Welcome to our July 2015 newsletter. In this issue we give report backs on the many exciting projects SchoolNet is involved in. We also remind you of our upcoming Google summit along with the EdtechTeam and parlands college; in October 2015 plus we include information about some exciting opportunities for teachers. 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.

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The Google Summit at Parklands College is coming up soon - presented by the EdTechTeam!

We invite you to join us for the South Africa EdTechTeam Summit featuring Google for Education. This will be hosted by SchoolNet and Parklands College in Cape Town. P lease visit http://za.gafesummit.com/ to register. Book before August 9th to get the early bird rates.

Teachers Thrilled with our recent 2015 Learning Technologies Conference in Durban

Over 500 teachers from across South Africa gathered at St Mary's DSG in Kloof for the ICT

in the Classroom conference held between 1 and 3 July 2015. SchoolNet South Africa has been hosting this ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) conference for educators, provincial and national educational department officials, sponsors, as well as representatives from other development and training organizations, since the 1990s. The objective of the conference is to share ideas around best practice and teaching methods using technologies in and beyond the classroom.

Please read the full report on the Conference on our website here

Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert Applications - Now open!

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). Being an MIE has a number of benefits including:
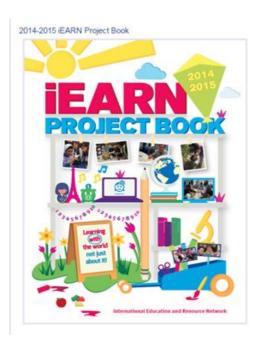
- Access to numerous FREE education resources, apps and tools
- An opportunity to connect with educators around the world via Microsoft's global EduCast Webinar series
- An opportunity to build educator capacity in your community
- Eligibility to attend the Microsoft Global Educator Exchange Event (E2) in March/April 2016

To complete your entry you will be required to tell us why you consider yourself to be a Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert and how you think being an MIE Expert will

enhance your teaching. You will also be asked to describe a lesson you have taught in which you have incorporated Microsoft technologies that enabled 21st Century skill development. You can either write your response or create and share a link to a 2 minute video, Office Mix, or a Sway, that creatively expresses what makes you a Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert.

Entries close on 30 October 2015. See the MIE Expert site for more information and a link to the application form. More information is available at the following link: http://www.educatornetwork.com/Sites/Educators/Expert

Do you have an interesting idea for collaboration? Are you seeking global participation? Submit your idea for the 2016 IEARN project book........

iEARN is a non-profit organization made up of over 30,000 schools and youth organizations in more than 140 countries. iEARN empowers teachers and young people to work together online using the Internet and other new communications technologies. Over 2,000,000 students each day are engaged in collaborative project work worldwide. There are over 150 projects in iEARN, all designed and facilitated by teachers and students to fit their curriculum and classroom needs and schedules. Projects take place in the iEARN Collaboration Centre. To join, participants select an online project and look at how they can integrate it into their classroom. Take a look at last year's project book. IEARN is seeking ideas or proposals from South African teachers for international teachers to collaborate on.

Read more on our blog here

Intel Sponsors Teacher Development in an ICT project with the Department of Telecommunication and Postal Services' and other partners in Harding, KZN

Mbusi High School was the school chosen to be part of the special project in which the Minister of Communication was launching the computer lab for Youth day. The 'Mbusi computer lab launch' launch took place on the 25th of June 2015 at the school in the Mbangweni area in KwaZulu Natal Province. As with any launch it is always crazy busy the week before the event. School Net, through Intel, was contracted to do professional development with the teachers in preparation for the launch with the Honorable Minister, S Cwele ,and the training was done by Mr. Ngcobo a SchoolNet trainer.

Read the full report on our website here

Commonwealth of Learning convenes meetings in the Caribbean and in Africa

The Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT integration or the CCTI has been developed by SchoolNet SA and funded by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) to improve teaching and learning in

the classroom using a range of information and communication technologies appropriately. The CCTI is designed as a distance education course. It is an open educational resource (OER) that COL is making available to teacher training institutions throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. It is aligned to the UNESCO Competence Framework. An integral component is the focus on school leadership in the ICT implementation process in a school.

While COL has been supporting institutions and countries to adopt the CCTI, it has continuously been updated in partnership with SchoolNet South Africa. COL now intends to scale up adoption of the CCTI through a new model for more institutions and countries though local partnerships with educational institutions and ministries of Education. Hence two partners' meetings were convened for both Africa and the Caribbean respectively, in Johannesburg at the end of May and in Trinidad at the end of June 2015. The specific objectives of these Partners' Meetings were to assist ministries and institutions in nine African and twelve Caribbean countries to understand the nature of the CCTI and to decide whether to adopt it.

Read the full report on the website here

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.

Learning Gains Through Play - Western Cape School Management Team Workshop

The D G Murray Trust has funded SchoolNet South Africa to provide professional development workshops to teachers with the purpose of effectively using the Xbox Kinect and Intel tablets to enhance learning. For the past year, teachers from 5 schools in Howick and 5 schools in Somerset West in the Western Cape have been learning to make exciting use of digital content and learning technologies in their Grade R and Grade 1 classrooms.   On the weekend of April 17 and 18th the Change Leadership programme for the Western Cape participated in the course on ICT Policy and Website uploading and support. The workshops were held at The Metro East District offices in Kuils River, Cape Town. The content for the Change Leadership course material prepares SMTs on how to manage technology in their school environments and to develop improved leadership and supportive management practices rather than a controlling management. It provides them with tools and machanisms which encourage control over a process in ways that minimize risks and problems. The sort of problems that bring about huge impact on ICT integration adoption within a school. These concepts are often alien to a number of principals and their SMTs in this project.

Read more on our website here

Overview of the Telkom Foundation Schools ICT project In Multigrade

Farm Schools

SchoolNet South Africa has been busy conducting professional development workshops on behalf of Telkom in the thirty six Telkom Foundation Schools in three provinces in the Eastern Cape, Free State and the Western Cape. SchoolNet's role in this project is to facilitate professional development for Principals and the Senior Management Team and spate learning pathway for teachers on ICT Integration. All stakeholders, including principals, e-learning and curriculum advisors, were invited to briefing meetings per province and SchoolNet representatives provided an overview of the project and discussed and agreed on roles and responsibilities of stakeholders during the professional development activities. 15 teachers attended the ICT in the Classroom conference 2015, in KwaZulu Natal from 01-03 July 2015. Facilitation in Change leadership has started in all provinces.

Please read the full report on the Conference on our website here

Anglo Platinum has a passionate commitment to the communities in the vicinities of its mines

Anglo Platinum has a passionate commitment to the communities in the vicinity of its mines. Recently SchoolNet SA was contracted by Anglo Platinum to provide professional development to teachers from 226 schools who had received ICT equipment as part of Anglo Platinum's social responsibility framework. The intention of this initiative is to uplift and

support specifically targeted communities in the North West (Bojanala District) and in Limpopo (Waterberg, Greater Sekhukhune and Capricorn Districts). SchoolNet provided professional development to clusters of Maths and Science teachers from schools in the four project districts and either Intel Teach Getting Started or Intel Teach Elements was offered depending on the needs and skills of teachers is the group as part of the introductory ICT integration programme.

Read the full report on our website here

Buffelshoek HelpDesk set up successfully

SchoolNet SA recently ran a Microsoft Partners in Learning HelpDesk course with 27 out-of-school youth from the villages surrounding the Buffleshoek Trust's nine partner schools. The training, led by Trainer Themba Mabaso, took place at the Acorns to Oaks Comprehensive High School in Acornhoek. The training included a beginners guide to computer hardware, supporting networked computers, installing an operating system and supporting hardware. As part of the course students were required to dismantle computers and reassemble them, which for many participants was the first opportunity to see the inside of a computer and all of its components. The participants responded so well to the training, that they now meet on weekends as a group to further their learnings. One student had this to say on the last day of training,"When I started here, I knew Word, Excel, and Powerpoint, but today I am a technician!"

According to Dr Alice Barlow-Zambodla who leads the Buffelshoek Trust ICT programme, nine of the Help Desk trainees will be placed in schools for the third term so that they can put into practice what they have learnt. The trainees will be referred to as

ICT Help Desk Monitors and will earn a small stipend as volunteers. They will serve to ensure that the computer centres remain functional at all times and will provide support for teachers and learners in using the ICT facilities at each school. The monitors will also serve as the first line of defence in terms of troubleshooting and will be linked to two local service providers who will be consulted and provide the extra technical support that may at times be required. This approach should contribute to the sustainability of the system in terms of both functionality and use. The Buffelshoek Trust is continually fundraising to keep the Help Desk monitors in the schools until the schools centres are functioning at full capacity and their positions are absorbed by the schools. The remaining trainees are setting up a small School ICT centre at the Utah Community

To read the full SchoolNet report on this training see here:

Announcing the winners of the 2015 AYV Awards! Will you participate in SchoolNet's next intake?

From all corners of the globe came powerful stories and images sharing youth perspectives on local issues. Adobe has announced the creative work chosen for First, Second, and Audience Awards in each category of the 2015 Adobe Youth Voices Awards. Congratulations to the youth artists who collaborated on the winning projects and to everyone who took part in creating media with purpose this year.

Read more on our blog here

Mpumalanga ready to run 2Enable training

SchoolNet South Africa has been busy conducting professional development workshops on behalf of Telkom in the thirty six Telkom Foundation Schools in three provinces in the Eastern Cape, Free State and the Western Cape. SchoolNet's role in this project is to facilitate professional development for Principals and the Senior Management Team and spate learning pathway for teachers on ICT Integration. All stakeholders, including principals, e-learning and curriculum advisors, were invited to briefing meetings per province and SchoolNet representatives provided an overview of the project and discussed and agreed on roles and responsibilities of stakeholders during the professional development activities. 15 teachers attended the ICT in the Classroom conference 2015, in KwaZulu Natal from 01-03 July 2015. Facilitation in Change leadership has started in all provinces

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

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