

REPORT FROM THE TRUST HEAD ON EP – MAY 2011

First I want to extend a sincere word of gratitude to the Education Committee for the continued support given to this project and for always honouring these meeting which without them this project wouldn't bear much fruit, I must say your presence, commitment and insightful advice is helping this project to move forward. I also wish to mention that possibly our next meeting will be the last meeting for two of our German volunteers, and that is Mimi and Dirk.

My program for May on education as indicated in my report for April was to:

- i) Do an audit of learners doing Afrikaans in the AC
- ii) Call a parents meeting for crèche and preschool
- iii) Preparing for the third class
- iv) Support facilitators improve the Daily Planning for crèche and preschool

i) Learners doing Afrikaans in the AC

Here is a summary of our learners who are currently doing Afrikaans as a 1st language and who are taught in Afrikaans and so would need a lot of support to improve their co-ordination of the language to improve their academic performance:

CLASS	NUMBERS
Albertina	2
Nomzamo	5
Nondi	18
Idrene	8
Lumka	8
Total	41

POSSIBLE WAYFORWARD

Dorot h	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
2	6	2	2	2	10	12	4	0	1	41
Grade 1-5 = 22						Grade 6-9 = 17				

We will be looking at a possibility of restructuring our AC classes to accommodate these 41 learners in two classes. In the Aftercare currently learners are getting support through the literacy programme. We are planning to get more support material, like study guides for different grades, especially in cases where learners indicate to need more support or where there is evidence of poor performance indicated through progress reports.

We are also currently engaging professionals to advise how best we can tackle the language issue so as to be able to advise parents on a more sustainable way forward for 2012 onwards. On the 24th of May through Wina we had a presentation by Dr Isaac Ndlovu sharing ideas based on his research on

Mother-tongue and English in South African schools. The purpose of engaging on the issue is to create more awareness on the importance of introducing languages to learners as early as possible as failure to do so affects how students perform later in life. Especially in SA where the medium of instruction is mostly English at high school and tertiary level.

ii) **Parents meeting for crèche and preschool:** we could not have a parents meeting for the crèche and preschool because Mabel lost her sister so the feeling of the staff was to organise the meeting when Mabel is also available as one of our staff members for the crèche.

iii) **Third class:** We have received only FIVE applications for the third class. The post was advertised in the library, taxi rank, Boland College, in the Gazette, Eikestadnuus and free online ads. I am concerned about the poor response and the quality of the applications we received. We don't have learners on the waiting list who are still younger than 2yrs9months to be put on the website. We need to put up notices for parents to apply for the intake of new kids to be selected for the third class and also in preparation for 2012 as we are in June already.

iv) **Daily Planning for crèche and preschool:** On the 16th of May we visited Umnqophiso Center in Lwandle together with Noziphiwo, our grade R facilitator, as part of staff development, to go and do class observations and see which areas she can improve on in her grade R class. She was quite impressed by her findings such that she saw a need to have a follow up visit.

Donation of educational material: Yesterday (30 May) we received educational material to the value of R10 000 from our volunteers from Netherlands, Lieka and Susan, who were working with Noziphiwo and Zanele (see Adele's report). I must say Adele played a major role in co-ordinating their programme till the end and their presence added a significant role in the education of our learners in the pre-school. Their commitment and dedication to their work will be missed by staff members and the learners in the preschool. We wish them well in their journey to success.

Programme for June: As we all know that June is a Youth and Children's Rights month. We as staff members wish to plan activities targeted to raise awareness about the responsibilities that we expect our young people to assume. A possible way is to allow them to showcase what they do in their activity clubs. I will liaise with various activity club co-ordinators and see how best we can organise the event.

Edupeg follow-up: Shirley from Edupeg, will be doing a follow-up workshop on the 2nd of June for preschool and AC facilitators.

Staff Development Plan:- there is a need to have a clear plan for staff development. I'm in a process, after consultation with the staff members, of compiling a proposal to be tabled in our next meeting.

Report compiled by Mrubata N. N.