



# PSP NEWSLETTER

Keeping you up to date with PSP teacher development

2025 TERM 3

## From the Director

### Meaningful Maths Activities

Making Maths meaningful is much more than teaching children about numbers. Maths is the language we use to make sense of the world. But for many children, and even for parents, Maths can sometimes feel scary or difficult. That's why we are working to make Maths meaningful, both in the classroom and at home.

Teachers are at the heart of this. With the right training, support, and resources, they can bring Maths to life in fun and creative ways. Tools like mental Maths packs give children the chance to practise every day, building confidence step by step. We're also helping to bridge the tricky gap between grades 3 - 4, so no learner feels left behind as Maths gets more challenging.

Parents have a powerful role to play. Small things, like counting while cooking, talking about prices in the shop, or spotting shapes and patterns together, can help children see how Maths is part of daily life.

At the recent STEAM conference, we were reminded that Maths connects with everything, with science, technology, engineering, and even art. When children see Maths as creative, practical, and fun, they begin to see it as something that truly belongs to them.

Dr. Zorina Dharsey

### Term Reach Across All Projects

To date in 2025, the PSP has worked with **2922 teachers** from **396 schools** in **38 Districts** in **8 provinces** in South Africa.

**PSP Annual Mass Planning Forum Online**  
**Wednesday 15 October**  
**15:00 - 16:00**

### Have your say in PSP's 2026 Online Courses

We invite you to participate in the exciting, new AMPF format online. Join us at 15:00 in subject-specific venues to help prioritise topics for the 2026 online courses.

## PSP strengthens Maths at critical points

PSP focuses on building positive attitudes and confidence in teachers and parents to create enjoyment and develop skills in Maths for children and thus strengthen their Maths for the grades to come. PSP's Maths support focuses on a wide range of significant areas that promote lasting self-confidence and competency in Maths.



➤ **Regular Maths teacher training courses** provided in various projects and online with Foundation Phase (FP), Intermediate Phase (IP) teachers and SMT's - also the much-needed 'bridging' from Grades 3 - 4.  
*Face-to-face courses for teachers to experience practical teaching strategies which PSP advocates.*

➤ **Classroom support** in FP Maths and mentorship of Maths novice teachers.  
*Mentor and Mentee co-teaching at a Maths lesson at Entshona Primary.*



➤ **Resourcing Maths teachers**  
Practical Maths teacher support books, Maths kits and Maths teacher packs for each teacher's group work in class.



➤ **Parent workshops**  
Parents and their children participate in practical activities and learn how to support Maths concepts at home.



➤ **Presenting at conferences**  
Mega-Maths Festival - International gathering on trends in wide-ranging fields of Mathematics held at UWC in July.  
PSP shared our approach in scaffolding the levels of support to enhance FP Maths teaching through a comprehensive visual poster presentation.  
*"I gained insights into different strategies to explain patterns and deriving algebraic expressions from the patterns", said Florence February.*

➤ **Weekly radio show called "Wiskunde by die huis"**  
Play-based Maths concepts with activities ideal to enjoy at home to consolidate Maths concepts in a safe and relaxed environment. Sandra Rossouw presents the show through Radio Overberg and has received positive feedback from excited home-based parents.



**ALL PSP COURSES ARE SACE-ACCREDITED**



Booking is essential for all courses  
See programme for booking links or WhatsApp 071 2902804

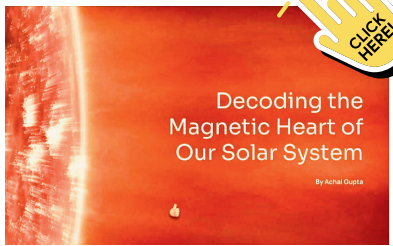


# National Science Week 2025 celebrated

PSP organised an online 2-week-long programme for teachers to celebrate the National Science Week, and invited prominent scientists and institutions to present their expertise. We appreciated their passionate and valuable contributions.

The PSP created a YouTube playlist featuring all the presentations from the event. They can be viewed and shared here:

<https://bit.ly/4mWGORI>



University of Cape Town's Achal Gupta: Decoding the Magnetic Heart of the Sun presentation at the National Science Week programme 2025.



## PSP believes...

Maths is essential to survive in the world. Therefore Maths should start early in the home.



Everyday shapes, squares, circles, rectangles, triangles, cylinders and cones

## Tips for teachers to share with parents



- Help children to practise telling the time
- Play games and puzzles together
- Count and read numbers regularly
- Point out different shapes and sizes and distances.

*"Stephanie Alvarez from NumberSense led a lively and interactive session on problem solving for primary school learners. Her presentation was clear, practical, and packed with creative ideas to show teachers the value of using problem-solving activities with young children. The tasks she shared were both intriguing for learners and easy for teachers to bring straight into the classroom."*

Rose Thomas, PSP Senior Science Facilitator and Materials Developer

# Revised edition of PSP's TEACHSMART launched

PSP's much-loved TEACHSMART guide for novice teachers and for schools has been updated and revised into a sparkling new edition, now being launched in various venues for novice teachers, fourth year students, mentors and others.

The new TeachSmart provides advice and tips for young teachers from day one with clear guidance in lesson planning, classroom management, relationship building and administrative tasks. This is supported by many useful examples and templates.



*This handbook available for purchase from our PSP website, Resources.*

The schools section has been upgraded with targeted advice on mentoring and supporting their novice teachers to flourish from the beginning.

## PSP website live

See the Resources section for purchasing PSP's teacher and classroom materials.



This includes:

- Foundation Phase Life Skills (Beginning Knowledge, Science) Books 1 and 2 (in any of the three languages)
- PLUS a full set of Indigenous Plant and Animals cards (English or Afrikaans)
- PLUS a set of the African Skies Astronomy Cards (only English)

**Total R350**

**This is a 33% discount.**