



## KZN Teachers get connected at Technology Conference



**Sponsored by Intel Education**

Educators are invited to attend the **Intel Teach One Day Conference**

**VENUE:** Maritzburg College, College Road, Pietermaritzburg

**DATE:** Saturday, 13 April 2013, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Workshops will be presented on the following topics:

- Project Based Approaches
- Collaboration in the Digital Classroom
- Assessment in 21st Century Classrooms
- Thinking Critically with Data
- STEM Subjects

**Promoting professional development For South Africa's teachers**

To book your space please contact: info@schoolnet.org.za or 011 458 9777  
For more information email: info@schoolnet.org.za or 011 458 9777

More Intel Teach presentations will be on offer at the One Day Conference at the University of the Free State, 2 - 4 July 2013. For more information: www.schoolnet.org.za/info/teach\_2013

Teachers from across the province of KZN readily sacrificed their weekend time to attend a One Day Conference sponsored by Intel on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Maritzburg College. The objective of the conference was to empower teachers in the use of ICT in education and to ensure that learners benefit from the improvement in teaching that the inclusion of technology can bring.

**Opening Plenary:** Delegates were welcomed to the conference by Janet Thomson from SchoolNet South Africa who thanked Maritzburg College for hosting the event and for providing three computer labs as well as two other classrooms. She also thanked Mustek for sponsoring a bank of laptop computers for use in one of the presentation classrooms. Thomson outlined

the programme for the day and gave a brief overview of how the effective use of information and communication technologies could impact on learning. A short video made by Grade 4 learners illustrated the changes in technology that had taken place since their parents were the same age, 10 years old.





**Keynote Address:** The Director of Maths, Science and Technology at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Basic Education, Mr Phillip Dikgomo delivered the keynote address confirming the provincial government's commitment to ICTs in education and revealing that strategic planning was well underway to ensure that government schools in KwaZulu-Natal receive improved hardware accompanied by the appropriate professional development. Delegates readily identified with the statements and observations made by Dikgomo who spoke from personal experience as a teacher of mathematics.

**Delegates** included teachers, provincial and educational department officials, sponsors, vendors and representatives from other training organizations as well as from Intel including Mr Andre Christian, Education Manager of Intel SA. Learners from Maritzburg College also gave up their Saturday to volunteer as helpers at the conference; their contribution was invaluable and appreciated by the organisers as the presentation venues were far apart on the Maritzburg College campus.



**The workshop content:** The main focus of the day was on 4 new courses that form part of the Intel Teach: Elements programme. This programme is designed to help classroom educators effectively integrate technology into teaching in order to enhance student learning. There were workshops arranged in the following Elements courses:

- **Project Based Approaches** - Introduces teachers to project-based approaches for classrooms in a self-paced or facilitated interactive experience.
- **Collaboration in the Digital Classroom** - Helps teachers prepare students to collaborate within and outside the classroom in the digital, global world.
- **Assessment in 21st Century Classrooms** - Introduces teachers to assessment strategies to meet the needs of 21st century learning.
- **Thinking Critically with Data** - Examines critical thinking with a focus on data analysis helps teachers prepare students to think analytically.



**Eskom Science Expo:** A fifth Science stream was presented by **Ms Priscilla Moodley** who is the International Science Fair Director for Eskom. The Eskom Expo for Young Scientist is one of the most successful interventions at school level for the promotions of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation (STEMI) in South Africa. The organization has been running successfully for 33 years. Priscilla represents South Africa on a number of International Science fairs bodies and holds an Executive position for the Federation for Engineering, Science, Technology, for Olympiads and Competitions (FESTOC) an umbrella body for the Department of Science and Technology.



As part of Priscilla's presentation Jayde Bromwich from Creston College in KZN gave a presentation on her project which won the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in the 2013 Environment category with her project titled, *"An investigation into the effects of natural and synthetic air pollutants on plant growth."*

Presentations on **SchoolNet SA's** other programmes were delivered by Megan Rademeyer who is the Programmes Manager at SchoolNet South Africa. In this role, Megan oversees the Partners in learning programme for Microsoft South Africa and has extensive experience in developing and reviewing educational materials and has produced content for the [www.learn.co.uk](http://www.learn.co.uk) website and Mindset Network.



The **Intel Teach: Elements** courses were ably presented in the form of short workshops by the following facilitators:



**Nomty Gcaba** - is a full time ICT trainer and teacher support specialist at SchoolNet SA. Nomty is a former teacher and has taught Accounting and Business Economics at Mafumbuka High School and Mpophomeni High School. Nomty is a dedicated support person for the Vodacom ICT centres and is a master trainer in SchoolNet's Centre Managers course and community development courses.

**Saul Pila** is a Deputy Chief Education Specialist and e-Learning Coordinator at the Gauteng Department of Education and was a teacher by profession. His core responsibility is to develop teachers and learners into using different ICTs effectively in the classroom. He has been a SchoolNet SA Facilitator since the late 1990s.



**Simphiwe Njoko** is a Computer Applications Technology Teacher at eMazizini in Bergville and was one of the Microsoft Innovative Teacher competition finalists in 2008. He has been a SchoolNet facilitator since 2009.



**Mr Peter De Lisle** is Head of Curriculum Development and Innovation- Hilton College and interestingly in his early career was the Head of IT at Mmabatho High School back in 1996. Peter has been a SchoolNet Senior Trainer since the late 1990s and was a runner up in the Global Microsoft Partners in Learning Innovative Education Forum competition in 2010.

**The Closing Plenary:** There were many prizes donated by a number of generous donors including 2 laptop computers from Intel SA, , a 10 inch Sangari Android tablet, a 7 inch Mobii Train Your Brain tablet, 2Sony Cybershot Cameras, 3 Samsung cameras, 2 mini speakers sponsored by Micrsoft SA and a free training workshop in any Intel Teach Elements course for the staff of one school.



Considering the range of prizes on offer it was gratifying to witness the jubilation of the teachers from the EkuKhanyeni Specials School for the Intellectually Impaired when they won the free training for all their staff. This was clearly the prize that they were all hoping to win. The school

had received a donation of a computer room from Airlink and had been trying to find funding for teacher training. SchoolNet SA will now be scheduling this training as soon as possible.

The other prize winners of course were equally ecstatic; here is a record of these lucky teachers:

Prize	Name	School
Dell Laptop	Mandla Mkhulisi	Qhamukile Primary School
Sony Camera	Thembelihle Eugene Ngcobo	Zwakele Primary School
Mobii TYB Tablet	Thando Memela	Zwakele Primary School (Inanda)
Sangari Tablet	Zandi Makhathini	Umvuzo Secondary School
Sony Camera	Nomatshaka Mtimde	Department of Correctional Services
Samsung Camera	Sibongile Mbense	Ekukhanyeni Special School
Samsung Digital Camera	Ritta Mkhize	Umvuzo Secondary School
Samsung Digital Camera	Sindile Precious Ndaba	Silwanetshe Primary School

**Feedback** from the evaluation forms distributed at the closing plenary was favourable – here are some examples:

*“A very fruitful day spent with people who are very clear with what they were sharing with us. Would like to receive ongoing support for growth”*

*“...It gives learners opportunities to learn how to do research, analyse data, do presentations. Able to think critically and do project based research”*

*“It was the most well-organised and fruitful computer training that I've ever attended”*

*“It is so crucial to have all teachers in the country become competent in teaching using these e-methods and take learners to greater heights. “*

*“The teachers will be motivated in using computers and be a real 21st century educators”*

### Conclusion

Omashani Naidoo and Hlengiwe Mfeka had been largely responsible for the organisation of the one day event and closed off the proceedings with thanks to a number of people and organisations who had made the day such a success. Thanks were expressed to Martizburg College; Sue Calmeyer who had liaised with Hlengiwe over the preparation of various venues, particularly Heather Lawson who was a most accommodating catering manager and whose professional team served the most delicious teas and lunch coping with 150 people in lightening time. Thanks were expressed to the sponsors, firstly Andre Christian from Intel for hosting and covering the costs of the day, Mustek/Mecer for the loan of their laptop lab, Sangari SA and Train your Brain for the donation of android tablet prizes. Mr Phillip Dikgomo was thanked for his opening address and all delegates were thanked for attending for a full day over a weekend.





SchoolNet SA  
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13/04/2013  
Martizburg College  
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