



Dear SchoolNet supporter

Welcome to our February 2015 newsletter. In this issue we bring you news of a special offer for our upcoming SchoolNet Conference in July. We also report back on the Microsoft #MIEExpert teachers that travelled to the Global Forum, and bring you news about the spread of Google's GEG groups around South Africa. Join us as we look at all the exciting events SchoolNet has been involved in during February.

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South African Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts Shine in Dubai

The Microsoft Global Forum - Dubai took place on 22 - 23 February 2015 as part of the Microsoft Global Forum event series. The Forum brought together more than 400 education leaders, government officials Africa including South African Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts Lyneth Crighton, Kathryn Riva, Phuti Ragophala and Karen Stadler. Also in attendance was the head of Brescia House School, Benedikte Nott

who shared her experiences of integrating technology at this Microsoft Showcase School; Megan Rademeyer of SchoolNet who spoke about Concepts and Contexts for Deep Learning and Saretjie Musgrave of the University of the Free State who presented on Microsoft's TEI course.

To find out more about the Microsoft Global Forum in Dubai read the full report here <http://bit.ly/1N63w4x>



SchoolNet Conference in Durban in July - a great special offer to watch out for...

We would like to invite you to register for our upcoming 2015 ICT in the Classroom Conference taking place in Durban in July 2015. You can now access all the details, register and submit a presentation application via our Conference website <http://schoolnet.org.za/conference2015/>. The most important news is that we would like you to watch out on the conference website for the upcoming discount that is going to be available for SchoolNet members. To register as a Schoolnet member:

- please go to our website <http://www.schoolnet.org.za/> and click on the words Sign up as a SchoolNet member.

- This will take you to the following link <http://edn.schoolnet.org.za/user/register/teacher>
- From here just follow the link.
- If you have forgotten whether you are a Schoolnet member please email info@schoolnet.org.za for more information.



Google Educator Groups are growing steadily with a current membership of 568 teachers. Get involved!

Google Educator Groups are growing steadily with a fantastic membership of 568 teachers since August 2014. Google Educator Groups aims to grow voluntary groups of teachers who are ICT Champions who want to be leaders that work in their immediate communities to spread the awareness of the various Google offerings and keep ICT oriented or interested teachers involved in regular discussions around ICT Integration for teaching and learning.





What GEG events are happening in your area?

Limpopo: **GEG Polokwane** was launched on the weekend at Hoerskool Noordeland.

Eastern Cape: Abrie Pepler and Claire Dean with **GEG East London** are about to host their first event at Selborne Primary. The date will soon be announced on the GEG SA community.

Eastern Cape: **GEG Port Elizabeth**, is launching with Brenda Hallows with a fun-filled Friday Picnic at Cotswold Primary 20 March 2015.

Gauteng: GEG Northcliff, and Tracy Tschohl will be launching at the School Library, North West Christian School on the 6th March 2015.

Western Cape: Jane Mackenzie-Hoskyn and **GEG Eden** on the Garden Route is launching soon.

Join the GEG South Africa [Google+ Community](#) to stay informed about events coming to your area. For more information about GEG, contact omashani@schoolnet.org.za

Learning Gains through Play update

Teachers and Senior Management Teams from the five project schools in the Western Cape attended a weekend of workshops in February 2015. The workshops were held at the MEED Offices in Kuilsriver and were attended by forty three participants and facilitated by Tracey Butchart with the support of Sipho Didiza and Rodney Nissan. With only two hours available on the Friday after school, the Saturday was a long but fruitful day. To find out more about the purpose of the workshops for this exciting Grade R and Grade 1 project, what we are measuring, our project baseline LBP and more, please read the website report [here](#).



ICT4RED Teacher Professional Development: Gallery Walk and Field Trip (Module 8&9)

The ICT4RED project is a ground-breaking project which contributes to the improvement of rural education through technology-led innovation. Teachers in this project need to 'earn' their tablets by attending all trainings (10 Modules) and to submit set homework in the Teacher Professional Development (TPD). Gallery Walk teaching strategy involved creating a Gallery Walk session in a classroom, using social media platforms to participate in online discussions as an example. Another activity that was important in this module is how a professional learning community works and how it can be a teaching strategy applicable in a classroom. Teachers highlighted that some of the exhibits like phishing and digital identities were things not to be overlooked as a lot of people have been victims of such things.

The eighth and ninth module were conducted in Queenstown at Get Ahead College on 21 February 2015. The training was also attended by visitors from Rhodes University (lectures and students) CSIR Ethnographic Researcher, student from London researching about the project, Cofimvaba district officials and not forgetting a news reporter for Queenstown local newspaper Daily Rep.



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

SchoolNet will be hosting two Google Summits in 2015 along with with Parklands College Cape Town and Selbourne Senior Primary in East London. Please visit <http://za.gafesummit.com/> to register. We hope that you will attend one of the Google Summits and ask that you please spread the word that two Summits are coming to South Africa in 2015!



za.gafesummit.com

EdTechTeam South Africa
Summits featuring Google for
Education Tour

Eastern Cape Summit	Cape Town Pre-Summit	Cape Town Summit
OCTOBER 2-3	OCTOBER 8	OCTOBER 9-10
Selborne Primary School East London	Parklands College Cape Town	Parklands College Cape Town



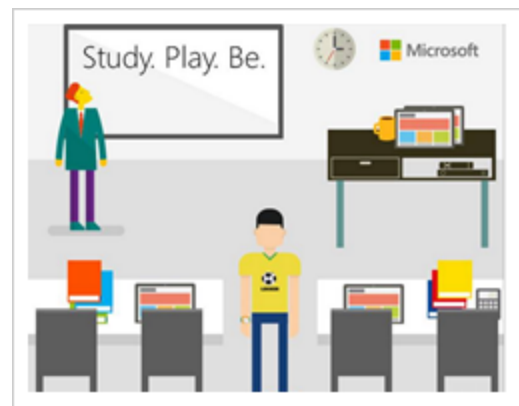
SAVE THE DATE

Microsoft in Education - O365 and Windows Roadshows in four cities – you are invited to register

For school leaders and educators to experience how Windows 8 Tablets, Office 365 and Microsoft Professional Development can help transform the classroom through immersive activities, delivered by Tablet Academy.

The right technology in the hands of educators with access to the best solutions and pedagogical training will create a force that truly transforms education across South Africa.

It is for this reason that we would like to invite forward thinking school leaders and innovative educators from government and independent schools to a showcase afternoon to acquire a full appreciation of what Microsoft in Education has to offer schools.



1

City: Johannesburg
Venue: Microsoft South Africa
Date: Thursday 5 March
Time: 12:30 - 17:00
Register
here: <http://bit.ly/1BVDS8F>

2

City: Durban
Venue: Point Yacht Club
Date: Tuesday 24 March
Time: 12:30 -17:00
Register here:
<http://bit.ly/1BVDKMK>

3

City: Pretoria
Venue: Pretoria Zoo
Date: Thursday 26 March
Time: 12:30 - 17:00
Register here
<http://bit.ly/1BVErpp>

4

City: Cape Town
Venue: Kirstenbosch Botanical
Gardens
Date: Tuesday 31 March
Time: 12:30 - 17:00
Register here
<http://bit.ly/1BVECKG>

For the agenda, please visit our blog here: <http://goo.gl/Vp9Oqu>

Intel Easy Steps - Thlabane women against abuse group trained

Thlabane is a community where women have formed a group against abuse. This group aims to empower women in the community so that they are aware of what abuse is and thus can arm themselves with knowledge of how to find ways to get out of the situation they find themselves in. Intel along with the Department of Communication, Deloitte Foundation, and Telkom are working together to provide this community with training and support so that the women have more skills to uplift themselves. Intel agreed to sponsor two training workshops for groups of women from the area to benefit from Digital literacy.



The facilitator, Mr Thabo Nkwe, reflects the following:

“This was the first kind of group I ever came across in my 18 years training experience. Given these women's personal experience in relation to abuse and the grievousness and magnitude of cases of abuse against women and children they are exposed to; I take my hat off to them! No wonder I could sense a forceful demand from within to heed to their outcry which they could not express with words but through their performance during training. Today I can rightfully say women are stronger than men in many respects.”

Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI) Orientation workshops in Uganda

Senzo Ngcobo and Gerald Roos went off to Kampala again this month to conduct workshops for the second phase in support the Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI). The Ministry of Education and Sports in Uganda had invited 68 participants to take part at the Uganda Technology and Management University (UTAMU) in Kampala, Uganda, from February 16-19, 2015.



Intel Easy Steps- University of Limpopo Training

The University of Limpopo is situated in the Mankweng area in the Limpopo province. The University of Limpopo is working through their e-skills programme and sought Intel's expertise to enhance the current offering to their various beneficiaries. Intel in collaboration with the University agreed to sponsor a Training of Trainers workshop so that Trainers and Lecturers at the University would be fully conversant with the Intel Easy steps offering and how this could be adapted for use by the University.

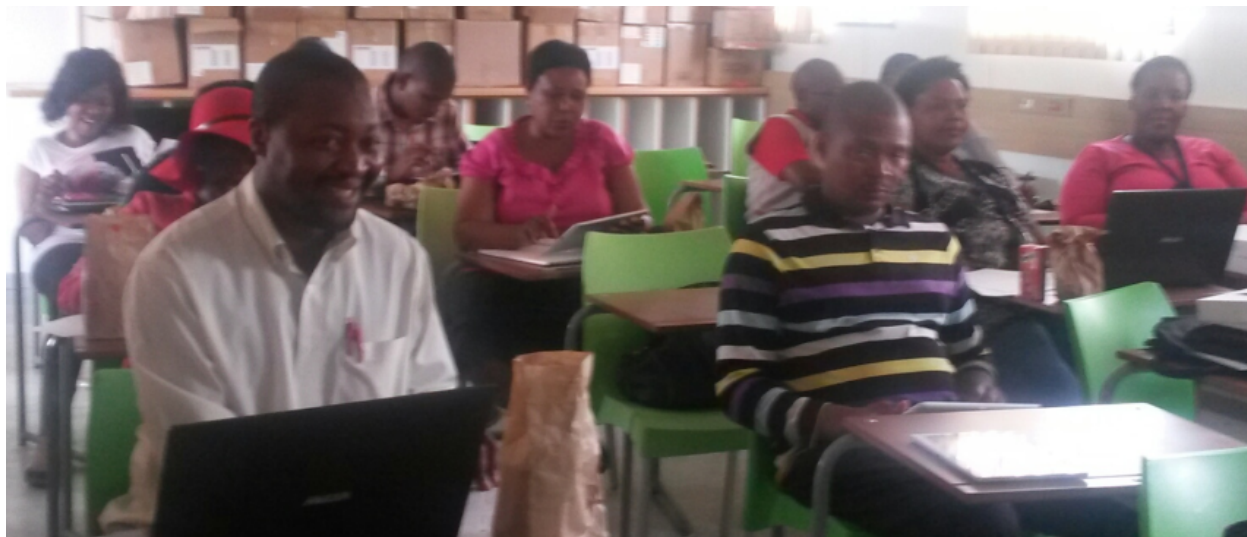
Eight participants attended the training and this included the Director, Mr Farivar Rahimi, and technical "expert" Mr Andrew Scholtz. The three-day programme included an understanding of the coursework, facilitation of modules and brainstorming ways to include the programme into the University's current offering.



SchoolNet provides professional development for Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership Schools of the Future

The Gauteng Department of Education seeks to create an enabled environment by providing ICT infrastructure to schools. Over the past six months, SchoolNet SA worked with the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership to provide training in using and managing ICT resources to teachers to staff from six schools involved in the School of the Future Pilot Project. School leaders from these schools completed the **Management and Usage of ICTs in Public Schools** course which included developing a vision for ICT usage, creating ICT plans and managing ICT resources. Teachers then completed the Intel Getting Started course which included activities focused on basic computer skills and 21st Century teaching. Finally teachers were introduced to the Microsoft Teaching with Technology course – a free, online course that aims to develop a deeper understanding of how ICT integration can enhance the teaching and learning experience.

To read the full report on this project please click here <http://goo.gl/2jeJvV> ... (link to this report on the SchoolNet website
<http://www.schoolnet.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2015.02.13.Matthew-Goniwe-ICT-Leadership-Training-Report-.pdf>



Intel 'She will connect' programme is looking for trainers...

[Intel® She Will Connect](#) program aims to close the Internet gender gap, connecting millions of girls and women to opportunity. Women throughout the world are alike in being marginalized in many instances and the She Will Connect program aims to address these issues through providing digital literacy skills to women and girls. Showing women and girls the potential of the web will showcase ways in which women and girls can uplift themselves. It is to this end that Intel would like to expand the She Will Connect program to South African women and girls and we seek your help.

If you are a SchoolNet trainer or teacher with superb ICT skills then we need you. Intel would like to afford you the opportunity to train women and girls to help with this global program to address the 200 million gap. Intel has developed the Intel Learn Easy Steps program which includes five modules that are focused on digital literacy. This facilitation of this program is voluntary, however Intel has agreed to offer a stipend or incentive if a facilitator trains 60 women and girls before the end of April 2015. If you are able to arrange workshops for women and girls in your immediate community, have access to a working computer centre/lab/devices then please consider this challenge. If you are interested to learn more please complete this [form](#) and we'll be in touch.



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 blog posts:

- [A number of teacher profiles especially #MIEExpert teachers](#)
- [Our webinar recordings for February](#)
- [Sign up for World Read Aloud Day 2014 \(on 4th March\) with Nal'ibali and Gcina Mhlophe](#)
- [Great news! Introducing OneNote Staff Notebook for education – just released!](#)
- [Ten takeaways from the first South African iPad Summit on 16th and 17th February 2015](#)
- [The Microsoft 2015 Global Forum is in progress in Dubai on the hashatg #MSFTEDU. Follow along!](#)
- [The ISPA Super Teacher Competition for South African teachers - don't miss this one!](#)
- [10 interesting Google posts for teachers this week #4](#)
- ['Crack my code! \(Kraak my kode!\): Teaching syllables in Afrikaans' - a guest post by @MrLotto](#)
- [GEG Cape Town - West Coast is hosting its first event for 2015 on the 26th of February 2015 at Inkwenkwezi High School from 15:00 - 17:30](#)
- [A number of great posts written by our #MIEExpert teachers](#)
- [SchoolNet Conference – visit our conference website for latest details. Booking now open...](#)
- [Blogs and blogging in the Foundation Phase – a great boon to a modern classroom](#)
- [Exciting, free MOOC 'Using ICTs to enrich teaching and learning' starting on Feb 16th. Why not enrol?](#)
- [10 interesting Google posts for teachers this week #3](#)
- [Invitation to the 2015 Google for Education Innovation Tour arranged by Google for Education, South Africa](#)
- [Registration Interest form available for the EdTechTeam South Africa Tour 2015 - Featuring Google and iOS for Education](#)
- [How our South African MiE Experts are using Microsoft Office Sway](#)
- [10 interesting Google posts for teachers this week #2](#)

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

