog and our Facebook page regularly. Please follow us on Twitter (@Schoolnetsa) .

Warm regards
The SchoolNet team