



Greetings!

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2016. We wish you all a productive year ahead. In this issue we bring you news of some Microsoft and iEARN offerings for teachers, a report back on an Intel Gaming Summit in the UK, as well as other news of some of our 2016 projects. If you are not sure whether you are a SchoolNet member please visit our website home page (<http://www.schoolnet.org.za/>), click on 'Sign up for SchoolNet membership', and join today, so that you don't miss out on our many offerings for teachers!

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Report back on 12th Intel Education Summit: Gaming in Education

Intel Education Summit: SchoolNet's Executive Director, Janet Thomson was fortunate enough to be invited to Intel's 12th Education Summit in London in

December. The theme was *Gaming and Education* which related directly to our Learning Gains through Play project and was consequently of immediate and vital interest. Janet's report contains links to the Summit keynotes and workshop presentations.

Read more about the Gaming in Education Summit on our website [here](#):



Microsoft Trainer Validation Workshops run in South Africa and Kenya

There are a number of great new Microsoft tools including Sway, Office Mix and OneNote

Class Notebook as well as online Microsoft courses including Teaching with Technology and 21st Century Learning Design currently available. Many of these tools and courses are available through the [Microsoft Educator Community](#) at no cost to teachers. The intention of the Microsoft Trainer Validation Workshops, which were held in Johannesburg in November 2015 and Nairobi, Kenya in December 2015, were to show trainers and people responsible for professional development at various NGOs what tools are available and how these can be leveraged in workshops. Megan Rademeyer from SchoolNet SA facilitated these training sessions and the participants are now equipped with the skills to share these tools and online courses with teachers in their networks. If you are a trainer or someone responsible for professional development of teachers in your school or organisation, and if you would like to attend a future Microsoft Trainer Validation workshop in Johannesburg, please email megan@schoolnet.org.za

To read the full report on the Microsoft Trainer Validation workshops, click [here](#)

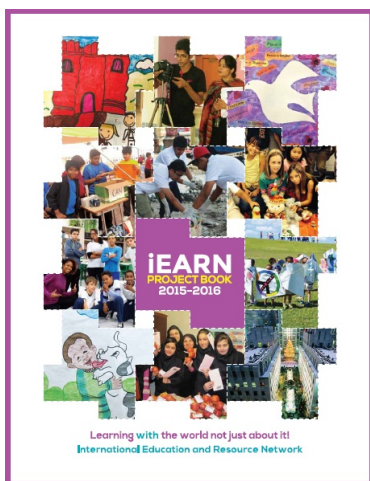


Women benefit from Implementation of the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services Gender and ICT Strategy

Since August 2015, the Dept. of Telecommunications and Postal

Services (DTPS) has been hosting symposiums in various provinces to promote its Gender and ICT Strategy. One of the drivers for change is its offering of Digital Literacy programmes to women to afford them opportunities to leverage the use of ICT skills to seek gainful employment and formulate entrepreneurship thinking in their approach to employment. Three workshops were hosted for women living in or in surrounding areas within Central Johannesburg, Bronkhorstspuit and Sunnyside (Tshwane). SchoolNet's, Ms Omashani Naidoo facilitated the Intel® Learn Easy Steps Digital Literacy course which is part of the *She Will Connect* global initiative. The Easy Steps course covers initial confidence in the use of ICT and ensures that all participants learn and practice a multitude of basic skills. The course covers skills from holding a mouse (where needed) to managing budgets.

Read more in the report on our website [here](#):



Opportunity for teachers to collaborate with international schools

Are you considering collaboration on projects with International schools? Then this opportunity is for you! The International Education and Resource Network (iEARN) offers access to partner organisations in over 142 countries. You will need to register to participate in iEARN (<https://iearn.org/cc/connect>) and look through the most up-to-date listing of iEARN collaboration projects (<https://iearn.org/cc/space-2>). Let us know if we can help you get started. Email Omashani@schoolnet.org.za

Take a look at and download the 2015/2016 iEARN project book [here](#)



Sign up for Microsoft Hack the Classroom on 30 January 2016

Join the live global [Microsoft Hack the Classroom](#) web-event taking place on Saturday 30 January 2016 at 18:00 South African time to hack your way into a more innovative learning environment for your students. Educators who attend Hack the Classroom will leave inspired and able to incorporate some new ideas and tools into the classroom. Hear from experts who have hacked learning spaces across the globe to provide experiences for students. Learn how Minecraft can develop critical thinking and collaborative creativity. See inside two classrooms in which teachers are using technology in innovative ways to hack their classrooms to gain more instructional time with their students and promote student centred learning environments.

More information on Hack the Classroom can also be found on our blog [here](#)



Rate SchoolNet on SchoolAdvisor and be in line to win a trip to Mauritius!

SchoolNet is now listed on the [SchoolAdvisor](#) website. This is a new on line platform that brings schools and suppliers together, by hosting an ever increasing base of school suppliers and the services that they offer, and allowing schools to search for, get quotes and rate suppliers directly. We believe that this platform will help you to find the best supplier or product for your needs, and ensure that you receive the best service - as suppliers are kept accountable by constant review and feedback by school decision makers. As part of their launch promotion, SchoolAdvisor is offering you the opportunity to win a weeklong vacation for two to the 4-star [Le Mauricia Hotel in Mauritius](#) - absolutely free. All you have to do is rate a supplier. We would love it if you could rate our company and services, as it is important to us to have feedback from our clients and to stay up to date with their needs. Every review counts as an entry, so please rate us and other suppliers you have worked with.

This post can be found on our blog [here](#)



Oracle pledges support to the Youth Innovation Challenge for 2016

The launch of 2016 Youth Innovation Challenge was held at the Elangeni Hotel in Durban this week. Mrs Janet Thomson, Executive Director of SchoolNetSA attended the launch. The Youth Innovation Challenge is an annual programme which is part of the Innovate Durban initiative in which Durban partners with the following organisations: [International Labour Organisation](#), [Flanders](#) State of the Art and the [Durban Chamber of Commerce](#). This year, the eThekweni Municipality has partnered with Oracle as the main sponsor. The Sustainable Enterprise Development Facility for South Africa (SEDF) is an initiative of the International Labour Organization, made possible through funding from the Flanders government. The objective is to create decent jobs for men and women through enterprise promotion.

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

If you are not yet a SchoolNet member, please join us by clicking [here](#) and following the prompts 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

