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New Faces at SAEP

Parenting Today

**ECD Centre secures
LOTTO award**

Digital Literacy



SAEP welcomed new interns



Govan Crotz

Studied BSC Biodiversity and Ecology at Stellenbosch University. "I grew up watching nature documentaries with David Attenborough and Crocodile hunter with Steve Irwin. Those shows sparked my passion for learning more about how nature works. I joined SAEP to gain experience in the field of biodiversity and environmental issues, which will be essential to my future."



Ntombokholo Mpondo

Btech in Environmental Management graduate from CPUT. "Growing up in an informal settlement where there's a lot of environmental issues has been of interest to pursue my studies in the Environmental sector. Being part of SAEP has given me an opportunity to continue to grow and learn as an Environmental Educational Officer."



Sizwe Siyabulela Vakaza

Holds a BTech in Horticulture and Quality which were both obtained from CPUT. Growing up we had a vegetable garden at home and that's where I developed some love for gardening. My personal motto, "before we are students or employees, we are the members of the community", hence I joined SAEP."

SAEP Bids Farewell to WESSA Groen Sebenza Interns

SAEP held a farewell ceremony on Wednesday, 15 March, to celebrate the achievements of the exiting WESSA interns. The interns' time with the South African Education Project has come to an end after a two-year period during which they gained valuable workplace experience.

Presenting Results

Interns were requested to prepare presentations to show what they have accomplished during their tenure at the organisation. These presentations provided context on the importance of the work by the South African Education Project and the role interns played to achieve programmatic objectives. It was a pleasure to see how much these interns have contributed through the work they have done.

Demonstrating resilience and readiness

A great deal of flexibility was demonstrated by these interns who were often required to take on tasks with which they were not familiar. We are especially proud to see how these interns flourished in challenging circumstances and provided great results. The time at SAEP provided them with great experience to carry forward. We are happy to have hosted them and to have facilitated their personal and professional development in the field of work which they are passionately pursuing.

Thank you and Farewell

The South African Education Project management and staff would like to thank the WESSA interns for their time with the organisation. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours.

All the interns were presented with a Certificate of Service by their mentors in appreciation of their dedication and hard work.





Food for Thought

Raising the Future

Nothing is more important for our collective future than how well we raise the next generation. Such is the importance of parents and the foundation phase of children.

-Craig Wilkinson

The health of the community is determined by the behaviour of the community itself and the influence is in the way they were parented.

No one has a greater impact on our self-esteem, worldview, beliefs, values, emotional intelligence, and the way we handle life and relationships than our caregivers or parents and foundation phase educators. Love, respect, and compassion are taught and modelled. A person who was disciplined growing up is likely to have self-discipline as an adult who respects and values others.

Disrespect, anger, aggression, greed, and prejudice are also taught and modelled and come from a heart that was not loved and validated as a child. Parents who fail to meet their children's physical, emotional, and psychological needs grow up wounded. And, wounded people become people who wound. Children who are raised by parents with destructive value systems like prejudice and intolerance will most often internalise these values and live them out in one way or another as adults.

Some key aspects of raising children are to build a safer and better world for all.

- Be there to answer the deep questions of your child's heart. Who am I? am I valid? Am I wanted and loved? Am I good? Do I matter? Every child cries out to their parents; show me how to live life, show me what it means to be a woman or a man.
- The best parents are those who are emotionally whole and model to their children what it means to live life well. None of us is perfectly parented and we all have wounds of the heart we picked up in our journey to adulthood.
- Examine your beliefs and what you are consciously or subconsciously teaching your child. If you believe you are more valuable than people not like you – **gender, race, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, or any other way** – they question that belief because it's simply not true. We need to embrace and adopt the universal values of love, compassion, tolerance and respect, and model these to the next generation.

Of course, there is no guarantee that good parenting will produce good adults or that bad parenting will produce bad adults. Children from the most loving homes can turn out badly and children with the worst upbringing can turn out very well. Yet, the correlation between childhood experience and adult behaviour is sufficiently strong to say that: if we had to choose one thing to make the biggest impact on the world and its future, it would be parenting.

ECD Principal starts 2023 with successful LOTTO award

Following a facilitated process, at least six of the SAEP-supported ECD Centres have thus far received successful award confirmation directly from the National Lottery Commission between December 2022 and January 2023. Mother and daughter pair, Nontando Sothenjwa and Bathandwa Sothenjwa who operate One Nation Educate in Philippi East are among those who have passed the stringent LOTTO adjudication process and secured a successful award.

“Socioeconomic development, as well as enterprise development, are integral pillars of support in the re-engineered ECD programme. It forms part of our drive and vision to see ECD Centres become financially independent and sustainable as Centres of Excellence that deliver high-quality ECD services to children. We are proud to be the designated Social Service Organisation supporting those centres that have secured LOTTO funding,” said Everts.

Without funding or support, many ECD centres struggle to perform ongoing maintenance or building upgrades to meet the minimum registration requirements outlined in Section 79 of the Children’s Act. Resource constraints remain a recurring theme in the heavily regulated ECD sector as children across South Africa reported for the start of the new school year.



SAEP & ELRU Hosts a Registration Jamboree for ECD Facilities

SAEP and ELRU (Early Learning Resource Unit) are the designated social services organisations (SSOs) mandated to support ECD registration in the Philippi and Samora Michael community. The organisations partnered to host a joint information session jamboree on land use, building plans and other municipal clearances needed for ECD registration. This was a one stop shop for ECD facilities where officials came to the community to engage and explain the different requirements for municipal clearances and how they can go about it.

City of Cape Town ECD department is piloting an online platform called the Modernisation tool, this has been developed to aid in the turnaround time of municipal clearances and is foreseen to assist the principals in cutting down the different processes and submissions needed. With the Modernization Tool a principal can now submit their applications for all municipal clearances at once, they will receive updates on the process of their application as it moves from one department to another. The process is envisaged to take 21 days per department. ECD principals were delighted to have an opportunity to engage with City officials and have their queries answered, the pandemic had seen a lot of officials working from home and affecting the turnaround time for clearances. SAEP and ELRU are grateful to the support rendered by the departments and partners in making the event successful and looks forward to having many more events targeting ECD s at different levels of registration readiness and working towards obtaining municipal clearances.



Winning a Bronze medal was not a shock for Vukani Primary



Dedication and determination eventually pay off indeed, now that Vukani Primary school which is one of the registered participants of Eco-school Programme that is conducted by Wildlife organisation Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa in collaboration with SAEP has finally reaps off the fruits of their substantial effort implementing the project.

Biodiversity and Nature was the theme of the project in which the school has actively participated in activities they have outlined, designed and implemented in line with the theme. The project's goal was to initially encourage young people to engage in their environment by allowing them the opportunity to actively be involved in activities protecting the environment for the benefits of both present and future generations. It inspired the school to commence environmental conversion that resulted to the establishment of school indigenous gardening, positively, which will crucially benefit the school as the educators can use the garden as an outdoor classroom.

All this was possibly done by the Eco-school committee that is in consist of teachers and learners, both groups were taken through several intensity trainings about how to initiate a green garden, by doing an environmental review, develop environmental plan, monitoring and evaluating the project.

The project also introduced Eco-Literacy to its participants that offered the learners an opportunity to learn about indigenous plants and their importance to humans and animals, within the school garden. Eventually, learners were inspired to create their own environmental story books that will increase their plant knowledge.

The Eco-school committee also commemorated environmental calendar days, Beach-Clean-Up, Shark Education Centre, Boulders and Cape point. The entire trip was all about teaching the importance of taking care of our environment and how does unhealthy environments affect animals including human life. Now that the project has reached its culmination, participants are rewarded according to visibility results from the project's operation. Vukani stood up on Bronze for their hard work.

School Programmes

Post Matric Programme

Newlands Forest Hike

Bridging Year students visited Newlands Forest. This was an invitation by SANPARKS. Students were taught about the educational purposes of bark stripping which is most prevalent in the Newlands section of Table Mountain National Park.

SANPARKS gave a talk on what bark stripping is about and ways the park is working to act against it. After the talk, students hiked to Newlands Forest. Bark stripping is the illegal harvesting of tree bark for private use by individuals. Tree bark has been used in traditional medicines and rituals for centuries in many parts of Africa and the rest of the world as well. It is widely used in South Africa by traditional healers in medicines and potions.



Hope Scholars Programme (HSP)

HSP attended the Western Cape Environmental Education Friends Meeting

The Western Cape Environmental Education Friends (WCEEF) is a platform for environmental education practitioners in the Western Cape who share the vision of providing education and resources to on a wide range of subjects relating to nature conservation, the protection of the environment and sustainable development practices. It is also responsible for the overall co-ordination and optimization of the environmental education activities in the Western Cape. The Western Cape EE Friends is coordinated and facilitated by the Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP)'s Directorate Sustainability, in collaboration with the City of Cape Town's (Environmental Capacity Building Unit).

Hope Scholars (HSP) have been representing SAEP in this platform throughout the year in different workshops and meetings. On Friday, the 18th of November 2022 HSP attended the last meeting of EE friends hosted by SANPARKS at the Table Mountain National Park in Tokai. The meeting was attended by different of organisations who are active participants in this platform such as Cape Nature, save our seas, Nature Connect, Leopard Trust, etc. The meeting was for the organisations to reflect on the year 2022 and the challenges each organisation faced in delivering Environmental education to their beneficiaries.

The meeting was chaired by the Western Cape EE friend's chairperson, Mrs Khuthala F Swanepoel, presentations from SANParks, Leopard trust and Western Cape Government. Certificates of participation were issued to each organisation for their commitment and participation in the WC EE friends programs throughout the year. The participants were later taken for a walk coordinated by SANParks at the Silvermine Dam where they learned about the fauna and flora existing in the area and the relations between species that exist there.

SAEP exhibits at STEM Club Festival

The Cape Town Science Centre (CTSC) and the Western Cape Education Department (WCED), hosted teachers at the Cape Teaching and Leadership Institute (CTLI) for the STEM Clubs Confestival, held from 27–29 January 2023.

SAEP demonstrated their Schools Indigenous Greening Project that is currently being implemented in select High Schools. The project aims to inform teachers about the importance of incorporating outdoor learning into their daily teaching schedule. SAEP demonstration incorporated three key themes, Biodiversity, Conservation, and Restoration speaking to sustainable development.

The Confestival engrossed on the following themes as part of the approach to 2023 prospects, including topics on Sustainability, Smart Living Waste Management, Energy and Mobility, Water Management, River rehabilitation and Wetlands, Biodiversity, Conservation and Restoration Coastal Management and Climate and Energy.



Activities Aligned with School Curriculum

Silvermine Nature Reserve Hike

Eighteen Grade nine learners from Sophumelela Senior Secondary School in Philippi participated in an environmental hike to Silvermine Nature Reserve part of the Table Mountain National Park. Attractions within the Silvermine Nature reserve range from popular and well-marked mountain bike trails to bird watching and hiking.

The South African Education Project (SAEP) High School Programme provides life skills and stimulating extra-mural outings to develop environmentally conscious and responsible youth equipped with information about human rights, responsible citizenship, and career guidance. The programme is linked to the Life Orientation subject, which in term one covers physical education and participation in physical activities which promote health and fitness.

Sponsorship

The educational excursion was made possible by the [Mountain Club of South Africa \(MCSA\)](#) to promote environmental awareness and instill environmental activism in youth and young adolescents, while also promoting physical activities and living healthy lifestyles. The Mountain Club of South Africa was founded in 1891 and is the largest and oldest mountaineering club in South Africa, one of the oldest clubs in the world.



Digital Literacy

Digital literacy remains among the most sought-after skills in the job market today. Sixty Grade 12 learners from Sophumelela Secondary School in Samora Machel have raised the digital bar as they work towards the qualifying criteria for certification in Information Technology.

The South African Education Project (SAEP) pioneered the digital literacy skills course and obtained accreditation for Digital Literacy in terms of the ETQA Regulations No: R 1127 for a National Certificate in IT: End User Computing – NQF Level 3, in March 2022. The Literacy pilot programme is currently being implemented together with Information Technology Service Implementation partner, Master Grade IT (MGIT).

SAEP spokesperson, Shane Everts, confirms the Digital Literacy Programme was well received, “The programme was oversubscribed on the first day with classes exceeding 50 learners and we were unfortunately not able to accommodate all the interested learners on the pilot programme due to funding and infrastructure constraints”

“The enormous demand for Digital Literacy is clear and from preliminary results of those learners who are participating in the pilot programme, the majority demonstrated their eagerness to learn with some learners maintaining their formative assessments to date above the 1st percentile”.





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The South African Education Project (SAEP) is a non-profit organisation (NPO 028 310), based in Cape Town, South Africa.

Since 1994, we have provided education, life skills, and psycho-social support programmes for children youth and education providers.

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