



Welcome to our May 2015 newsletter. In this issue we bring you news of the Microsoft Tools competition 'Use IT-Share IT-Like IT' which closes this Friday 29th May, as well as news of our upcoming SchoolNet Conference in July and Google summits in October 2015. We also share news about our Microsoft Innovative Expert teachers who recently attended the E2 Global Summit in Redmond as well as report backs on some of the various projects SchoolNet is involved in. 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:

- **Microsoft tools competition - closing date THIS FRIDAY 29th May**
- **Local talent recognized amongst peers around the world - media release about Microsoft's E2 Global Educator Exchange**
- **SchoolNet Conference in Durban in July - have you registered? It's not too late!**
- **What's happening at the Teacher Centres around the country?**
- **Intel She will Connect embarks on Wordpress training**
- **Telkom's Rally to Read project brings joy to many...**
- **Learning Gains through Play project - Gamification and Having Serious Fun**
- **Two Google Summits in South Africa presented by the EdTechTeam this year - save the dates!**
- **Don't forget to look out for the weekly, short SchoolNet webinars usually held on a Thursday at 3:15pm**
- **Keep in touch via our SchoolNet blog**



Microsoft tools competition - closing date extended to 1st June 2015

We would like to remind you about Microsoft and SchoolNet's exciting

competition for teachers who are using one or more of the Microsoft tools mentioned below as part of their teaching. The closing date has been extended to Monday 1 June

2015!

- Office 365 for Education <http://bit.ly/1cpEPSz>
- Windows 8 and apps for Education <http://bit.ly/1cpEPSz>
- OneNote <http://bit.ly/1cpFAv0>
- OfficeMix <https://mix.office.com/>
- Sway <https://sway.com>
- Skype in the Classroom <https://education.skype.com/>
- Microsoft Math <https://math.microsoft.com>
- Minecraft <https://minecraft.net/>

You could win a trip to the [SchoolNet SA ICT in the Classroom](#) conference in July or a Teaching with Technology Kick-Off session for your school by sharing your idea for using one or more of these Microsoft tool with other teachers and creating a short Facebook post about it. Read about the requirements of the competition [here](#) on our blog. Look out for the countdown on the [Microsoft in Education - South Africa and Lesotho Facebook page](#) in the next few days, and we invite you to also 'like' the page! Why not download a few of the new tools and try them out?



From left to right: Mabore Lekalakala educator at Toronto Primary School in Polokwane, Linda Foulkes educator from Elkanah House High School in Cape Town, Warren Sparrow educator at Rondebosch Boys' Preparatory School in Cape Town & Makhudu Moshaba educator from Ntshongweni

Local talent recognized amongst peers around the world - media release about Microsoft's E2 Global Educator Exchange

Four educators from South Africa joined 300 Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) Experts and Student

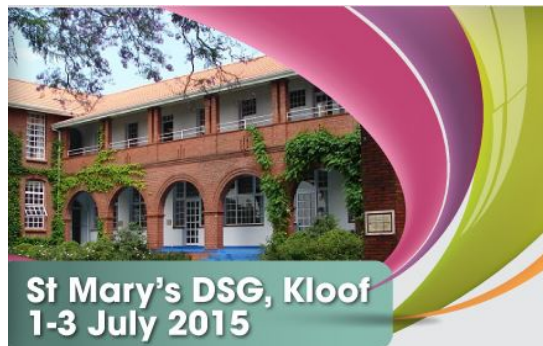
town & Mokhudu Machaba educator from Ngwanamago Primary in Polokwane.

Ambassadors from around the world at Microsoft's E² Global Educator

Exchange event. The event took place from April 29 to May 1 in Redmond, Washington (USA) at Microsoft's headquarter. The educators were selected from amongst the most innovative in the world to attend the event, collaborate, create and share experiences with their peers on how to integrate technology and education in ways that improve learning outcomes and equip students for the world of work.

Awarded Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert status in 2014, educators Mabore Lekalakala, Linda Foulkes, Warren Sparrow and Mokhudu Machaba were selected because of their ability to employ technology effectively within the classroom in order to help students develop all-important 21st century skills. These educators demonstrated excellence in creating and leading transformational learning environments.

Read more on our website [here](#).



SchoolNet Conference in Durban in July - have you registered? It's not too late!

We would like to invite you to register for our upcoming 2015 ICT in the Classroom Conference taking place in Durban in July 2015 if you haven't already done so. We have three first-class international speakers lined up -

Holly Clark, Stuart Ball and Shelley Stott - plus a host of local presenters. This is an event not to be missed.

Find out more on our Conference website [here](#)



What's happening at the Teacher Centres around the country?

In August 2015, 131 delegates from teacher centres around South Africa attended the Teacher Centre Managers workshop in Johannesburg with an intention of "Building Functional Teacher Centres and Competent Centre Managers to Support Quality Learning and Teaching". Over the past three

months, SchoolNet SA staff have visited twenty seven Teacher Centres across all nine provinces to see if the centre managers were putting into action what they had learnt and to see first-hand what both their challenges and successes have been. It has been heart-warming to see what some centre managers have achieved despite having little in the way of resources. Accolades also go to the Vodacom Foundation whose generous donation of IT equipment for a number of teacher centres has had a huge impact on the training and facilities that can be offered to teachers and community members in some communities. Whilst it would have been very difficult to visit every teacher centre, those that were visited have given us a good sense of what is happening generally in teacher centres across the country; what is working well; and what still needs to be improved upon.



Intel? She will Connect embarks on Wordpress training



Since March 2015 we have hosted website training on Wordpress with 21 workshops on the Intel? Easy Steps Digital literacy course which is part of the She will Connect global programme and

one master training for South African Women's organisations affiliated to UNWOMEN. These included South African Women in Mining (SAWIMA), Ukahlamba Livestock, South African Informal Traders Association (SAITA), and Hand in Hand. Women representatives were accommodated at the Indaba hotel and received training over four days. The initial programme was geared toward master training however the skill level of participants was low and hence the programme started with basic literacy. The majority of the 51 attendees, had not had prior ICT experience, they had low literacy levels and 6 of the women were Zulu speaking and had to work with their partners to understand the coursework.

Read the full report on our website [here](#)



Telkom's Rally to Read project brings joy to many...

SchoolNet SA, was invited by Telkom Foundation to participate in the Rally to Read project in 12 schools in Giyani, Limpopo Province. All invited guests were split into six teams and each team had two schools to visit

on Saturday 9 May 2015. The Rally to Read project is a partnership between Telkom Foundation, Bidvest, and a number of vehicle dealerships such as Mercedes, Toyota, and Nissan. This project in Collaboration with the Department of Basic Education selects schools that are in need of reading materials and support. The Rally to Read with Read foundation then works with teachers to help them teach learners how to read with understanding. Once these workshops are completed and progress is seen, then Telkom with its partners organise a Rally to Read event to deliver books, teaching aids, sports equipment, educational toys and other material to the learners and their

teachers.

Read the full report on our website [here](#)



Learning Gains through Play project - Gamification and Having Serious Fun

The Learning Gains Through Play project's ultimate outcome is that "learners are equipped with foundational skills and attitudes for future academic success". The targeted skills are visual literacy skills including emotional literacy, English oral communication skills, numeracy skills, gross-motor skills and fine-motor skills. The attitudes of motivation to learn, enjoyment of learning and confidence in learning are also sought but the focus throughout is on the


use of play. The purpose of sharing this learning brief is to outline the difference between the gamification design elements of the project as opposed to the focus of the project on learning through play and to explain how the two concepts have complemented each other in this Learning Gains through Play project which has equipped ten primary schools with the Xbox Kinect and 20 android tablets. This brief is intended to provide some insight into a renewed enthusiasm displayed by teachers as well as the way in which some teachers are starting to adapt their teaching strategies.

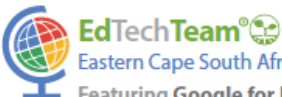
Read the full report on our website [here](#)

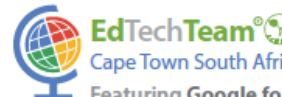
Two Google Summits in South Africa presented by the EdTechTeam this year - save the dates!


We invite you to join us for the South Africa EdTechTeam Summits featuring Google for Education. These will be hosted by SchoolNet, Parklands College (Cape Town) and Selbourne Senior Primary (East London). Please visit <http://za.gafesummit.com/> to register. We hope that you will attend one of the Summits and ask that you please spread the word to your colleagues.


[ZA.GAFESUMMIT.COM](http://za.gafesummit.com)



EdTechTeam®
SOUTH AFRICA TOUR
Google Apps • iOS in Education



EdTechTeam®
Eastern Cape South Africa Summit
Featuring Google for Education
October 2-3, 2015
Selborne Primary School, East London
za.gafesummit.com/2015


EdTechTeam®
Cape Town South Africa Summit
Featuring Google for Education
October 9-10, 2015
Parklands College, Cape Town
za.gafesummit.com/cape





iOS summits
powered by edtechteam
CAPE TOWN
za.iossummits.com
October 8
Workshops featuring Google for EDU
iOS One Day Summit
Parklands College, Cape Town


Rushton Hurley
Google Certified Teacher
School Innovation Specialists


Jennie Magleara
Google Certified Teacher
School Innovation Specialists


EdTechTeam®

#GAFESUMMIT #IOSSUMMIT

Webinars

Don't forget to look out for the weekly, short SchoolNet webinars usually held on a Thursday at 3:15pm

SchoolNet is pleased to host a short relevant webinar every week, usually on a Thursday afternoon at 3:15 pm. We like to encourage our local teachers and any educator that has something they would like to share with our teaching community to offer a presentation. These presentations and their recordings are placed on our blog after the live session under the label [Webinar recordings](#). Please contact us if you would like to present a short webinar. Our next two webinars will be:

1. Alan Goldberg from Digicape presenting on 'Use Adobe Slate to create gorgeous visual stories' on Thursda 28th May <http://goo.gl/0taqMe>
2. Phuti Ragaphala speaking on Microsoft Sway on June 4th

Please watch our [Facebook page](#) and our [blog](#) for further updates

Keep in touch via our SchoolNet blog



Our SchoolNet blog aims to keep you updated on ways of introducing technology into your classroom, as well as bring news of competitions and other professional development opportunities for teachers. During term time we aim to bring a relevant post regularly. Here are links to some of our recent March blog posts:

• Weekly posts showing links to informative Google posts online
_ Weekly posts showing links to useful Microsoft posts online

- SchoolNet free webinar on Thursday 28th May at 3:15pm Use Adobe Slate to create gorgeous visual stories by Alan Goldberg from Digicape
- GEG Meetup at Rondebosch High - plenty of sharing of ideas...
- Enter the Microsoft tools competition Use IT - Share IT - Like IT for South African Teachers. Closing date 29th May...
- Take education to new heights using Microsoft Sway by Kathryn Riva, a Microsoft MIEExpert from SA.
- Google is looking for SA teachers to help them test a new Google course... Interested? (There is a reward!)
- Try installing the extension 'The Great Suspender' to free up system resources when using Google Chrome...
- PowerPoint is alive and well! 25+ ideas for using PowerPoint creatively in the classroom...
- Microsoft Break into Code Challenge! Learn to code! Win cash prizes! Closing date 7 June
- EdTechTeam iOS and Google Summit South African Tour... This will be good! Reduced pricing!
- Don't miss hearing Chris Emdin at the Inspired Teachers Conference in August
- Links to photos and events at the Microsoft E2 Global Educator Exchange via Angela Schaerer
- All the recordings from the Google Education on Air Online conference on May 8 and 9, 2015
- Webinar recording and downloadable presentations from SchoolNet's free webinar on Thursday 7th May at 3:15pm Microsoft Teacher Exchange report back by four of our #MIEExpert15 teachers who recently returned from Redmond, Washington
- 10 steps to getting started with Google Classroom - try using this great application!
- The benefits of downloading and using the free Microsoft Math with your Grade 8-10 Mathematics students
- Online places to find royalty free books or Creative Commons licensed books for

[children to read](#)

Follow our blog [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. We hope you'll visit our [blog](#) and our [Facebook](#) page regularly. Please follow us on [Twitter](#) ([@Schoolnetsa](#)) .

Warm regards
The SchoolNet team
