



# Annual Report to AGM

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3 November 2016 - Executive Director

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## 1. Overview

In 2016, SchoolNet South Africa conducted considerably fewer projects than in recent years. The year was characterised therefore by increased activity devoted to proposal writing and applying for funding. This was new territory for a company that had always been able to rely on work that materialised via word of mouth and an extensive network of previous clients.

Fortunately many projects continued with long term partners such as Microsoft, Intel and the Commonwealth of Learning. Projects with the Telkom Foundation were extended and enlarged and the D G Murray Trust project moved into its final year.

It was anticipated that Operation Phakisa would result in increased activity for SchoolNet but to date this initiative has only emerged in selected provinces and so far no OP-related initiatives have been implemented in any province. However, a clear directive to provinces that comes straight from Operation Phakisa is the new emphasis on the integration of learning technologies across the curriculum which accompanies a most welcome move away from ineffective computer literacy training for teachers.

## 2. Project highlights in 2016

### 2.1 Learning Gains through Play – Third year

The DG Murray Trust has funded SchoolNet to provide professional development to teachers around the effective use of the Xbox Kinect and a bank of Intel tablets. The evaluation of this *Learning Gains through Play* (LGP) project focuses on the development and practice of foundational literacies in Grades R and 1 through the innovative use of technology-enabled, learner-centred play in the classroom. As English is the language medium for almost all of the apps and games, one of the components of the research is to measure any acquisition of English oral language that develops as a result of interacting with these apps and games. Control schools received no technology and no teacher professional development.

Research conducted over the past three years has tracked the development of two cohorts of Foundation Phase learners who have experienced a technology-enabled, play-infused learning environment from Grade R. Five foundational literacies have been assessed each year, with the acquisition of oral English skills showing the most impact. Using Krashen's Second Language Acquisition (SLA) stages of development, the current findings for mid-2016 indicate that for both cohorts the project learners far outperformed the control learners. The data provides clear evidence that the effective use of learning technologies in Foundation Phase classrooms has lifted the language levels of learners to become functional in the LOLT before they enter Grade 4.

The findings for year 2 in the other literacies have not been as encouraging as for language. Although there were gains, none were as significant as they had been in those literacies during

the first year of the project. Emotional literacy was particularly disappointing among all learners despite a strong focus on apps that promote emotional literacy.

[Project reports](#) in 2016 highlighted the following factors as being instrumental in teacher uptake of technology: the attitude of teachers, their personal confidence with the technology, the effect of the Change Leadership course to engender the support of senior managers, access to technology, teachers' pedagogical beliefs, exposure to new teaching strategies, peer support and the inclusion of teachers themselves in analysing the research findings. Now that Senior Management Teams have completed the Change Leadership training, most are starting to appreciate the opportunities afforded by technology to improve administration and to shift pedagogical practice. The majority of project teachers have now attained a high level of proficiency in their use of technology and are realising the value of play. They are starting to report that their learning environments are transforming through the use of technology and increasing opportunities for play. Teachers have reacted positively to the research data and are starting to use the findings to identify opportunities for remediation and extension. Once all of the year three data for learner performance has been analysed, we will be able to report decisively about the impact of the two technologies on the factors that affect the acquisition of foundational literacies. A range of presentations from both principals and teachers in the Learning Gains project at graduation ceremonies as well as at the RASA conference in September and October 2016 can be viewed on the SchoolNet South Africa YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/user/SchoolNetSA/videos>

This project will finish at the end of March 2017. However, the DG Murray Trust have indicated that they would like to extend the research to follow the current Grade 1 learners into Grade 2 in 2017. This extension will not be accompanied by any further provision of hardware or professional development. The DGMT have also asked SchoolNet to consider how we might shift our 'knowledge sharing and influence' strategy to directly approach provincial government departments, with concrete suggestions about how the project learnings and resources might enable and support their broader technology rollouts.

## 2.2 Microsoft Partners in Learning

### *Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert – Support and Training*

As in previous years, SchoolNet SA assisted Microsoft in recruiting teachers into the Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert programme; running webinars and face-to-face workshops for these teachers; and providing some online support to teachers who are part of the program.

In addition to going through the applications to determine who will be selected as an MIE Expert, SchoolNet assisted in selecting teachers to represent South Africa at the E2 Exchange Event which took place in Budapest, Hungary in March 2016. Keshma Patel from Micklefield School, Western Cape; Moses Sello Sehoole from Mankuroane Technical and Commercial High, North West Province; and Tracy Heath from Brescia House School, Gauteng, were selected to attend this conference surrounded by some of the most creative and innovative educators from around the world and each shared their experiences in guest blogposts upon their return.



On 8 and 9 June 2016, Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts (MIE Experts) from across South Africa and Lesotho attended a local Hack the Classroom Forum at Microsoft in Gauteng. The aim of the Forum was to bring together the most active MIE Experts to learn from one another's best practices and get up to speed on the latest Microsoft educational tools. MIE Experts particularly enjoyed networking with other teachers who are using technology in creative and engaging ways in their classrooms. A highlight of the Forum was a group work task which involved MIE Experts working together to develop an idea for a project that would hack a common problem shared by the team. Some of the MIE Experts who attended the Forum shared their ideas for using technology in the classroom during the TeachMeet. A range of clever project ideas and uses of tools were presented and Mokhudu Machaba's TeachMeet idea on "Using Apps to Create Content" was voted as being the best of the session. Phuti Ragophala was recognised for being active on social media and using this tool to share ideas for using technology with teachers in her network. After learning how to use the Office Mix add-in for PowerPoint, MIE Experts were challenged to create an Office Mix to teach others about a randomly assigned topic.



In September 2016 the new cohort of Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts was announced. Added to MIE Experts from the previous year who chose to remain part of the programme, there are now 130 MIE-Experts in total. In order to stay in touch with this large group a monthly newsletter is distributed, webinars for the group take place approximately once a

month and a series of regional Get Together sessions are planned for Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal in November and December 2016.

### **Microsoft Social Media**

Microsoft has been producing content for [Microsoft South Africa's Facebook page](#) and @MicrosoftEduSA Twitter handle for the past two years and continues to do so. During this time, the Twitter handle has attracted 1 140 followers and the Facebook page has received 7 178 likes. SchoolNet SA is also commissioned to produce a weekly Microsoft focused post on the [SchoolNet SA blog](#) which provides SchoolNet SA members with useful content about uses of Microsoft tools for education and which offsets some of the costs of producing content for this blog.

Part of the Microsoft Social Media offering includes producing case studies on teachers who are using Microsoft products in education. To date 17 of these case studies have been finalised and are housed on the SchoolNet SA [case studies page](#) of the website. In the current financial year, SchoolNet SA has been commissioned to develop a further 20 of these testimonials. This has been a particularly rewarding project as it has enabled us to capture the stories of teachers who are making sound use of technology in the classroom. Whilst we are contracted by Microsoft to produce these case studies, often the teacher who is featured is someone from our network or someone who has been a beneficiary of a previous SchoolNet SA intervention. Whilst the case studies do not provide quantitative feedback they are outstanding qualitative examples of teachers who have benefitted from the use of technology within education.

## Case Studies

### **Adil Mungalee – Using One Note**



Adil Mungalee is the Deputy Principal of Dr Yusuf Dadoo Primary School in Roodepoort and the 2015 winner of the Gauteng Teachers Awards for the ICT Enhanced Teaching and Learning category. Adil has made extensive use of OneNote to set up a paperless filing system for himself and his colleagues which has been widely shared with other schools in his district.

[Read more](#)

In the previous Microsoft Financial year, SchoolNet's Megan Rademeyer and Microsoft's Victor Ngobeni hosted a series of webinars that aimed to show how a range of Microsoft tools could be used in the classroom. Many of these webinars featured teachers who had successfully used the tool under discussion in their classrooms. For example, the session on 'Collaboration with OneNote Class Notebook' featured Rhoda Larangeira, a Geography teacher from St Andrews in Johannesburg and 'Minecraft in the Classroom' featured Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert Keshma Patel from Micklefield Primary School in Cape Town.

These webinars have been so popular that they are apparently the most downloaded webinars in the entire Microsoft Virtual Academy offering. And whilst they were originally intended for the Microsoft Middle East and Africa market, teachers from around the world have been accessing them. Microsoft has now commissioned SchoolNet SA to continue to produce these in their new financial year.



### ***Rwanda Materials Development and Master Training***

SchoolNet SA was commissioned by Microsoft South Africa to develop a teacher professional development plan for Rwanda and to run a series of master training sessions to build local capacity. On 9 March 2016 Megan Rademeyer met with delegates from Microsoft, the Rwandan Ministry of Education and the Rwanda Education board to discuss and agree on the Teacher Professional Development Plan, process and content in Kigali. The workshop also aimed to address key issues such as ICT skills and technology integration in teaching and learning, learning management systems and how to leverage them in a phased deployment.

Between 30 May and 2 June 2016 Megan Rademeyer facilitated a master training session for twenty-three Rwandan trainers and ministry officials on “ICT Integration in Teaching and Learning”. The intention of this training session was to build on pre-existing skills and knowledge; to expose trainers to Microsoft tools and courseware which they can also share with teachers; and to provide examples of a range of methodologies which can also be deployed when training teachers. In addition to helping teachers to integrate technology into teaching and learning, it is hoped that trainers who attended this session are now better positioned to help teachers prepare for the Microsoft Office Specialist exam and the Office 365 deployment.



### ***Microsoft funded USO Training***

In accordance with the Universal Services Obligation, schools throughout South Africa have been equipped with tablets, data projectors, interactive whiteboards and Wi-Fi connectivity. In order to help teachers at schools that have received this equipment make better use of it to enhance teaching and learning, Microsoft commissioned SchoolNet to provide master training for officials in three provinces and then supported a number of sessions for over nine hundred teachers in the Western Cape, North West and the Eastern Cape.

Megan Rademeyer conducted master training for the Western Cape Department of Education trainers in February 2016, and between April and June 2016 training was rolled out to 603 teachers in all eight districts. On 2 June 2016, Microsoft's Victor Ngobeni provided master training for officials from the North West Department of Education on how the USO tablets can be used to access online Microsoft tools, the Microsoft Educator Community and a range of online courses including 'Teaching with Technology'. After the master training, 186 North West teachers from 12 schools were trained during the first week of the June school holidays. Between 13 June and 15 June 2016, SchoolNet's Megan Rademeyer ran a master training session for 35 Eastern Cape Department eLearning officials in Cinstta. In addition to learning more about online Microsoft tools, the officials were trained on the Intel 'Tablets in the Classroom' course and the technical solution that their schools had received. Following the master training session, 122 teachers were trained in sessions conducted for teachers from five Eastern Cape districts.



### ***Microsoft Schools Program***

SchoolNet SA was commissioned by Microsoft to assist with recruiting schools into the Microsoft Schools program and then working with these schools to provide online and face-to-face workshops. To date approximately 60 schools have been recruited into the program and they will now be receiving regular newsletters and webinars. A series of three face-to-face get-togethers for representatives from the Microsoft Schools are being planned for Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal for November and December 2016. The aim of these initial workshops will be to assist schools to make better use of Office 365 for administration and collaboration between staff and learners. In the New Year, additional workshops will be planned for these schools focusing on school transformation.

As part of this project, Hoerskool Linden in Johannesburg was selected as a Microsoft Showcase School and staff from this school are receiving a series of workshops to help them to make better use of Office 365. The kick-off workshop took place on 27 October 2016 and was well-received by the full staff who were in attendance.

### ***Microsoft Proof of Concept Projects***

In addition to assisting a number of schools through the Microsoft Schools project, SchoolNet SA has been commissioned to provide training, classroom mentorship and support and to write case studies on interventions at two schools where proof of concept projects are underway. The first of these schools is Meyerspark Primary in Pretoria, which was selected by the Department of Basic Education to pilot the deployment of Office 365 in a public primary school. The second school is Foundershill College in Modderfontein, Gauteng, which is a brand new Advtech School which is also trialling Office 365 with a view to possibly expanding this to other schools in the Advtech group.



To date, Meyerspark Primary has received its kick off training session – conducted by Omashani Naidoo on 22 October 2016 – and will receive subsequent training before the end of 2016. Megan Rademeyer will be conducting the initial training session for Foundershill on 7 November 2016 to be followed by additional training at the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017.

### ***Western Cape School Improvement Project***

Forty-two schools in the Western Cape recently each received 100 Microsoft devices each for use in junior primary classrooms. As part of this project, SchoolNet SA was commissioned to provide training, coaching and support to the staff members who will be using the devices to help ensure that the technology is actively used to enhance teaching and learning.

This project kicked off with SchoolNet’s Omashani Naidoo running two workshops for the district Foundation Phase Coordinators on the 29th and 30th August 2016. The two-hour workshops were scheduled to provide coordinators a chance to "play" with the tablets that have been rolled out to schools in their districts and to become familiar with the apps that are available on the devices and how these can be integrated into lessons.

The second component of the project was running nine clustered district training sessions for teachers from the junior primary phase at schools that have received the tablets. Each cluster had one day of training which took place on either Saturday 3rd or 10th October 2016. At these workshops, SchoolNet facilitated an adaptation of the SACE endorsed Intel Tablets in the Classroom course which focussed on Tablet Fundamentals; Educational Applications; Tablet Integration and Effective Classroom Management Strategies. The third component of the project involved a SchoolNet SA facilitator visiting each school to provide one day of coaching and support to teachers.



The final component of this project was a Showcase Day which took place on Saturday 29 December 2016, facilitated by Megan Rademeyer and attended by almost 100 teachers representing all 42 schools. This event gave teachers an opportunity to present how they are using the devices in the classroom, to learn more about the Talking Stories App which was pre-loaded on the devices, and to learn more about the tablet features and preloaded programs which they could integrate into their classrooms.

## **2.3 Intel Teach**

## Intel-Funded Projects

### *Master Training for the Intel Learn Tablets in the Classroom Course (February 2016)*



Intel's South African partners were invited to a master training on the Intel Learn Tablets in the classroom course. Omashani Naidoo, co-presented the master training with Shelley Shott, Intel's Global Professional Development Manager. SchoolNet's Megan Rademeyer was also in attendance successfully qualified as a trainer.

### *Intel Case Study- Comparison of Tablet Devices for use in Education (March 2016)*

Intel contracted SchoolNet to complete a comparative study of two devices that were being supplied as part of the ICASA Universal Service Obligation rollouts. The case study required that SchoolNet visit two schools in the Western Cape where the devices were deployed and SchoolNet's Ms Janet Thomson undertook the task of gathering information and writing the case study.

### *Intel POC at Kgaphamadi High School (May 2016- ongoing)*



Intel with the Department of Basic Education is working on a proof of concept with Kgaphamadi High school being provided with learning technologies which includes a mobile trolley of 20 Intel 2-in 1 devices, one high spec teacher laptop, sponsored connectivity from MTN, a content access point for offline curriculum aligned DBE content and training provided by SchoolNet. This project kicked off with Intel's team of volunteers from around the world who provided workshops for teachers and learners in a

week-long programme. SchoolNet was then required to work with the school through the DBE to arrange further training. Our hopes for inclusion of our Change Leadership for Technology Integration course were not fruitful with the DBE unable to confirm training dates, and a new principal being appointed at the school. Omashani eventually hijacked Intel's technical training to provide some initial training to teachers in September and thereafter has completed classroom visits to provide teachers with practical tips for including learning technologies in classroom activities. SchoolNet will continue our efforts to provide training once the exam and marking fever has dissipated. Intel staff in the picture - From left, Annie Gladding (US), Susanna Ackerman (SA), Christina (US), Ryan Macquet (SA), Morgan (US) ; front and centre, Ku (US) and not in photo -Brandon (China), Ryan P (US) and Enrique (Spain)

### *Intel Visionaries Programme (June 2016)*

As part of her appointment as an Intel Visionary, Omashani was sponsored travel and accommodation to an annual event hosted by Intel USA. This year's Intel event coincided with the national ISTE conference in Denver, Colorado and all Intel Visionaries were afforded an opportunity to attend. This year's event provided professional development in Scratch, Minecraft, and Makerspaces which helped guide activities at SchoolNet where Intel SA is working with Omashani to convene a Maker Spaces movement in South Africa. This will be launched in November 2016.

#### ***Intel Launches new Leading Sustainable Change Course (September 2016)***

SchoolNet was flattered when Intel adapted SchoolNet's Change Leadership for Technology Integration course to launch its two-day programme on Leading Sustainable Change for Senior School Managers. This course was facilitated by Shelley Shott and Annie Gladding for 160 principals in Tshwane West, Gauteng.

<http://www.schoolnet.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2016.-September-Newsletter-Intel-LeadershipCourse.pdf>

#### ***Intel's Review of She will Connect Digital Journey Launch (September 2016)***

Intel invited its two main partners, namely, SchoolNet and Siyafunda CTC to review the launch of the *She Will Connect* Digital Journey App. SchoolNet was represented by Omashani and Mathapelo Sehume who provided information about our *She will Connect* activities and feedback on the proposed Digital Journey App for participants in the programme. The aim of this app is to provide Women and girls with a sustained programme to practice their ICT competence and ensure that they connect to the rest of Africa through their experiences.

#### ***Intel's Master Training for USO rollout (2016)***

SchoolNet was contracted to provide master training workshops in four provinces in



collaboration with the Department of Basic Education. Three of the four workshops were facilitated by Omashani and have been completed in Mpumalanga, Free State, and Gauteng. The last workshop in Limpopo is yet to be organised. This training provides district officials with master training on the Intel Tablets in the Classroom course. This model is to build capacity in district officials to offer SACE-endorsed programmes to schools that receive learning technologies.

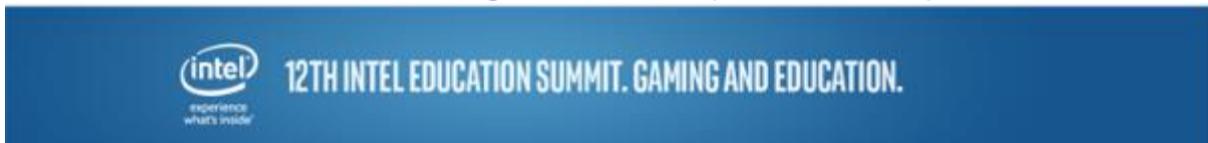
#### ***Intel Case Study on Inclusive Education (September 2016)***



Intel commissioned SchoolNet to complete a case study at the Durban School for the Hearing Impaired. SchoolNet completed the case study to showcase how “ordinary technology” could be applied in a specialised environment to determine whether mainstream technologies could make a positive difference to learning when schools are unable to afford specialised assistive technologies. By far the most widely-used affordance of the learner device was the use of the camera and mainly for video. Teachers explained, "Not only can we video learners using sign language, but our learners can video themselves or each other and can then critique each other on their respective

signing skills and practice points for improvement."

### *12th Intel Education Summit. Gaming and Education (December 2015)*



Janet Thomson attended the last ever Intel Education Summit that was held in London at the end of 2015. The Summit was a prestigious affair; the venues were the London City Hall, Canary Wharf, The Great Hall at One Great George Street and the accommodation was at the Hilton Tower Bridge - all very much in the heart of the city of London.



*Danny Arati at the London City Hall, opening the conference and introducing Roz Hudnell*

The Vice President, Corporate Affairs of Intel, Roz Hudnell opened the event and made mention of the Maker Movement as well as the future of learning being play-based. Roz announced the ‘Next Big Thing in Professional Development’, the new Intel ICT online platform for teacher professional development. She referred to it as the Intel Learning Studio; this has been developed for Intel by Arizona State University.

The workshops and presentations sessions were scheduled with extended gaps for networking and after each themed set of presentations or workshops there was a panel discussion with questions from delegates. Apart from Gaming in Education, there were presentations that included ideas around future education scenarios. Andreas Schleicher from the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) delivered a most professional presentation entitled Gaming in Education but also covered future classrooms, future society, changing demands for skills, the race between technology and education, robotics, augmented reality and findings of the OECD 2015 *Education for All* report

#### *Intel Panel Discussion at EduWeek 2016 (June 2016)*

As a follow up to the Intel Summit in London and because of our Learning Gains through Play project, SchoolNet was requested to participate in a panel discussion and presentation on Gaming in Education at the Annual EduWeek conference. The objective of this Intel presentation was to unpack as many diverse aspects of Gaming in Education in the short window that a panel discussion would allow. The panel therefore included gaming experts from varied fields; [Koos de Beer](#), Junior Lecturer, University of Pretoria, Andreas Cent Hadjipaschali, Director & CEO, [Bravado Gaming \(PTY\) LTD](#), South Africa, Janet Thomson, Executive Director, [SchoolNet South Africa](#), and Hitendra Hits Naik from Intel Corporation, South Africa. Our presentation touched on the use of Minecraft Education Edition with B.Sc. students at UP, e-sports as seen on DSTV Super Sport as well as Intel's *She Will Connect* and *My Digital Journey* app.



A press roundtable discussion followed the panel presentation and a number of news reports were published. The panel discussion raised a good deal of interest around the role of gaming in education and delegates were asking how soon it would be before gaming became part of everyday activity in classrooms in South Africa.



At the Gala dinner, there was a ceremony which included a range of educational awards. The Lifetime Achievement Award was won by Phuti Ragophala, Principal of Pula Madibogo Primary in Limpopo. Phuti thanked SchoolNet South Africa, Coza Cares and Microsoft for all the support she had received during her digital journey.

## SchoolNet-driven Intel-initiated projects

### *Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (January 2016)*

The Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS) launched its Gender and ICT Strategy in August 2015. One of the drivers for change was its offering of Digital Literacy programmes to women and girls to afford them opportunities to leverage the use of ICT skills to seek gainful employment and formulate entrepreneurship thinking in their approach to employment. The DTPS sponsored three Intel She will Connect (Easy Steps) workshops for women living in or in surrounding areas within Central Johannesburg, Bronkhorstspuit and Sunnyside (Tshwane). The central JHB workshop was held at SciBono Discovery Centre, and the participants were selected by the DTPS from the Johannesburg Municipality database. The Sunnyside workshop was held at the Department of Basic Education- Vodacom centre in Sunnyside and participants hailed from the nearby TVET College and the last workshop was facilitated by Omashani at the Nan Hua Buddhist Academy with participants from the Mali Martins Polokegong Centre for abused women and children.



For more info <http://www.schoolnet.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2016.01.31.DTPS-Report-MaliMartins-final.pdf>

### *Department of Correctional Services (April 2016)*

SchoolNet was approached to follow up on training that was conducted in 2012 at various Correctional Services facilities. There is a high turnover of staff at the Correctional Services facilities and it was therefore important for master training to be conducted in order for the DCS School Managers to be trained on the SchoolNet courses so that the teachers stay on par with main stream professional development. SchoolNet was also requested to purchase Intel classroom management software licenses to enable increased security at the DCS facilities. This was problematic as the licenses were not available on time which placed pressure on the Master trainer, Ms Hlengiwe Mfeka. Despite the software issues, Hlengiwe successfully completed two courses in the week-long training and this included Intel's Getting Started training and Microsoft's One Step Further.

### *Professional Development for Curriculum Advisors in Worcester, Western Cape (May 2016)*



Omashani was invited by the Worcester District Director Mr Juan Benjamin to facilitate a two day workshop for 50 e-learning and curriculum specialists. This workshop focussed on Change Leadership for Technology Integration in order to increase participants understanding of the process of change, how to incorporate different learning strategies in the classroom and how to use Google tools for collaboration, communication and creativity. This served as part of the handover to district officials who are required to support technology adoption at schools in the Ceres area from the end of the Telkom Foundation Schools Connectivity project. This project was where SchoolNet had provided a sustained training programme for a year. <http://www.schoolnet.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2016.05.26.WCED-Newsletter.pdf>

## **2.4 Telkom Foundation**

### *Telkom Foundation 36 schools (March 2015-March 2016)*

SchoolNet was appointed to conduct professional development workshops 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 through this project Telkom sought to help learners gain a more global perspective to live and be aware of opportunities that are available to all - irrespective of their circumstance. This project started in 2015 and ended in March 2016. Read the summary report here <http://www.schoolnet.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2016.SummaryReport-TelkomFoundation-36-schools.pdf>



### *Telkom Foundation 43 schools (April 2016- March 2017)*



This is a subsequent Telkom Foundation project, further extending the project that had been conducted in 36 schools. SchoolNet is supporting teacher professional development in 40 schools split across Eshowe (KZN), Bloemfontein (FS), Ehlanzeni (MP) and Douglas (NC) and an additional three idols winners' schools in KZN, GP and NC. SchoolNet is following the same

model used in the 36 schools project with more school or classroom visits to ensure change in teacher practice as a consequence of training. Omashani continues to facilitate the Change Leadership for Technology Integration at the idols schools in Gauteng and Hlengiwe Mfeka is facilitating ICT skills and Change Leadership in the KwaZulu Natal schools.

<http://www.schoolnet.org.za/wp-content/uploads/July-2016-Newsletter-Telkom-final.pdf>

## **2.5 The Commonwealth of Learning**

Uganda is currently studying their seventh module, of nine, in the CCTI. However, the ministry has requested that the last two modules be conducted face to face with follow-up online support. This was due to take place in October but COL is waiting for the Ministry to inform them of the logistic arrangements.



Here is a link to a recent video of one of the most active Ugandan teachers, Julius Mukama, who made such an impression in the very first module, due to his diligence and commitment to the study of the CCTI.

<https://youtu.be/HMG5FodvajM>

Another face to face workshop request has come from COL for the development of post graduate programmes in East Africa. So, just as we did last year with Kenyatta University, we will

be exploring instruction design and digital approaches within their courses and introduction to the CCTI.

Since the two consultative meetings in Africa and the Caribbean last year we would have expected more universities or ministries to request assistance with the CCTI from SchoolNet. The more common outcome has actually been for universities to request COL for free use of the CCTI materials and for SchoolNet to provide access to the full course for individual lecturers in teams of materials development at specific universities.

### 3. Advocacy

#### *SNSA online presence*

SchoolNet continues to contract Fiona Beal to maintain the SchoolNet virtual presence via [Twitter](#), [SchoolNet's Facebook page](#), the [newsletter](#), the [website](#), YouTube [channel](#), [Diigo](#) bookmarking site and [daily blog](#) with over 10 posts per month. Fiona also compiles a monthly SchoolNet SA newsletter which is sent out to over 500 SchoolNet SA members. An excellent record of SchoolNet activities is available on our website simply by browsing the newsletters or the blog archives. It is also helpful for writing annual reports.

#### *National Teachers Awards (February 2016)*

Since the inception of the ICT Enhanced Education category of the National Teachers Awards, Megan Rademeyer has represented SchoolNet SA on the adjudication panel as the specialist adjudicator for this category. This year, SchoolNet Operations Manager Omashani Naidoo and the Chairman of the SchoolNet SA board Mashala Kwape represented SchoolNet at the National Teachers Awards event, where SchoolNet sponsored the winners of Excellence in Technology-enhanced Teaching and Learning category, on the Board's recommendation.



#### *Mpumalanga Microsoft Educator Community Networking Session (March 2016)*

An impressive 160 teachers attended a Microsoft Educator Community Networking Session held on 22-23 March 2016 at the Vodacom supported ICT Resource Centre in Emalahleni. Mpumalanga teachers in the area were asked to attend a session on one of the days of their school holidays to learn more about new trends in education for using technology in the classroom. The sessions were organised by [Nomusa Keninda](#), eLearning Specialist for Mpumalanga Department of Education and Megan Rademeyer from SchoolNet took teachers on a step by step tour of the [Microsoft Educator Community](#), focusing on the newly released [Teaching with Technology](#) online course. Teachers in attendance were also encouraged to sign up to be [SchoolNet SA members](#).



### *IT News Africa Innovation Summit (April 2016)*



IT News Africa hosted the 2016 Education Innovation Summit at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Sandton, Johannesburg. The interactive roundtable discussion format provided opportunities for panellists to agree and disagree with speakers and this allowed for a highly encouraging debate about Technology in education and what was important in the short term. Omashani represented SchoolNet on the panel discussion on the MOOC Model- Challenging Traditional Education Models.

### *CuriosilTy – Grade 11 girls networking evening (May 2016)*

Traditionally girls don't choose IT as a career path, nor do they take IT as a subject. As part of the Microsoft Showcase Schools program, Brescia House School Microsoft Student Ambassadors Teaghan Lucas, Nikita Lledo, Munashe Mujaji and Kristina Heynes, were tasked to run a project to promote IT. On 25 May 2016 the Brescia Microsoft Student Ambassadors hosted a networking dinner for grade 11 girls who are taking either IT or CAT as subjects. The girls were seated with women from the IT industry so that they could find out more about professions that use technology. In addition to networking, the audience enjoyed a talk by Lori Milner on building a personal brand and a presentation on Girls Who Code.

Omashani Naidoo and Megan Rademeyer attended the dinner and had the delight of chatting to girls from a range of different schools across Gauteng and beyond. It was heart-warming to meet intelligent, thoughtful young women who are excited about using technology and to hear about their career aspirations and study plans.



### *NTA Winners attend Google Summit (September 2016)*

The prize offered by SchoolNet SA included attendance at an Education conference as well as training for staff at the winners' schools. All winners chose to attend the EdTech Team's Google Apps for Education Summit held at Dainfern College on 2 and 3 September 2016 and SchoolNet made their transport and accommodation arrangements.

Gafieza Ismail, the winner of this category from Spine Roach High School in Mitchells Plain, Western Cape thoroughly enjoyed the conference. She wrote "Thanking you once again for the wonderful and educable experience I had at the Edtech Summit. It was enlightening but more importantly it enlivened once more the indelible impression we can make as educators. It allowed for discursive and productive communication amongst professionals, empowering our potential and capabilities as educators."

Roshan Behareelall of ML Sultan Primary School in Ladysmith, KwaZulu-Natal, who placed second, said that he "had wonderful learning experience at the Google summit. It has assisted me to re-ignite the flame of the use of technology in my classroom. The amount of experience and knowledge gained has raised me to a point of no return. All excited to start implementing these concepts of learning in the classroom. The tools on assessment by L Wesner was the highlight of my Summit."

The third place winners for the ICT Enhanced Education category were a pair of teachers from Hoer Volksskool Potchefstroom in the NorthWest, Morne Smit and Dejon Weyers. They both attended the conference and enjoyed a range of inspirational sessions that provided hands-on opportunities to use a range of Google tools in ways that could enhance lessons or make teachers more productive.



Omashani Naidoo facilitated Intel training for Gafieza Ismail and her colleagues at Spine Road High in Mitchells Plain in September 2016 and we look forward to the remaining workshops being conducted before February 2017.

#### ***ISPA Super Teachers Awards (September 2016)***

SchoolNet's Megan Rademeyer had the pleasure of serving as one of the judges for the ISPA SuperTeacher Competition sponsored by the Internet Service Providers' Association (ISPA) and managed by CoZa Cares Foundation. The aim of the competition is to give educators an opportunity to showcase their skills in using ICT to improve the educational environment within their school or community.



The ISPA Super Teachers Awards took place on 22 September at Wanderers in Johannesburg. Kedibone Makgato of Toronto Primary in Mankweng, Limpopo was announced as the 2016 ISPA SuperTeacher; Mokhudu Machaba of Ngwanamago Primary School in Mothiba, Limpopo was announced as the 2016 ISPA Champteacher and Erika Esterhuizen of St Andrews College in Grahamstown, Eastern Cape was announced as the 2016 Tech-Teacher.

#### ***World Teacher Day Celebrations (October 2016)***

World Teachers Day is celebrated on 5 October 2016. The Teacher Appreciation and Support Task Team held an event in Pretoria to commemorate this day and were joined by teachers from various provinces who had produced an essay, artwork or PowerPoint presentation incorporating the theme “I am a Woman: An Agent of Change”. SchoolNet SA was represented at this event by Megan Rademeyer.

#### ***National ICT Skills Forum (October 2016)***

Omashani was invited to the ICT Skills National Working Group which is tasked with providing an action plan for digital skills to be provided to youth in South Africa. Monthly meetings are convened and this includes other partners such as Telecommunications companies, Corporates, Higher Education Institutions and NGOs.

#### ***The Digital Education Show - Africa – 2016 (October 2016)***

Megan Rademeyer was invited to speak at this conference which took place on 18 and 19 October 2016 at the Sandton Convention Centre. Her topic was “How to successfully integrate technology with classroom pedagogy” and she covered points relating to ensuring teachers have a framework, training and resources to champion change and using 21st century tools to accelerate student learning.

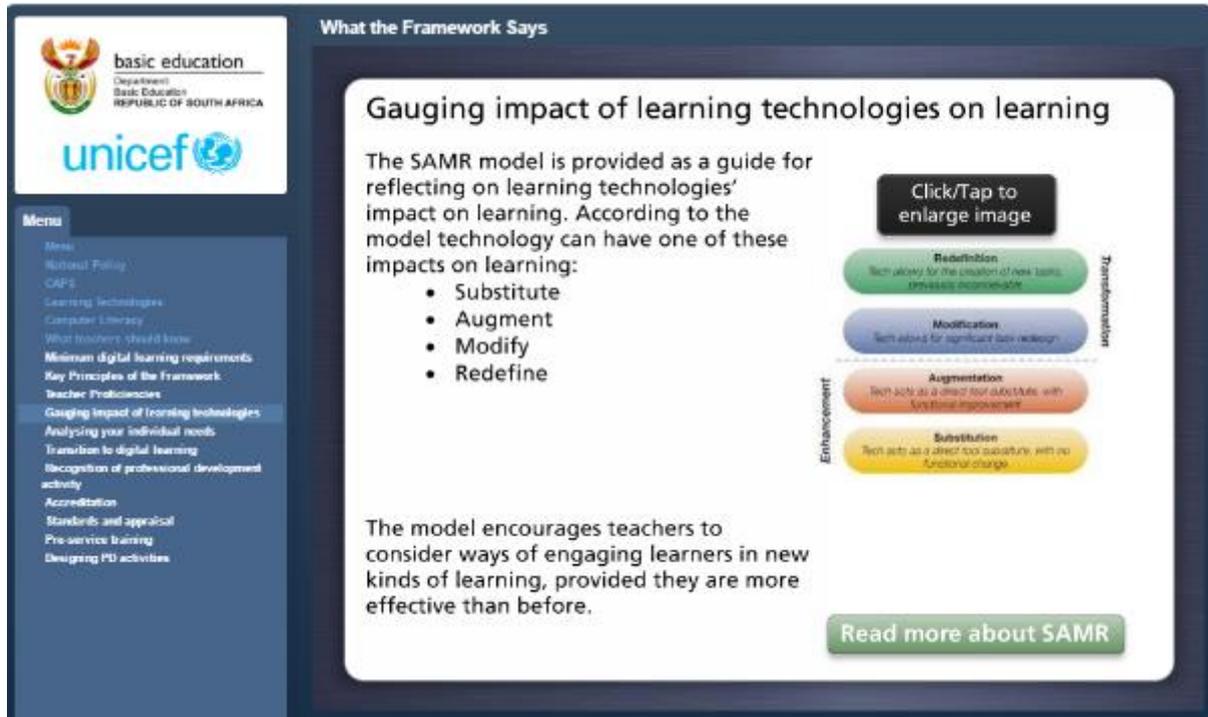


#### ***Microsoft Global Partner Workshop (October 2016)***

SchoolNet’s Megan Rademeyer and Omashani Naidoo attended Microsoft’s Global Partner Summit at the Microsoft Head office in October 2016. This event brought together a range of African Country partners and well as South African companies starting out with the various Microsoft Course offerings. This workshop was facilitated by the Global US team and provided participants with a range of materials to use during Office 365 and other Microsoft training.

## DBE - Development of Teacher Education Framework (June 8<sup>th</sup>)

Janet Thomson was invited by the national department to participate in the reference group formed to review the draft Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning.

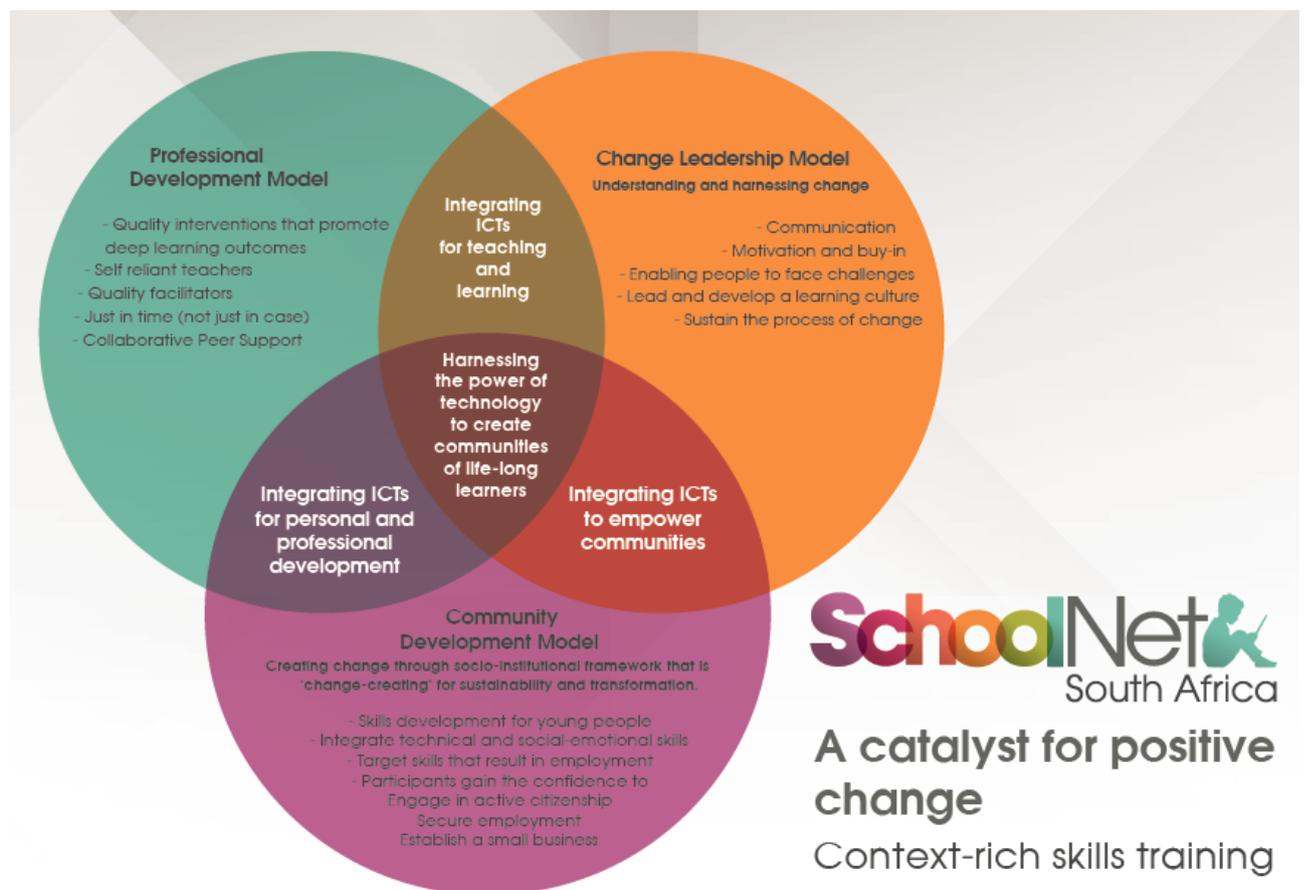


This document which is accompanied by an app – see screen capture above – is carefully framed within South African education policy contexts and builds on the e-Education White paper of 2003. The framework provides a ‘non-punitive system for assessing teachers’ current competence and supporting them to develop in areas of their individual need.’<sup>1</sup> The Framework includes 13 broad Teacher competencies, 51 Indicators, Over 200 Examples of activities to illustrate those indicators, a teacher analysis tools for individual PD needs and Lesson planning, School/District/HEI Toolkits for Digital Learning Progress and supportive e-learning apps. SchoolNet is hoping to align our new strategic plan with the launch of the framework.

## 4. Strategic planning

<sup>1</sup> Department of Higher Education , Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development, (2011) Output1, p4

The strategic planning process for 2016 started early in the year with a workshop facilitated by Angela Biden. Senior staff members attended the workshop, as well as Parthy Chetty representing the SchoolNet Board of Directors. The programme for the workshop consisted a brainstorm summary of the core issues to be addressed, a SWOT analysis that delved into past strategies and then the real meat of the day which entailed completing a results chain template as well as mapping our projects over time within a quadrant divided vertically between proactive and reactive with the X Axis between Equity and Efficiency. Angela outlined the significance of engagements and made us consider spheres of control as well as how to crack the quality/quantity dilemma. The next brainstorm tried to identify the components of any new strategic focus or major opportunities. Then we attempted to fit the core components of the strategy into the framework. Shortly after the workshop, Angela provided a comprehensive review of our previous strategic plans followed by the proposed



new strategy. This was circulated to the board in early April.

Angela has since designed two infographics – one for our professional development models (below) and one for the strategic direction of SchoolNet that will be featured on the SchoolNet website.

## 5. SchoolNet SA Staff and Board

There were few changes to the staff structure at SchoolNet this year although one member did leave the company, Thandekile Ramabu. Otherwise the same team is intact to work together for another year. Here below are most members of the SchoolNet South Africa staff team at their 2016 Mandela Day venue:



Once again SchoolNet is very thankful to board members who have been more supportive than ever in 2016. Directors have given up time to assist with a number of urgent matters this year and have either had to provide their expertise in specialist areas or to offer advice with legal and financial matters. To have SchoolNet's continued wellbeing so close to their hearts has been much appreciated.

## **6. The Future**

Currently, there still appears to be a dearth of new projects but it is not through want of applying. New ventures on the horizon for 2017 include Telkom 5 Tshwane West Schools project. This proposal is at the approval stage where SchoolNet will be supporting 5 schools in their implementation of 1:1 device-to-student ratio for all grade 8s. This project will be run over the next three years and will sustain support for teachers, learners, SMT and Technology Champion teachers. Another very exciting project is in partnership with Sun International who wish to provide laptops, digital content and a learning management system for teachers of Hospitality Studies. SchoolNet is managing the project and providing the professional development for teachers. There are certain provinces that have invited SchoolNet to tender for current tenders in line with Operation Phakisa. As well as our sustained relationships with our long standing partners, there are a number of other pipeline projects that we envisage will carry us through to make the beginning of 2017 a busy and fulfilling time.