

Psychomotor Education Society of South Africa

LETTER JUL 2013

Welcome to our mid-year newsletter. Short days, long nights and cold weather are upon us already, but the anticipation of school holidays and sleep-ins ahead brings compensation.

We are very sad to advise that Louise Ann Kay, who was a Psychomotor educator at Clifton, Nottingham Road, passed away on 23 May 2013. Michele Kocheleff represented PEISA at the Memorial Service and we extend condolences



AGM

THE AGM held at Sunnylea Pre-Primary on 17 April was attended by 23 members and 7 apologies.

Rossella Meusel presented a very interesting and informative synopsis of the 9 phases of evolution of Pratique Psychomotrice Aucouturier (PPA). A copy of the PowerPoint presentation has been sent to Aucouturier and the information to the members. This information is invaluable in understanding and implementing PPA in our schools.

ADMINISTRATION

We extend sincere thanks to Marlene Allerston who carried the full load of secretarial and financial responsibilities during the 2012-13 year. It was decided that it would be far more practical to separate these duties and the following people will share the load for the 2013-14 financial year:

Contents:

- Condolence
- AGM
- Administration
- Aucouturier
- Training
- OVC
- Library
- Next PPA Workshop
- Sunnylea



Secretary: Samantha Ferreira Sunnylea Pre-Primary peisa.info13@gmail.com

Treasurer: Cynthia Shepperson cshepperson@telkom.net

Newsletter: Elaine Osborn Retired geosborn@ledom.co.za

Banking details remain unchanged:

PESSA NEDBANK Account No.1340 509 695 Branch No.1340 2500 (Subs.R330-00 pa late submission R400-00)

AUCOUTURIER

BERNARD AUCOUTURIER'S VISIT was truly inspiring and he, in turn, was delighted to discover that PPA is "alive in South Africa", speaking about his South African experiences at all the workshops he runs. We are extremely fortunate that he agreed to visit us to observe and participate in our Psychomotor lessons. He was pleasantly surprised and impressed with our efforts, praising our endeavours and recommending necessary improvements and adaptations. Education is an ongoing process and we need to be constantly learning and evolving. Change inevitably meets with resistance at first, but as we appreciate the wealth of expertise and experience he shares with us we are able to adapt, develop and understand the philosophy and benefits these changes bring. We encourage all to be conscientious in studying the recommendations, attending the workshops presented and observing lessons at those schools that have already implemented these adaptations.





TRAINING

Level 1: Mary-Lou Kemp has successfully completed the LEVEL 1 Training Manual.

Congratulations Mary-Lou!

Mary-Lou, Jenny, Soonitha and Elaine gained experience with the training at Matimatolo last year.

They have now studied the Non-Violent Communication component to complete the course as Level 1 Trainers.

A new phase of Level 1 training has started at Vikindlala near Greytown, sponsored by World Vision.

There are 4 schools involved and Michele and Mary-Lou travel there to train the teachers each Thursday. For the first time the government school at Matimatolo has started to implement Psychomotor education in their six grade R classes.

Level 2: The level 2 training is progressing well with 6 enthusiastic participants.

Level 3: We remind possible candidates to make a decision to enroll for this course as soon as possible as we require a minimum of 4 people. Jenny Zwiers and Karen Atkins are anxious to get started.

Psychomotor is no longer being taught at Hillcrest Pre-Primary School. Elaine and Tracey have withdrawn and the school was unable to reach agreement to provide one of their teachers for training.



OVC

OVC CONFERENCE, DURBAN (Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Africa)

This conference was organized by the Department of Social Development. PEISA, together with WORLD VISION, were invited to deliver a presentation to delegates. The audience consisted of only about 60 people.

LIBRARY

New book - recommended reading:

'PLAYING and REALITY' by D.W. WINNICOTT

NEXT WORKSHOP: SYMBOLIC PLAY

At: Sunnylea Pre-Primary School, Pietermaritzburg.

On: Saturday, 3 August 2013

Time: 9.00 a.m. - 12 noon

Cost: Free

Reminder: PEISA has introduced a compulsory requirement in terms of which you are obliged to attend at least one workshop a year in order to update your teaching and maintain your PPA membership.



SUNNYLEA

Sunnylea Pre-Primary's recipe for life: through imagination and empathy

Written by Claire Falconer

The shrieks of laughter and excitement can be heard from the parking lot. Once through the gate I am awash in a sea of colour, running bodies and exuberant faces. The playground is full of swings, tyres, sand, climbing places and tunnels, all covered with children like ants searching out honey. I wish I could put down my bag and play with them.

Yet it is later, inside the Psychomotor room that I feel the greatest tugs to understand what the child is doing spontaneously in its immediate environment. With every teacher professionally trained every child is helped to overcome difficulties by being allowed to forget them. The principal traits valued by the school are imagination and empathy. By actions a child creates its inner and outer world. In a non-direct way the child can experience the other person as changeable but still stable and the same person. The child is changeable but never the less develops its own identity. It is this which sets them apart from an education system set up for an era that has already passed us. When the children from Sunnylea enter society as contributing members, how much will the world have changed? As technology expands and the world shrinks, we can see more; do more, than ever before. But can we understand more? Through learning lessons of peaceful negotiation and the infallible resource of their own creativity, the children at Sunnylea are gaining the skills to adapt to a world that is changing faster than we can even describe it.

At Sunnylea, through innovative and extensively researched teaching methods, children are taught the extent of their own power and, therefore responsibility. Along with Alwande and Stephen, I learnt now we are responsible for our own experience of the world.

“Stephen hit me!” shared Alwande in the circle.

“Well, did you tell him that you didn’t like it?” A tentative nod.

As the balance of power, authority and organizational structure in the world at large shifts and muddies, the ability to navigate our way through the complex inter-weavings of life will stand us all in good stead.

Such shifts mean the rigid borders of institutions serve us less and less.

At Sunnylea, the staff is comfortable with ambiguity and diversity, making active adaptations to the children’s needs. They recognise that children *want* to learn, and do so *naturally* in a secure environment. This is not to say that the children do not encounter systems within their play. In the Grade R class, children experience a year of school-readiness activities to ensure that the move to ‘big school’ will not find them unprepared for their main feeder school, Clarendon Primary School.

The focus on informal and spontaneous learning takes advantage of many ‘teachable moments’. Becoming a listening partner for a child, mirroring the child’s behaviour and putting words on the emotions displayed, helps children express their inner world. In fact, it seems no area has been left to chance. As I walk around the school, I find myself enveloped in warmth and stimulation in every moment. The teachers at Sunnylea believe it pays to care, widely and deeply, and evidence of that sentiment abounds.



..... an email sent by a parent

Our son, Emeka, a Grade R pupil is at Sunnylea Pre-Primary School. We have been members of NOAH (National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation) social network since our son was born with an albinism condition. We have heard from parents with children who suffer from the albinism condition, complain about discrimination and that their children suffer from their school friends teasing them.

I have been worried and waiting for the day that my son will come back from school complaining about being teased. It has been a wonderful journey for my son at Sunnylea Pre-Primary for two years. My son has never complained or been shown any kind of rejection by his school friends. Actually, Emeka is loved by his friends and accepted unconditionally.

Recently the school organised for Emeka to have an eye test and receive a new pair of glasses from MOFFATT OPTICAL at Cascades. Thank you Mark Marshall for your generosity and kindness.

My son now has a better and clearer future thanks to the Principal, Secretary and all the staff at Sunnylea.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon at the PPA workshop on the **3 August**.

Kind regards

Elaine

All PPA schools are encouraged to contribute articles/ideas/photos to the Newsletter:
email: geosborn@ledom.co.za