



NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2022



VISION

To be a world-class science centre capacitated to assist in instilling a culture of science and technology, acquiring science knowledge, skills and attitudes; applying this acquired science knowledge, skills and attitudes to develop and innovate new products and services that uplift the quality of life for all South Africans, and using the innovated products and services to compete in the global world of science.

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June 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA

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YEAR OF POSSIBILITIES

The past year has had its own challenges, ups and downs we are alive and hopeful. We are hopeful for better days and we hope you will enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

1. CAREER CENTRE NEWS

Psychological Services

Anglo American Platinum Schools Project (AAPSP)

Anglo American Platinum launched their schools project to improve learners' mathematics, science and English skills. The project covers three technical high schools which they have partnered with near the mine's operations in Limpopo Province namely:

Mogale Wa Bagale Technical High School in Burgersfort in the Sekhukhune District; Phaladingoe Technical High School in the Mogalakwane area in the Waterberg District; and Thekganang Technical High School in the Amandebult area also in the Waterberg District.

Since the project's inception, the number and severity of social problems affecting the learners has been staggering and AAP could not deal with this alone. Further to this many learners are not aware of the different types of jobs/careers that are out there, what studies are required for the different careers and which institutions are able to cater for the different careers. AAPSP therefore took the decision to include the dimension psychological services to assist students with psycho-social, career and educational problems which impact on their learning.

In February 2021, AAP selected the Sci-Bono Career Centre to be the preferred supplier to execute the one of the seven scopes of enquiry, namely Direct Learner Support: Psychological Services for grade 9 and 12's. The project will run over three years.

The Psychological Services Workstream signed a project charter with the AAPSP and committed to deliver intervention programs in the following key performance areas (KPA's)

To provide career development support to learners in order to enable them to make informed career decisions as well as have appropriate plans for future studies in higher education or the world of work.

To provide psycho-social programs and activities to help learners develop social and coping skills to adapt, integrate, and relate healthily in and outside the school environment, which will result in improved discipline in the school.

To provide educational psychological assessments to learners who present with demonstrable barriers to learning and who are possible candidates for accommodations, placements and concessions.

To implement strategies for building resilience of learners who are at risk of educational failure in order to improve academic resilience and success.

- To provide support to educators, HODs and School Based Support Teams (SBST) on how to facilitate learner career development as well as apply learner resilience strategies in order to build institutional capacity post the life span of the project.
- Transfer of skills to Life Orientation educators on how to facilitate learner career development and support.

Year 1 closed out with the following key highlights:

Subject Choice Assessment, Report Writing and Feedback	117 Grade 9 learners from Phaladingoe Technical High School.
	71 Grade 9 learners from Thekganang Technical High School.

Subject Choice Group Workshops	198 Grade 9 learners from Mogale Wa Bagale Technical High School.
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Career guidance and job search skills workshops were delivered to the top 10 Grade 12 learners shortlisted for Anglo bursaries as well as online tertiary study applications for admissions into the 2022 academic year.

Career Guidance Group Workshop

25 learners attended the workshops, an additional 103 from Phaladingoe also received career guidance on the request of the School Principal.

Job Search Skills Workshop

27 learners attended the workshops

School Based Counselling Support Program

Registered counsellors have been placed in the three schools and are providing counselling sessions for individual learners as well as run exam preparation group workshops for learners in Grades 10, 11 and 12 where necessary.

The project activities were delivered under difficult and untenable COVID-19 circumstances resulting in a series of adaptations to the initial project plans. As a result, the workstream had to navigate against a range of priority competing curriculum imperatives in order to achieve some of the project charter outcomes. The same conditions will most likely continue to prevail and will require the team to switch over and adapt to online offerings. All in all, AAP have been happy with the overall performance of this psychological services workstream.

Student psychometrist practicum programme update

We are very pleased to announce that our January-June 2021 intern Peter Maluleke, and our July-December 2022 interns Courteney Puckle and Poonam Trikam have passed their Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) board exams. They have therefore earned their place to practice as Independent Psychometrists. Congratulations!

We have also welcomed our new interns for 2022 – Saieda Suleman and Divan Basson – who will be learning and contributing their knowledge to the psychological services team from January to June of this year. This will then qualify them to also write their board exam and register as an independent Psychometrist.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Career Centre has trained 12 student psychometry interns and had 10 registrations with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as Registered Psychometrists (Independent Practice).

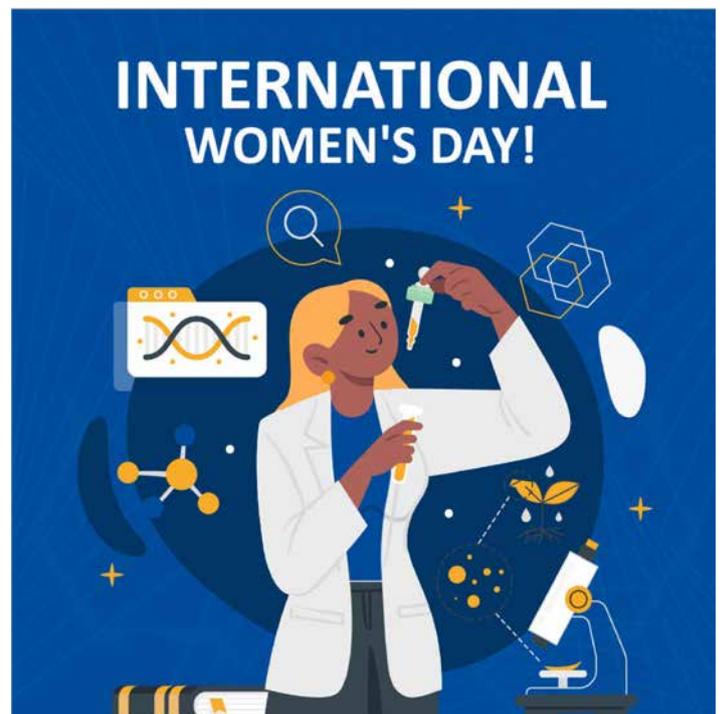
UN International World Syndrome Observance Day

The Career Centre hosted the UN International World Syndrome Observance Day which takes place on 21 March every year. On this day, people with Down Syndrome and those who live and work with them throughout the world organize and participate in activities and events to raise public awareness and create a single global voice advocating for the rights, inclusion and wellbeing of people with Down syndrome. Every year on this day, the world celebrates differences in order to make a difference. The Career Centre collaborated with Down Syndrome South Africa and the event was attended by learners with Down Syndrome and their parents, educators from special needs schools as well as a team from the Inclusion and Special Schools (ISS).



International Day Of Women & Girls In Science

The Careers and Science Centre hosted a joint webinar session on 11 February to celebrate the annual UN International Observance Day for Women and Girls in Science. The guest speaker was Ms. Amanda Ngwenya, born in South Africa and currently resident in Denmark. Ms. Ngwenya is an energy sector professional and net-zero by 2050 activist. She is employed by the Danish Energy Agency in Denmark in the energy modelling and scenario analysis team.



2. SCIENCE CENTRE NEWS

Science Explorers Holiday Programme

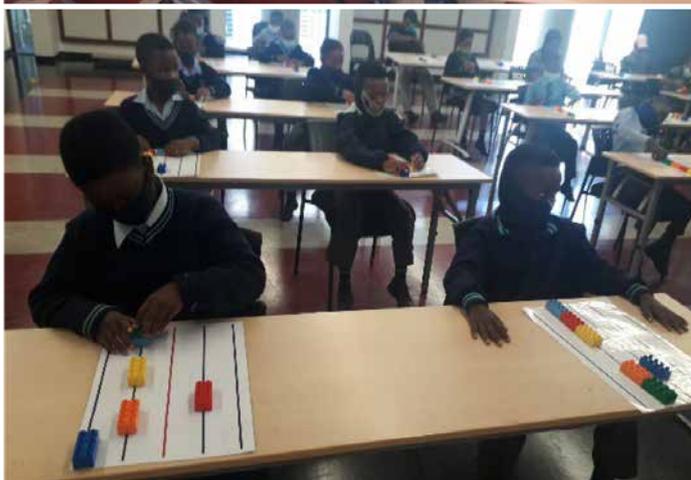
Science Centre hosted a Science Explorers Holiday Programme during the December/January school vacation period. The programme consisted of a variety of hands-on workshops, floor activities and science shows such as launching water-bottle rockets, exploring polymer chemistry while making slime and exploring the human body in the Astonishing. The holiday programme was designed to offer a wide array of fun and exciting science activities from all areas of science and provided a platform for families to engage in these activities together.

Climate Change Virtual Reality Experience

Sci-Bono is assisted by UNISEF and UNDP for the development of a Climate Change Virtual Reality experience which is hosted on the VR stations at the 4IR exhibition. The experience aims to educate visitors on the Sustainable Development Goals and the impact of their actions that contribute towards Climate Change through "Deforestation". The experience is currently in the design phase with content development being finalized and is scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

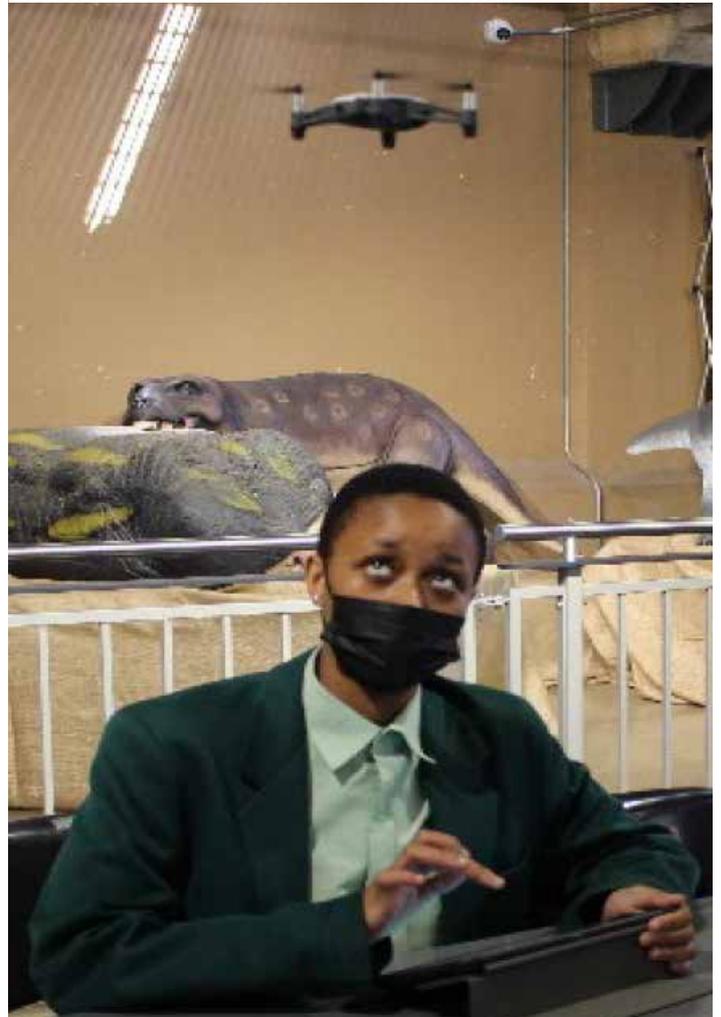
Enquiring Minds Programme

Enquiring Minds hosted annually, this year it was hosted under the theme "Discovering Science". The programme links directly to the study area "Beginning Knowledge, Personal and Social Well-being" of the life skills curriculum for Foundation Phase.



WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

The Science Centre celebrated World Wildlife Day under the theme "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration" in support of the conservation of endangered species and their ecosystems. City Parks, Johannesburg Zoo, National Zoological Gardens and SANBI were part of the celebration.



Tech Focus Days

The Science Centre in collaboration with Career Centre and ICT Centre hosted a three day event. The purpose is to introduce and to expose learners to Robotics, Coding, Drone Piloting and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) related skills such as critical thinking and problem solving.

World Water Day

22 March is World Water Day. In commemorating this day the Science Centre had programmes to highlight the importance of fresh water and the sustainable management of freshwater resources. On the day Ms. Thembeke Mkhize, a Hydro Biologist from Joburg Water addressed the addressing learners on environmental issues and the importance of water conservation. The learners also participated in various water related hands-on activities and a tour of the H2O Today Water Exhibition which included theatrical performance entitled "Tholo, The Brave" which is about the journey of a water droplet from the Maluti Mountains in Lesotho all the way to our taps in Gauteng.



National Water Week

National Water Week took place from 22- 24 March in partnership with Joburg Water. The theme for the Water Week was "Groundwater-making the invisible, visible" in response to the current crisis of water shortage. During the week, learners were educated on appreciating the value of water, its conservation, and the sustainable use of it. We had exhibitors and presenters from Johannesburg Water, Department of Water and Sanitation, Johannesburg City Parks and the City of Johannesburg.

Wondrous Water Holiday Programme

Our Holiday programme was everything water, As most of our programmes this one also consisted of a variety of hands-on workshops, floor activities, science shows and special live theatrical performances. Some of the activities were to explore and experiment with the properties of water, making and launching water-bottle rockets, and finding out if there is water in other planets.



Rocketry Course

Rocketry Course designed for Grade 10 and 11, learners participated in the course during the March school holidays. The programme covered the teaching of the fundamentals of Rocketry: the history, applications, physics, chemistry, economics and mathematics of rocketry while learners design, construct and launch a rocket. All the team's Rockets launched successfully with the team from Rebana-Laka Secondary's rocket reaching the highest altitude of 234m.

Each of the learners received a Certificate of Competence for Level 1 Rocketry as per requirements by the South African Amateur Space Administration.





4IR Robotics Competition

In collaboration with the ICT Clubhouse, the Science Centre hosted 120 youth as part of their orientation for an ICT Youth Development Programme. The students were split into teams and had to compete against each other in activities that encourages communication, problem solving, teamwork and creative thinking.

Other activities they participated in were to solve puzzles on the exhibition floor, Climbing Wall and competing in a 4IR Robotics Competition. The winning teams received Augmented Reality enabled cubes as prizes.



Maths Day

Science Centre in collaboration with Math Centre celebrated World Maths Day on 23 March. The aim is to get children excited and enthusiastic about learning Maths. Maths Centre facilitated an activity on how maths is part of Robotics and Coding. In addition to the exciting maths activities and exhibition, there was also a Math Competition where visitors had to figure out the number of coloured balls contained in a glass jar.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- June Holiday Programme: June 2022