



# PSP NEWSLETTER

Keeping you up to date with PSP teacher development

2026 TERM 1

## From the Director

### The Power of Struggle in Learning

Struggle is not failure, rather it is growth in action. When children wrestle with a challenge, they are thinking, problem-solving, and showing commitment. Each struggle is an opportunity to learn, adapt, and grow.

The joy of finally finding a solution is powerful and transformative. That moment of success builds confidence, encouraging children to tackle new challenges with courage.

Struggling safely is key to the process. In a supported environment, children can learn that mistakes are steppingstones, not setbacks. They learn to reflect, try again, and approach problems with a different perspective. This builds a growth mindset and an understanding that abilities can improve with effort.

As parents and educators, our role is to support and guide, not to remove the challenge. Let us celebrate effort alongside achievement. Encourage children to embrace difficulty and persist through setbacks. Through struggle, children don't just learn academic skills, they develop confidence, character and resilience. The challenges they overcome today prepares them for the opportunities and obstacles of tomorrow.

Remember: Struggle is a cornerstone of learning. Embrace it, support it, and celebrate it.

Wishing all schools, teachers, learners and parents a fantastic second term of 2026.

Dr. Zorina Dharsey

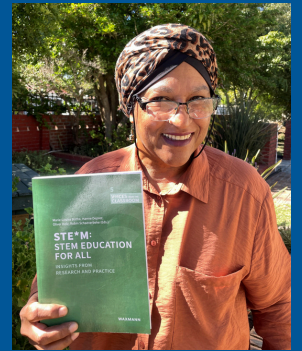
### REACH THUS FAR

**Courses 57**  
**Teachers 1716**  
**Schools 679**  
**School visits 108**  
Benefitting **4 631 learners** directly

## Proud moment – PSP STEM research in prestigious journal

We are delighted to share that research conducted by Dr Zorina Dharsey, PSP Director and Dr Florence February, PSP facilitator, has been published as the opening chapter of the international publication by Waxmann, *STEM Education for All: Insights from Research and Practice*. The research focused on the PSP Cluster Project model for science teacher professional development and support.

The chapter showcases our innovative methodology and approach to teaching and learning in science. The book advocates for inclusive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education, emphasising its power to equip learners from all backgrounds with the knowledge and skills needed to meaningfully shape the future.



To find the book: [Education & Sociology](#)

## Practical Geography courses back

Two online Social Sciences courses signaled the return of Geography to the PSP programme this term: *Grades 6 and 7 Map Skills*.

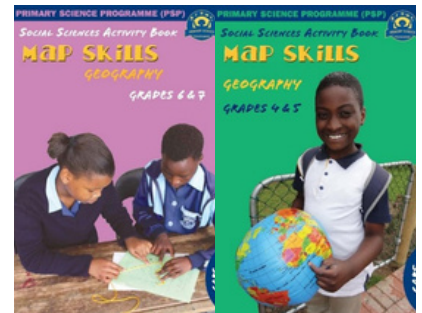
Enthusiastic response was evident in the excellent teacher attendance and good interaction.

*'It's especially exciting as this was PSP's first Geography course since before COVID-19', said Rose Thomas.*

These online sessions were hands-on and practical, modelling simple, low-cost classroom activities in real time, using everyday materials such as paper, balloons, cardboard and string, as well as maps taken from the PSP Map Skills books.

*'We're excited to build on this momentum with even more Geography support next term', said Zorina Dharsey.*

Teacher comments expressed appreciation for: the hands-on activities dealing with co-ordinates; ideas for kids drawing their own maps; the shapes to demonstrate contour lines; and the special note-taking ideas and many other practical tips to teach Map Skills.



PSP Map Skills books, available from our website shop

## Fond farewell to Kerry White



Kerry's commitment and passion for promoting the PSP and fundraising left a lasting impact on our organisation. We are deeply grateful for the excellent relationships built, laying the foundation for the future. We wish Kerry much joy in her next chapter.

### ALL PSP COURSES ARE SACE-ACCREDITED

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



## New team members welcomed

We're delighted to welcome our new team members, who bring fresh energy, valuable skills, and great enthusiasm to the PSP. We're excited to see the impact they will make as they settle into their roles.

We welcome Mthobisi Zulu, Science and Maths facilitator and Nikki Jukes, Senior Fundraiser.



## Highlights of the STEAM Conference

PSP proudly presented workshops at the recent STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) Conference at the Cape Teaching and Leadership Institute (CTLI), with Grades 7-9 teachers.

Two teachers from PSP's Cluster Project presented:



Showcasing PSP resources at the STEAM Conference



Mr Farrel April (Temperance Town Primary) showed how models can make tricky topics like daily ocean tides fun and practical.



Mr Viwe Binase (Marconi Beam Primary) wowed teachers with an inquiry-based approach to separating mixtures.

## PSP project work in action

This term has seen activity across all our schools. New Maths and Science kits were delivered and workshopped with teachers to promote, engaging, hands-on learning in Foundation Phase to Grade 7 classrooms. All this is made possible through the generous support of our funders.



Essential science equipment delivered



Learners presenting their numbers



Using the lens to see details on seeds



Visual thinking strategy activities

## PSP believes...

**“When children struggle a little, that’s where confidence and growth begin.”**



Allow children to stay with problems longer and find their own solutions. It will make them stronger and smarter. **Taken from Albert Einstein**

## Tips for teachers and parents

- Give children a supportive environment and let them work through their challenges on their own.
- Learners should work out a problem for themselves
- Allow children to ask questions, experiment, and make mistakes.

## PSP My Difference

### Support Us

Woolworths has moved from MySchool to the new MyDifference programme.

To keep supporting the **Primary Science Programme**, please update your Woolworths App and re-select Primary Science Programme as your beneficiary.

Every swipe helps us deliver science kits, training and hands-on learning to schools across South Africa



## PSP Social Media

Follow us on social media for links to free courses, updates, resources and PSP news

