

# Newsletter

May 2011

wordworks

transforming lives through literacy

*"In this short space of time we have learnt a lot. My daughter is less nervous when she does schoolwork, it is also fun. Thank-you for such a wonderful programme, there should be more programmes like this."*

Feedback from a parent who attended the parent programme at St Agnes Primary in Woodstock, run for the first time this year.

## Dates for your diary:

**27 July 2011**

**13h30 – 16h30**

Workshop for volunteer co-ordinators (Early Literacy Programme)

**11 June 2011**

**9am – 2pm**

Workshop for facilitators (Home-School Partnership Programme)

*(Details of venues will be sent nearer the time )*

## Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of our brand new newsletter! The purpose of the newsletter is to keep all of our valued friends and supporters up-to-date with the latest developments at Wordworks. It will be produced once a term and include latest news, photos and useful information. We do hope you enjoy it!

## Wordworks team has grown!

We now have an office administrator, Edeline Boka, who is in our Wordworks office on Mondays and Thursdays. We are also delighted that Angelique Twiss, an experience Grade R and Grade One teacher, has moved down from Johannesburg to join Wordworks. She will be involved in mentoring volunteer teams, and in our new Grade R teacher training programme.

## New training programme for Grade R teachers

This year, Wordworks is extending its focus to include a training programme to strengthen literacy and language teaching in Grade R. In partnership with the Centre for Early Childhood Development, we are working with 18 preschools in the Lavender Hill and Vrygrond area. Through monthly training sessions and site visits, we hope to ensure that all Grade R learners begin school with a strong foundation for learning to read and write. We are also busy developing resources and guidelines that we can share with other preschools in 2012 .

## Brilliant results at St James Primary

The early literacy programme at St James Primary School began in 2005, focusing on building strong foundations at Grade 1 level, and giving extra help with reading and writing to children who needed it in Grades 2 and 3. From 2004 to 2010, the pass rate for Grade 3 literacy increased from 42% to 84%. In 2010, 97% of Grade 6 pupils (who were in Grade 1 when the programme started) passed the literacy assessment. The majority of these children are from Oceanview, Vrygrond and Masiphumelele and speak English as a second language. This is an amazing achievement by all the hard-working children, teachers and volunteers at St James – congratulations!

## Parent Programme continues to make a difference

The Home-School Partnership programme has been offered for the fourth year running at Sentinel Primary in Hangberg, Hout Bay, where 37 participants received certificates. According to the school principal, the programme is one of the main reasons for the 27% increase in the school's literacy results from 2008 to 2010. The commitment and achievements of the two Grade R teachers facilitating the programme, Dawn Cozett and Anthea Elliot, has come to the attention of e.tv, who featured the Sentinel programme in their 'Everyday Heroes' slot.

## Can you help?

Each parent who attends our Home-School Partnership programme is given a pack of resources that they can use at home, including a picture book for parents to read to their child. We would very much appreciate donations of items for these packs, including stationery (scissors, wax crayons, blank A4 books and pencil crayons) and picture books for young children (in English, Afrikaans or isiXhosa).

### Contact Us:

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Wordworks volunteer teams are growing. This photo shows Shelley O'Carroll training volunteers from Grassy Park and Mitchell's Plain.

### Early literacy programme grows...

The early literacy programme is currently running at 23 sites in the Cape Town area, from Masiphumelele to Stellenbosch. We have recently started programmes at seven new schools in Mitchell's Plain and Grassy Park. In February, training was delivered to 56 volunteers from these new schools, all women from the local community.

### Profile

Sarie Morris and Kathleen Pearce (shown in the photo on the right) attended the parent programme in 2009 at Capricorn Primary in Vrygrond. This was the first time they had attended a course since their school days some years ago. Afterwards, both were inspired to become volunteers and joined the Wordworks early literacy programme at Capricorn Primary. They subsequently became

teacher assistants at the school and this year, have been accepted at Falsebay College to start Level 1 ECD training. Congratulations Sarie and Kathleen!



### Thank YOU!

The work and achievements of Wordworks are only made possible by the commitment of our wonderful volunteers and the support of many other individuals and organisations. Your generosity means that our work can continue and grow. We really cannot thank you enough.

**Our mission:** Wordworks aims to strengthen early literacy and language development in disadvantaged communities through targeted early intervention and the delivery of proven programmes and resources. Wordworks seeks to enable all children to fulfill their learning potential by empowering parents, teachers, community members and volunteers to play a meaningful role in facilitating the early acquisition of reading and writing skills.