

Activities rendered by SchoolNet from June – August 2012

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Action Plan

SchoolNet drew a plan for coordination of activities every term.

1. Ranking Point System

- The new ranking system to encourage learners use the service and practice all levels in the exercises was initiated
- It was released on 21 June 2012
- A Moodle message was sent to learners directing them to the help link on the homepage to read more about Ranking levels and Scoring
- Clarification messages were sent via Moodle to individual learners who experienced problems in understanding the New Scoring System.

2. Coordinate National Competitions

- A strategy to run more competitions was devised to address the issue of low usage and to motivate learners in continuously using the service. Below are the competitions planned and some completed or in progress:

a. Olympic competition

- An announcement for the Olympic competition was posted in the News section on 21 June 2012 in Moodle
- The Nokia Mobile Mathematics Olympics competition was held during winter holidays between 22 June and 15 July 2012
- In between the competition period, a weekly message to remind and motivate learners to use the service was sent via Moodle
- A criterion to select winners was devised and communicated with the learners
- Competition results were requested from Bitville in order to rank the points according to the levels
- Competition results were announced to learners via Moodle on 20 July 2012, the same week after the schools re-opened
- Prizes were bought after doing prize comparison in different shops
- Schools are called to get physical addresses where learners' prizes can be couriered
- In the case where the prize is an airtime learners are requested to send their cell phone numbers so that airtime is sent directly to them
- Schools are requested to send photos when learners are awarded their prizes



A message from the teacher - Saturday, 18 August 2012

12:23 PM: Hi Momaths Team

I like to take this time to thank you for all you are doing to help us use this project fruitfully and i have used it in class with learners the past 2 days,they enjoyed so much.Thank you for the present you send for my learner-a cellphone Nokia model - Virginia Rikhotso

b. Monthly competition

- On 23 July 2012, the Nokia Mobile Mathematics Monthly competition/s was announced to the learners in the news section
- Learners are encouraged to check the scores for the top ten most active users every week so that they are able to compare their scores with leading learners before the final list of winners at the end of the month.
- Learners are sent messages to remind them about the competition in progress and also to motivate them to become one of the winners which indirectly motivate them to use the service more often. Winners will be announced on 04 September 2012.
- Every month the above processes will be followed; in a month when there is a quarterly competition running there won't be any Monthly competition in that particular month.

- Below are messages from the learners showing that they are comparing their scores in order to get themselves in the top ten and that these competitions motivates them to use the service:

Sunday, 19 August 2012

11:01 PM: I have just saw the top ten do i need to get my name in it so i can win or i just need to make high points in this month
(Replied to news posted Wed Aug 1 12:46:03 2012) - Bradley Silindokuhle Mkatshane

Friday, 17 August 2012

11:02 PM: I'll try my best to be one of the winners
(Replied to news posted Wed Aug 1 12:46:03 2012)

c. Learner enrolment competition

- Schools were notified by an sms and e-mail about the Learner enrolment competition between 01 August – 31 August 2012.
- Weekly messages are sent to teachers to remind them about the competition and motivate them to register their learners.
- A criteria to select winners was devised and communicated with the teachers. Ten schools will be selected and each will win a R2000 cash prize. The money will be divided between the school and a teacher who will be identified by the school

d. Nokia Mobile Mathematics Competition

- A date has been set for the Nokia Mobile Mathematics 3rd Competition which will be announced on 27 August 2012 and it will start on 12 September for the grade 10 and 13 September for the grade 11.
- A criteria to select winners for this competition has been discussed and set. Learners who got 100% from previous competitions complained about not getting anything and that they are discouraged. While setting the criteria that was also taken into consideration.

3. Schools and classes update

- An e-mail was sent to teachers requesting them to send their school's enrolment update
- A list of schools which has the data collected was sent per Province to indicate those schools with no data next to their names
- District officials were also requested to assist in data collection by motivating their schools to submit the required information
- It was stated that schools that remain with no confirmed class information will not be allowed to participate in the competition; this was done to encourage them send their data
- Some of the schools who have not registered any learners this year were called telephonically to discuss their challenges.
- Some of the schools responded to our request by submitting their information
- The collected information was used to update our database.

Below are some of the responses received from schools:

SCHOOL	COMMENT	STATUS
Ithabiseng	Mr Modise - They have no clue on how to help learners because no one from their school was trained. Promised to speak to Ms Litedu (District official) and ask for her assistance. Promised to register by the end of August...25 July.	Give them until end of August
Le Reng	Mr Mokunutu - The school is involved in many projects as a result they don't have time for Nokia Mobila Maths. He thinks the school should just be removed from the project... 25 July	Remove the school
Navalsing	Mr Melamu /Conrad - Teachers are not trained and they don't allow cell phones to school. Said they will be able to start using Mobile Maths next year...24 July.	Will start next year.
RT Mokgopa	Mr Tshomedi - Problem is the cell phone policy, they are still negotiating with the SGB, He will try to make sure that the decision is taken soon... 24 July	Give them until end of August

4. Create and Edit teacher accounts

- Teachers are continually assisted to create new accounts and reset their forgotten passwords telephonically and via e-mail and sms.
- Personal information for District officials is collected and submitted to Bitville for new accounts and editing as they are the only ones who have permission to create or edit accounts with administrator's rights
- Teachers are encouraged to track learners' progress for diagnostic assessment via voice call and sms.

5. Learner/teacher usage Follow up

- School comparison and usage report is checked daily and
- Weekly messages are sent to encourage and motivate teachers and learners to use the service
- Learners are also encouraged to invite their school mates to register and use the service
- Suggested topics to be studied used to be sent every Monday for grade 10 CAPS learners, until we recently received a message from Nicky Roberts to stop doing it because other topics are not yet ready.

Example below:

Welcome back to Term 3!

Grade 10 Learner

You should be working on Topic 22: Analytical Geometry.

Grade 11 Learner

Have you gone through your June exam paper and seen where you made mistakes? Which are your problem topics from term 1 and term 2? Try and work on the topic that your teacher is busy with. Also go back and revise problem topics.

Kind regards,

Nokia Mobile Maths Team – 23 July 2012

6. Support and Encourage learners/teachers to use the service

- Learners are being supported both directly and indirectly. Directly in terms of messages that are coming and sent through the Moodle site
- Indirect support is provided by encouraging learners to request assistance of their teachers when they experience challenges understanding Mathematics content
- Teachers are also assisted in using the service in general, like sending sms to their learners and assigning their learners to classes. This is done telephonically and via e-mail to those who have one
- Skype meetings are held from time to time with Bitville to discuss and try to solve technical problems reported by learners or teachers or problems identified by SchoolNet
- A South African test is done once in a term to test the functionality in Moodle and Momaths in MXit using the low end user cell phone. A very long form is used to record findings from the test and remarks.

7. Reports

- A report was sent to PDoEs, District Officials and Educators, giving an update on the status of Momaths usage by both learners and educators
- A Summary report per province was prepared giving an update of what has happened in the second term including the teacher training and the school comparison for last year 2011 and 2012
- An update report is being prepared for the last six weeks.

8. Queries

Below are the queries attended to before SchoolNet took over the project:

- A Follow-up on the issue of a certificate which had a name misprint
- The teacher was issued with a new certificate
- A Follow-up on four learners from North West Province who did not receive their prizes as winners in a competition
- Cell phone prizes were bought and sent to relevant schools where learners are studying.