

MASICORP

The Maths Lab Project

Ukhanyo School,
Masiphumelele

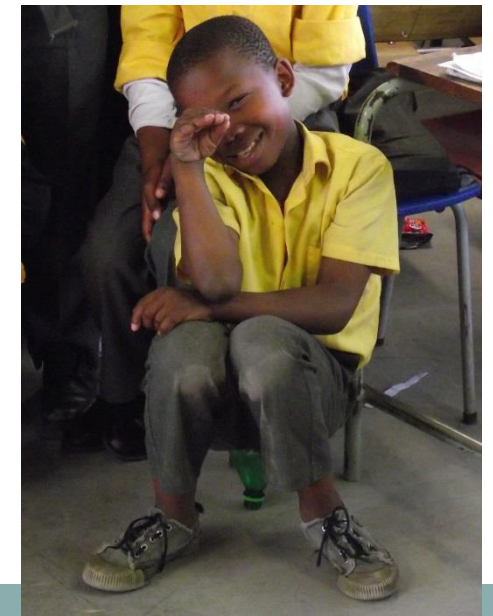
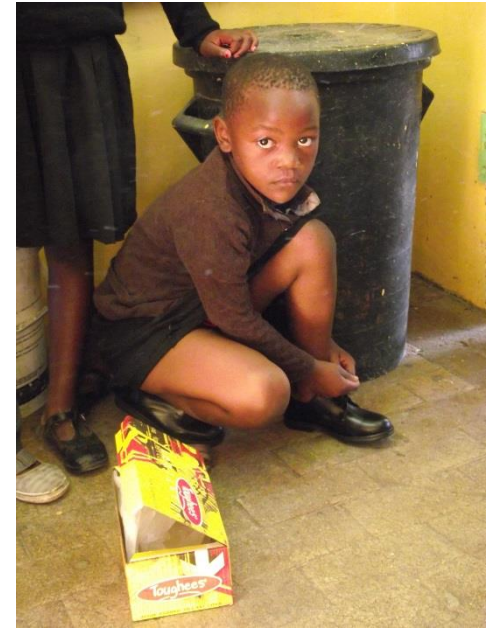
PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

Within three years,
to have raised the standard
of maths teaching and learning,
through long-term and sustainable
skills transference to the maths teachers.

BACKGROUND to the Project

UKHANYO SCHOOL:

- in Masiphumelele Township, South Africa
- Over 1500 children
- 35 teachers
- 50 pupils to a class
- Impoverished community – “poorest of the poor”
- High rates of unemployment, crime, HIV/AIDS
- Staggering rates of illiteracy & innumeracy
- In 2011 less than 5% of Grade 6 children passed standardized Language and Maths tests



BACKGROUND: Turn Around Time



2011: Science Lab Project

- volunteer teacher Fran Loudon responded to a newspaper interview and met with Principal, Mr Tyhali and as a result, initiated the 3 year Science Lab Project (funded by Frank Jackson Foundation)
- a very successful project with strong shifts in teacher & learner confidence and results.
- this project is approaching its end (2014) and the teachers are ready to 'go it alone'.

2012: English Lab Project

- volunteer teacher Jan O'Connor with Masicorp, initiated the 3 year English Lab Project, also funded by the Frank Jackson Foundation, based on the same model as Science Lab
- even greater teacher demand and participation
- Strong, significant shifts in teacher and learner results. Onward and upward!



2013: Staff Development & Mentoring Management & School Refurbishment

- English & Science Lab Projects continue to see strengthening results.
- Masicorp support extended to mentoring management (also Principals Academy)
- Masicorp school and classroom refurbishment (funded by Rotary Club). Very popular!
- The need for teacher support in Maths becomes even more focused

2014: Maths Lab Project Proposed

- We've got the Model and the Project Leader for the Maths Lab
- We've a long queue of teachers asking for help in a Maths Lab
- We want and need to initiate the Maths Lab Project

Then, when we have the Maths Lab Project, all the elements are in place to turn this school around . . . from a failing school to a successful school!

CURRENT SITUATION - MATHS RESULTS

ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSESSMENT (ANA) RESULTS 2013

Standardised, external testing – All Grades

Comparing our grade averages 2013 with 2012
OUR TEACHERS are improving.

Gr 1-3

Up 3 %

Gr 4-6

Up 8 %

Comparing our school 2013 results with other schools in our district,
our performance IS LOWER and DECREASES ALARMINGLY as the grades progress

Gr 1-3 (% of pupils passing)

10% lower

Gr 4-6 (% of pupils passing)

18% lower

OUR MATHS RESULTS

SYSTEMIC RESULTS 2013

Standardised, external testing – Gr 3 & 6 only

| % Pupils Passing | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Gr 3 | 36 | 39 | 44 | 43 |
| Gr 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 12 |

LOOKING AT TRENDS YEAR TO YEAR:

Gr 3: Slow improvement but less than half the class is passing

Gr 6: Consistently less than 5% pass rate until 2013 when we had an exceptional group

Note: this group 6 had more than a 50% pass rate in English but still only 12 % passed Maths

LOOKING AT THE TREND AS WE GO from JUNIOR GRADES to HIGHER GRADES:

There is a truly alarming drop in the number of pupils passing!

OUR PROJECT ASSESSMENT would be based on improvements in these results.

What Can We Do?

OUR MODEL OF SUPPORT



Slowly but surely, one small step at a time
Building relationships & trust
with teachers and learners.

Looking and listening carefully,
Being responsive not prescriptive.

Smashing through critical thresholds
as new paradigms emerge and intersect.

*Transforming the school,
Transforming the community.*



We **RAISE EXPECTATIONS**,
We **SUPPLY SKILLS & RESOURCES**
(to support the increased expectations)
We **INSPIRE CONFIDENCE & MOTIVATION**
(to use the new skills and resources!)

UKHANYO MATHS LAB PROJECT OUTLINE

| YEAR 1 | |
|--|--|
| Recruit Project Leader | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Smith has been selected and will work probono. Honorarium towards living costs. |
| Set up Maths Lab Room | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Principal has identified an appropriate classroom for this purpose • Fit out and resources subject to funding. • assess underutilization of existing resources |
| Recruit a Maths Lab Assistant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve the personal productivity of the Project Leader • to support the teachers as they learn new skills • help set-up the new maths room • to assist with Xhosa speakers |
| Build Relationships & Trust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With teachers, pupils, school management and the community |
| Observe & Consult | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current teacher practice and its challenges • In key grades, in particular Gr 5 & 6 where maths skills are weakest |
| As requested by teachers Test Drive for yourself, and Demonstrate for others Systems & Possible Solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eg. how to use resources with large classes (~ 50 to a class) • Eg. how to teach Maths when language skills are limited • Eg. How to incorporate IT when hardware & internet often not working • Eg. How to use textbooks effectively (a new skill as texts are a new resource) |
| Familiarise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with Western Cape Education Department (WCED) resources & advisors • with new CAPS curriculum • With internal & external test results to target areas in need of support |
| Liaise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Fran Loudon & Jan O'Connor for peer advice and support |
| YEAR 2 & 3 | |
| Continue as above Plus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Peer Mentoring & Systems for SUSTAINABILITY • Extend project to include other year levels |

MATHS LAB PROPOSAL:

- We've got the model.
- We've got the room.
- We've got the project leader.
- We've a queue of teachers asking for help.

- We simply need the funding.



Thank you for your time & concern.