KN Times

News about What's out there - for Principals and Teachers

In conversation with Principals

Teachers chat about their successes in and outside the classroom

ICT Heads share technical details and results of their research

Feedback about Awesome fun learning using every tool out there

Graphics, fun, projects and hi-tech gadgets

21st century education

So what is 21st century education? Not only is it is bold; it breaks the mold of a teacher-centered approach.

It addresses a rapidly changing world filled with fantastic new problems as well as exciting new possibilities using creative, challenging and collaborative methods.

St Dunstan's College, a leading independent school based in Benoni, prides themselves on being a forerunner in this ever-changing technological world and has embraced real world education by putting various platforms, tools, devices, programmes and facilities in place.

In 2011 St Dunstan's College implemented the use of iPads in teaching and learning with several class sets of iPads. The programme has run successfully during this implementation phase, with the emphasis being on staff training, network readiness, and the acquisition of skills and experience.

Tablet technology is having an incredible impact on education. The ability to research facts instantaneously, the availability of multiple sources of information, e-book versions of locally relevant texts and subject specific apps are some of the ways in which tablet technology has transformed the classroom experience.

Tablet technology connects students to the world in ways never before made possible. To this end, all Grade 5 - 9 pupils will be required to have an iPad as part of their prescribed "accessory" list for 2015.

For the past 12 years, the school has used the project-based Knowledge Network IT Learning System. This multi-discipline system, used from Grade 0 - 12, makes use of popular software including Microsoft Office and Adobe. By the end of Grade 12, pupils are equipped with relevant IT skills used in the work place and at university.

Pupils considering pursuing a career in computer programming can take Information Technology from Grade 10 through the Ssir online programme, and write the Grade 12 examination as an optional subject.

To facilitate collaborative teaching, learning and research, St Dunstan's has invested in Limu, an online school management system and portal.

Limu enables teachers to upload academic resources (worksheets, past exam papers, assignments and projects), make class announcements, and post student marks.

Pupils are able to access school resources, check their grades, take tests online, and submit assignments.

Over the past five years, the Preparatory School has equipped each of its classrooms with an interactive SMART Board. The junior preparatory teachers use this tool, together with the Mathletics and Reading Eggs programmes as part of their daily teaching regimen.

Mandy Lachenicht, Campus Head of Innovation and Marketing at the school reiterates this by saying that the school will continue to offer cutting-edge technology in pursuit of the Campus ideology of technological excellence.

Books, art, animation, short films

Linda Finlayson
Computer Teacher
St Katharine's School

St Katharine's has been a partnership school with Knowledge Network since 2002 and, over the past twelve years, this partnership has benefitted the school and the girls in various ways.

Knowledge Network has facilitated a number of staff training sessions at the school. The staff's computer skills have improved and they have applied them in their teaching environments. Promethean Boards have been placed in a number of classrooms to encourage interactive learning and an auditorium facility has also been made available for the staff and girls to use as part of their integrated learning programme.

The school has gained valuable exposure from Knowledge Network. Samples of the girls' graphics have been used for Knowledge Network's advertising in educational and children's/teenagers' magazines. Many projects from all Grades are also regularly posted on the Knowledge Network website.

Through its partnership with Knowledge Network, St Katharine's has joined a wider community of schools also using the curriculum.

Collaborative problem-solving follows naturally on this partnership, and leads to mutual encouragement among the teachers at training sessions and school visits, or through e-mail or telephone conversations.

The weekly computer lesson equips the girls to complete their projects in a creative manner. They enjoy the e-learning aspect of each lesson; coping skills are taught so that the girls are able to think and process information, and still produce creative work.

Computer lessons begin in Grade 0, where the girls are exposed to technology in a fun and non-threatening way. The building blocks that are in place in the curriculum enable the girls to learn new skills and this culminates in the Grade 7 project term at the end of each year.

In the past, each Grade 7 pupil was expected to complete a research project on a given topic, and she had to prepare a PowerPoint presentation and speech.

The girls were able to use PowerPoint effectively to assist them with the delivery of their speeches.

In 2011 and 2012, the staff project team decided to set the Grade 7 girls a book project instead of a PowerPoint project.

The book was typeset on the computers at school and uploaded to be printed by a company in America.

It was most encouraging to see the girls cross-pollinate their technological skills and knowledge in order to complete their project. The book preview was integrated into the delivery of their speeches. Last year we again changed the final product to an artist's book and an animation project. Much of the research and the sourcing of all public domain images, as well as the editing of the girls' work was computer driven.

However, each page of the book was handwritten and presented in a way in which the graphics were integrated with the information. Again, aspects of the artist's book were integrated into the delivery of their speeches.

The girls were introduced to the technique of replacement animation to produce an advertisement for their artist's book.

In addition to creating multiple drawings, cut-outs and different backgrounds to represent each action or movement in their advertisement, the girls also had to locate the relevant public domain soundtracks to accompany their short films.

They took a series of still photographs to capture their scenes and the entire process, from pre- to post-production, required careful planning and sustained attention to detail.

Each year the Grade 7 girls complete the SP Level 03 year-end assessment that Knowledge Network sets and the school has always achieved an above eighty percent pass rate.

This assessment is valuable to them: many of our girls go on to high schools that do not continue with the Knowledge Network curriculum and the skills that they have acquired at St Katharine's ensure their smooth passage through high school and into university.

September 2014 is an exciting month for St Katharine's.

A new wing with two classrooms and a new Art facility is being opened this month. Interactive projectors will be available in these classrooms and the girls will have access to a new venue in which they can present their project work.

Math, music, reading

Grant Gibson
Head of IT Department
Grey Junior School

Grey Junior School is indeed fortunate to have an IT network infrastructure which includes computers in administration offices as well as in all classrooms in the Foundation, Intermediate and Senior Phases, the Media Centre and Music Department all equipped with data projectors. Also included are two computer labs and four mini computer labs.

The computer labs are available during and after school hours. During these sessions the pupils are able to do computer-based research and printing of school projects, work on improving their typing skills and also make use of available CAMI Mathematics and Readers are Leaders reading software.

The IT department is staffed by an IT manager, a full-time IT Educator as well as a part-time IT Educator. Technical support is provided by an external service provider.

The successful implementation of the Knowledge Network Progressive Learning Programme forms the cornerstone of Grey Junior School's efforts to create an environment in which educators and pupils can gain maximum benefit from available technology. This carefully graded curriculum is aimed at developing the IT, creative and lateral thinking skills as well as problem-solving abilities of all of our Grade 1 to 7 pupils. All grade 4 to 7 pupils who achieve 70% or higher in the externally set and moderated year-end assessment are awarded certificates for their efforts.

We are indeed proud of the level of success achieved by both staff and pupils alike as they strive to, not only improve their IT skills, but creatively use those skills on a daily basis.

Fun educational software

Sent from my iPad

Daniela Da Costa
Grade 9 student at School of Merit

After having to use iPads for two years now in our daily school lives, I find that it makes doing work or research tasks easier as you don't have to search for books to look for information, you have the Internet available at your finger tips.

This also helps completing assignments quicker as you don't waste as much time looking for information. You also don't have to waste ink to print out information that you may need, you can simply save it and it is there. Sent from my iPad

Hello!

An iPad in class

Joshua K. Labuschagne
Grade 8 student at
School of Merit

Hello! My name is Joshua, and I am a Grade 8 student at the School of Merit Private School, situated in Edenvale, Johannesburg.

IPads have greatly influenced work in many areas.

Ever since we started using iPads in class and have been trained by Knowledge Network, our work ethic has improved.

Not only does it improve how efficiently we do our work - for example, instead of relying solely on books and the occasional research on a school desk computer, we can now quickly and efficiently do research online and in any place, by using our iPads.

In addition, other apps such as Keynote, Pages, iDraw, and a few others greatly improve how and how quickly we can complete our work efficiently, quickly and with a professional appearance.

Knowledge Network plays a big roll in how efficiently we can work on our iPad, by means of how to correctly use our various apps, how we can quickly and easily find the best research online, while maintaining a good sense of Internet security, and at the same time taking care of our iPads.

We don't only learn about Apple's IOS but have also learnt about various concepts covering computing and apps in general.

This also assists us in transferring knowledge gained from our iPad to other platforms such as Windows.

We are more motivated to work too. The reward being either access to gaming apps or music (by means of earphones).

Overall, iPads have influenced me in a very positive way.

My Knowledge Network lessons on Mondays are definitely one of our favourite classes.

Gaining knowledge on how to use an IPad, is not only beneficial to us now, but will stand us in good stead in our future careers and adult lives.

iPads are definitely the more professional, efficient and enjoyable way forward.

Awesome training for teachers

Carol Cabral
Computer Literacy Educator
Woodlands International College

On the recommendation of a few of the private schools, Woodlands International Junior College decided to go with the Knowledge Network curriculum at the beginning of 2013. KN is an awesome curriculum.

I had to go through to Knowledge Network in Rivonia for three days of intensive training just before schools opened in January 2013. Having been a computer literacy teacher for 11 years, I really thought I knew most of the tricks of the trade and that I would not learn all that much. How wrong I was!!

Those first three days only covered the first six months of the curriculum from Grade 1 to Grade 7, and I learned almost as much as my students have learned using Knowledge Network.

In the middle of the year, I attended another full day of training in Rivonia, and again, picked up a lot more useful tricks of the Windows-based programs.

In July this year, Jil came out to the College for another full afternoon of training on preparing the students for the year end assessment. During that training session, it became apparent that my students were not sufficiently prepared for using their iPads once they got to the Senior College.

Jil came up with the idea of an iPad training session. During the August holidays, I attended a full-day, extensive training session covering Pages, Numbers, Keynote and iDraw. This was the most AWESOME training session to date. By the end of the day my brain was fried but I learned more about using my iPad during those six hours of training with Jil than I could have dreamed about.

I am so excited to get back to school to show my Grade 6 and 7 students how to use their iPads for SO much more than playing games and social networking. These sessions will really prepare them for using their tablets as working computers in high school.

I highly recommend that any computer literacy teachers using Knowledge Network attend any and all training sessions, as Jil is a fountain of useful information about all the programs covered.

All the staff at KN are super helpful and friendly, and it is a pleasure to go to their Rivonia office.

Why I think that iPads in class are simply brilliant - being the kind of person to misplace things easily, my iPad has saved many text books from being lost, all the while taking a load off my back by saving weight.

iPads help in many different ways, for instance, I can quickly Google something that nobody knows, translate many things into English, and I even create many different projects and tasks on the iPad.

In all, the iPad has been brilliant to me in class, and I could never go back - it is the future.

Joshua K. Labuschagne
Grade 8 student at
School of Merit

Computers, laptops, Androids and iPads

Ashley Grant
Teacher, School of Merit

I am a teacher at School of Merit and I teach using the Knowledge Network methodology. I could say I teach computers, but I don't, I do more than that.

Knowledge Network is not just about getting computer skills across to the learners but ensuring that they understand why they are doing it.

Knowledge Network is far ahead of their time because for years now they have been getting kids to do that. They also learn about accessing the Internet, online safety, viruses, research, copyright, registration, plagiarism, etc.

The biggest problem experienced by teachers is the sheer work load they have to deal with but Knowledge Network structures the Sessions so there is minimal preparation needed.

I meet up with the Knowledge Network mentors and teachers from the other partner schools every few months to work through the Sessions and to discuss different ideas about the projects.

There is constant support from Knowledge Network with regards to the Sessions, timetables, planning, assessments so there is very little stress.

The exciting thing at School of Merit is that we get to work with all types of devices. The learners in the different grades work on PCs, laptops, iPad 2, iPad Air and different Androids which means we also get to work with different versions of Windows, Microsoft Office, Pages, Numbers, Keynote, Kingsoft and Polaris.

In one of my classes all of the learners are using iPads but some learners have Androids and by applying the methodology these learners are able to achieve and work through the same things as the other learners.

Some apps do not have all of the same functions but as long as the learners can complete the projects at the standard required, all is good.

It is easy to play around on different apps and programs but most are not really functional and soon a person tires of them. With Knowledge Network the focus is on using technology as a tool for learning.

Learners have so much to do at school it is important for them to work quickly and easily but still present good quality work.

Learners also feel more motivated because they have more time for other social interests.

From the Knowledge Network Sessions learners are also are able to take what they are learning and apply it in other classes, especially when preparing projects and presentations.

They are also prepared to cope with the standards of work required of them in Matric, University and in the work environment.

What they are learning is relevant and helps them to complete their work with a professional finish. They are also able to research effectively; manage their sources, reference, use citations, bibliographies, table of contents, all of which are relevant to University studies.

Another important factor is that Knowledge Network issues a certificate to all learners who write the year-end assessment and achieve 70%. In Matric the learners have the opportunity to write an assessment to earn a Diploma.

If learners get the certificates on both computers and iPads it will help them when applying to the various Universities or when going for job interviews as this supports their applications and will already put them ahead of the competition.

Deutsche Schule Durban

Karin Niebuhr
Teacher, Deutsche Schule Durban

We started the Knowledge Network program last year at the Deutsche Schule Durban.

I followed the course to be able to present the program set out by Knowledge Network to the children.

In my course I was impressed with the lay out and how well it was thought through and planned. I also thoroughly enjoyed the session. We started with the Gr. 1-5 last year.

My sessions run as follows; the learners take a seat at a computer. They turn on the computer, on my instruction. After everyone is settled and the computers are switched on, I show them step by step what they need to do.

After listening to my demo, they are then allowed to do exactly what I presented them. They are encouraged to try, even if they do make mistakes, as I believe mistakes are doorways to discovery.

There are usually four demos per session. I find this excellent for their listening and auditory processing skills, especially the younger ones.

At the end of the year the higher grades (Gr. 4-7) write a Knowledge Network exam. Last year we had such success (Gr. 4&5), we had an 87% pass rate.

This year we included the Gr. R class, and the Gr. 6 class from the beginning of the year.

In the third term we started with the Gr. 7 to prepare them for high school. With the Gr. 7 we follow a shortened course, worked out by Knowledge Network, to equip them with knowledge to do their projects, etc.

They will also write the Knowledge Network exam at the end of the year. Thus, this year, Gr. 4-7 will write the exam. Each child receives a certificate if they pass their exam.

Being a German school, all classes are in German from Gr. R to Gr. 4.

I therefore present the Knowledge Network program in German. I explain everything in German and introduce English terms to them, such as, insert, fill with colour, view, page layout, etc.

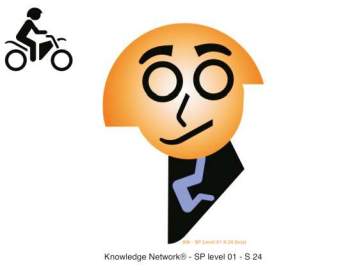
In Gr. 4 I slowly start to present the lessons in English, as the exam is in English. This works perfectly for them, as in Gr. 5 the lessons are in English.

I enjoy doing the sessions with the learners and the learners love the assignments they do with Knowledge Network.

They also love the Knowledge Network games they get to play once their projects are done. The support from Jil and her Knowledge Network team is excellent.

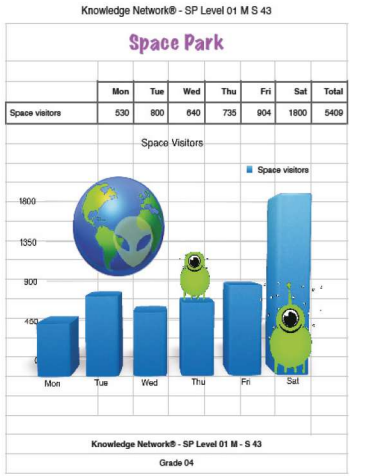
Knowledge Network equips learners with a wide variety of computer and Microsoft skills. It is an excellent program.

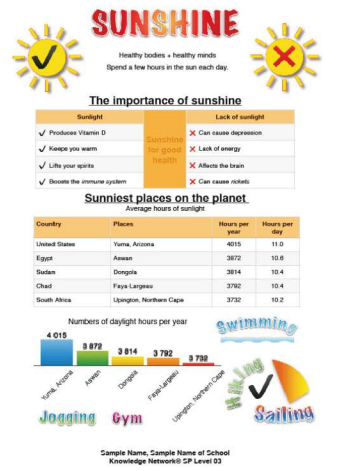
The Knowledge Network Projects shown on this page were completed using iPads: Pages, Numbers, Keynote and iDraw.
Learners in schools using Windows and MS Office complete these Knowledge Network Projects using: Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

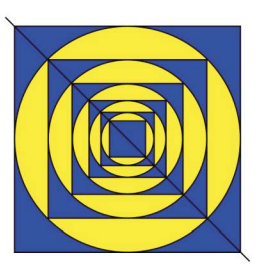

Knowledge Network® - SP level 01 - S 24


Knowledge Network® - SP level 01 - S 24

Knowledge Network® - SP Level 01 M S 43







1.5 km of fibre cable for network

Morne Steynberg
IT Specialist, Cape Recife High School

A little bit about Cape Recife High School - Cape Recife High School is situated in Summerstrand in Port Elizabeth and caters for learners with special needs in ADD, ADHD, Cerebral Palsy, Partially Hearing Impaired and Partially Sighted Impaired.

In additional to the teaching staff, there is a Sister, remedial teachers, occupational therapists, psychologists, physio therapists and speech therapists. Cape Recife High School follows the normal education curriculum.

When I started at Cape Recife High School in January 2003 the network infrastructure was basically nonexistent.

They had a few computers here and there but nothing really to speak about. Since I love the IT field so much I decided to start implementing a proper network infrastructure as this could help the learners and staff to be more productive in technology.

I started planning and implemented the infrastructure for the whole school, a total size of 2.6 km of just corridors.

I started expanding the network from one LAN to 3 LANs carrying a total of 150 workstations.

There is a cost saving for the school having an IT person who can handle all IT requirements.

As of now the school is running a wired network with 3 48 port netgear gs478t switches and 4 adsl dlink 2750u routers and 3 Windows 2008 file servers.

In the beginning of 2014 the school decided that we have to switch over to tablet technology to enhance the education even further.

Because of our school being so big and classrooms so widely spread, this would be a good challenge to plan and implement.

We started with the planning and it was decided that 48 access points and 9u swing cabinets with 9cisco switches would be sufficient to cover all classrooms. 1.5 km of fibre cable was used to make sure that the network backbone was in place and connected.

We tested it and the result was astounding because top equipment was used.

The next step was to get tablets for learners to replace the way of learning for teachers with electronic subject books where work could be so much easier.

A server was put in place that only runs the wireless system for the textbooks for learners and teachers.

The way the wireless works as that the teacher uses his or her laptop to give class through the means of a data projector in each class.

Each teacher is provided with his or her own laptop and can import various means of information like pictures, notes, clips etc., and as soon as content has been imported the info gets pushed through to the learners tablet through the wireless system.

Even if a learner is sick at home he or she will get all work information done in class that day as information is pushed through to their tablet as long as they are connected to internet from home and with the app loaded on their tablet.

To enhance training even further we have added data projectors in each classroom together with a whiteboard for projection as well as writing, because visual teaching is very effective.

How IT equips learners for the world of work

Daleen Pommerel,
Head of Department
San Von Benecke,
Educator

Roodepark School is a double medium school for learners who are mildly or moderately intellectually challenged (MMH).

These are learners who experience moderate intellectual barriers and are more than two years behind their peers.

Our mission to implement the vision of the school through the co-operation of all the stakeholders of Roodepark School which includes teaching and administrative, non-administrative and technical staff, governing body, parents, learners and the community.

How IT equips learners for the world of work (WoW):

By offering Knowledge Network, we are able to equip the learners with the following skills:

Applying knowledge in order to operate functionally within the working environment.

Basic computer skills prepares learners to be able to operate in work places and/or own businesses: doing budgets, VAT, presentations, spreadsheets, charts, quotations, advertisements, e-mails, faxes and basic correspondence.

Through the Knowledge Network program, learners acquire confidence, discipline, working ethos, independence and broaden their general knowledge.

It enhances their reading and spelling abilities within all the learning areas and understanding of certain business terminologies and concepts.

In order to advance opportunities to create a path to further education, e.g. FET and/or Private Colleges, e.g. Damelin, it forms an important base to build on.

We create opportunities in all the levels to achieve success. Lessons are offered within a positive, constructive and safe environment. Learners work to their own abilities based on differentiation within the learning and teaching environment.

A number of our learners were accepted at FET Colleges, Damelin College and various IT Colleges, based on their IT abilities acquired through Knowledge Network and not their scholastic qualifications.

What is ILAMM?

ILAMM, the integrated learning and mentoring methodology, is a proprietary learning methodology developed by Jil D Hrdliczka in 1994 specifically for learning involving information technology.

The methodology defines four aspects of the learning process for each session - how the learners learn, the way they learn, what they learn and the environment in which they learn.

The methodology was developed for a project-based goal-oriented active learning environment where learners are inspired, motivated, guided, directed and focused and where the role of the educator is more like that of a mentor or facilitator in the learning process than that of a traditional teacher.

The ILAMM® promotes active learning.

The learning methodology enables accelerated learning and the simultaneous development of IT skills, creativity, lateral thinking, logic, problem-solving ability, life skills, listening, concentration and memory skills, research, planning, and time management.

Incidental learning, cross-application learning and cross-pollination of skills form part of the learning process.

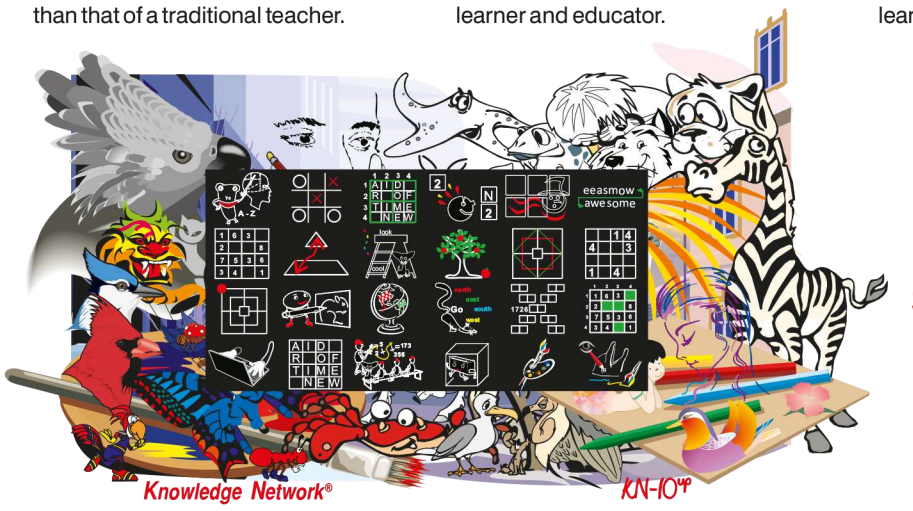
This ensures that learners are able to move between software applications quickly and easily.

The Integrated Learning and Mentoring Methodology creates a fun learning environment for both the learner and educator.

Emphasis is placed on the development of self-esteem and confidence building, and providing learners with the coping skills they need for each session and application.

This ensures that every child can achieve whatever he or she wants to achieve in each of the sessions.

The goal-oriented, outcomes based, non-competitive, non-judgmental, multi-cultural, multilingual learning environment, created through the application of the learning methodology, is the learning environment in which most learners succeed and excel.



KN-10up educational software for ages 10 up

St Patrick's College

Managing IT in a country school

Candice Macaulay
Junior Teacher (Grd 4 to Grd 9), St Patrick's College

St Patrick's College is a small IEB school situated in the small farming community of Kokstad. We heard about Knowledge Network from a colleague at Roedean School.

We have been using Knowledge Network for just over a year, and we are hugely impressed with both the content as well as the efficiency and professionalism of the Knowledge Network team.

Being situated "off the beaten track" we were concerned about all the logistics of receiving files and of course the training sessions; however this has not proved to be a problem at all.

We went up to Ashton International College Ballito to complete the ILAMM course and session training which meant our costs were greatly reduced - all the organizing obviously done by the Knowledge Network team. Our next set of session training did not overlap with any other schools who were close by, but Jil came herself to our little town and did a full day of training which prepared us for the year.

In terms of assessments we are using the FTP server to download all that we need. This method has proved to be very innovative and successful. The downloading is a quick and easy process which even I can do.

The assessments are available before the actual assessment (getting ready for the assessments on the day is easy). The assessments are of a high standard which I feel confident set up our pupils with the skills they need for the "big world".

All other communication is done via email and/or SMS. These, again, have proved to be successful methods of communication due to the rapid response you are guaranteed to receive from the Knowledge Network team.

This means that there are no travelling costs and minimal mobile phone expenses. This means that there have been no extra costs involved with this learning program.

I would like to conclude by saying that Knowledge Network is a learning program I would recommend to any school, including country schools like ours.

Knowledge Network and CAPS curriculum

Fun, interactive way to learn

Kathryn Taylor
IT Educator, St Teresa's School Foundation Phase

St Teresa's Foundation Phase has been using the Knowledge Network software for ten years or more.

The girls start using it in Grade 0 right from the first week at school. Grades 0 - 3 have a Knowledge Network lesson for an hour once a week.

The girls are particularly enthusiastic to come to computer class.

The lessons are a fun, and interactive way for them to learn the basics and some more advanced aspects of the Windows environment.

By the end of Grade 0, all the girls are able to correctly manipulate their mouse, double click, navigate the Start Menu and open MS Paint and MS PowerPoint through this menu.

The Grade 1 - 3 girls have an added opportunity to come to computer class for an additional lesson.

This is another one hour lesson - but dovetails the CAPS curriculum that is being taught in class.

For example, if they are learning about Space in Grade 3, they will have an opportunity to learn more about Space (i.e. the order of the planets, the reasons for the different colours of stars and planets in the atmosphere, space travel, etc).

They are then briefed to create specific projects - using the Knowledge Network methodology - about space.

In this example, the girls would then create a solar system in detail, or a Cake Boss themed cake.

What is wonderful with Knowledge Network is that the girls get so involved in the project briefing that the lateral subject learning and computer learning becomes incidental whilst they work.

The Grade 3 girls also have an option of coming to Computer Club as an extra mural once a week for half an hour.

They are encouraged to work on the iPads, KN computer club software or create their own project using the programmes that they have been taught.

When the girls leave Grade 3 they have a good understanding of MS PowerPoint, MS Word, MS Excel, MS Paint, and some basic graphic software packages.

100% pass rate

Farzanaa Gattoo
IT Educator
St Teresa's High School

St Teresa's High School has successfully implemented the Knowledge Network for almost a decade.

The curriculum has been stimulating for learners and teachers alike. It has challenged learners to think laterally and stimulates creativity.

This curriculum is implemented from Grades 7 to 11 at the High school.

It involves progressive learning so learners are not only develop their skills but also get to improve on their creativity as well.

At Grade 11 level, learners write a Diploma examination which benefits them significantly in the corporate world.

St Teresa's success with Knowledge Network continues to grow regularly with the teachers improving on their skills also.

Knowledge Network trains teachers termly so that they are kept abreast with developments in the IT world. Our teachers are recognised yearly for the 100% pass rate they achieve.

We continue to implement this amazing method of teaching and work with Knowledge Network constantly for success.

Technology at Unicorn Preparatory

Ian Houston
Headmaster
Unicorn Preparatory School

For over a decade, Unicorn Preparatory School has regarded IT and technology as a priority component of our educational programme.

In the past five years, we have also actively developed and grown IT throughout all aspects of running our school. This could not have been achieved unless all staff were on board technologically.

At Unicorn Preparatory we have used Knowledge Network over the past 15 years and have found it to be a phenomenal teaching tool for IT. Our children leave Grade 7 and are able to cope with IT in high school at a Grade 10 level. This has undoubtedly given our pupils the edge over their peers.

Linked to this, is the training which the IT teachers also undergo. There is an initial 4 day training course for all teachers who are going to teach IT. This course not only enables them to teach IT but also furthers their own IT ability. Not one teacher has ever felt that this course was not worthwhile.

We have also enlisted Knowledge Network to facilitate staff training for all staff, including those who do not teach IT. This up-skilling is done twice a year and has proved to be highly beneficial. The courses covered in the up-skilling include all Microsoft applications, including Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Windows 8. We have also received instruction in Paint and Windows 8.

We have CAMI classes for mathematics, which our Maths teachers use as reinforcement for concepts taught. Speed test monitoring is also conducted using CAMI Maths.

Our Foundation Phase also uses the CAMI Perceptual programme to enhance the learning process for our youngsters. The Foundation Phase also find the CAMI English to be most beneficial, especially for comprehension.

Because Unicorn Preparatory has embraced technology as a teaching tool, each academic staff member has also been issued with a personal laptop. Laptops have proven to be far more successful than we envisioned, as they allow staff to prepare at home or at school without having to use external memory sticks or flash drives.

Each classroom is installed with an interactive Smart Board and data projector. Staff have received Smart Board training, and in the future we are very keen to get involved with the online training that is on offer, in order to allow our staff to complete courses at their own pace. The school also provides full wifi coverage throughout the entire school, including our two computer laboratories.

All our communication with parents is now done electronically, from our website to our Facebook page, to sms's and emails sent via our administration programme, PencilBox and accounting system Pastel.

We also have a fully up to date electronic calendar linked to our website. Even our telephone system is now based on computer technology and uses the Internet rather than cables to operate.

We believe that the future of education lies in implementing technology and IT in schools, not to take over from the teacher who remains indispensable, but rather as a teaching aid and tool.

Plans for the future may include the introduction of portable tablets with ready to use text books, an extended research facility attached to the Media Centre and further training and implementation of Smart Boards in the classroom.

The now, the vision, plans for the future

"We believe that the future of education lies in implementing technology and IT in schools, not to take over from the teacher who remains indispensable, but rather as a teaching aid and tool."

Staff 'Up-skilling' at Lord Milner

Denise Wolmarans
Deputy Principal, Lord Milner School

Our focus at Lord Milner for many years has been the integrated use of IT to ensure that effective learning takes place.

Partnering with Knowledge Network to achieve this goal was a very wise decision as the programme has equipped all our learners (Gr R Gr 7) with valuable IT skills over the years.

At the beginning of 2014, our focus shifted to staff development in the field of IT, necessitated by the fact that 17 whiteboards had been installed and Internet access had been provided to all the classrooms.

Once again, our partnership with Knowledge Network proved to be invaluable and the process of STAFF UPSKILLING began.

The opportunity was offered to all staff, both academic and administrative, and at the first upskilling event, every single member of staff was present, an indication of the 'hunger' to learn.

We were certainly not disappointed and left the session excited, motivated and well-equipped to prepare dynamic Powerpoint presentations.

Several of the staff who attended, had to borrow laptops and have, since then, purchased their own.

We are particularly proud of Mr Isaac Nkoane who says, "I would never have dreamed of owning a laptop before the training session. Now I'm hooked!"

Mr Willie Swart owned a laptop but never really put it to good use. His wife now complains that he doesn't come to bed because he's preparing yet another presentation!

'Staff Upskilling' has certainly made the world of difference to the quality of the presentations used in the classrooms.

We realize now that although the teachers were motivated and dedicated, they did not have all the necessary skills for the preparation of top quality learning programmes.

What is our role as management, if not to ensure that our staff members have all the skills necessary to provide the very best learning experience for our children?

Knowledge Network has played a vital role in the development of the Lord Milner staff members and for that we are eternally grateful.

"What is our role as management, if not to ensure that our staff members have all the skills necessary to provide the very best learning experience for our children?"

Windows 8 laptops for Grade 000

Jenny Copeling
Principal
Woodlands International College
Pre-Primary

Much consideration and discussions were held at our College as to the benefit of computer lessons for the pre-school learner.

It was felt that the pre-school learner gained little or no benefit by playing computer games during the weekly computer lesson.

Our Primary College computer teacher did a lot of research and thus discovered the wonderful world of Knowledge Network.

Knowledge Network is a progressive programme that teaches learners computer skills and can be implemented in Grade 000.

Shortly after the Primary College computer teacher went for her training at Knowledge Network the pre-school moved to its own new, separate campus.

It was then decided that as each teacher would be responsible for the computer lesson for her own class, all the teachers should undergo the required training.

So all the pre-school teachers forfeited a week of their holidays and we all went to the Knowledge Network offices for training.

Much fun and laughter was endured as we all learnt how to present the lessons to our individual classes.

Then came the difficult task of deciding what computers to put in our computer lab.

Again after much research we installed 25 standard laptops, all loaded with Windows 8 operating system into our computer lab.

We had special, pre-school height, long, computer desks built for our new lab. There is space for 5 laptops per desk. Each laptop has a USB mouse connected.

We also installed a PC connected to a data projector with Internet access for use by the teacher. The data projector reflects on a wall-mounted whiteboard.

As all of this organising and installation took longer than anticipated, Knowledge Network willingly came to our school for a refresher course as many of the teachers were quite nervous about the first lesson.

You can imagine the excitement when the learners knew they were going to "computers" for the first time.

Well needless to say with the step-by-step instructions provided by Knowledge Network the first lessons were a huge success.

Lessons are grouped to deal with acquiring certain computer skills. Each lesson is begun by first researching a specific topic such as "Dinosaurs" on the Internet.

Much discussion then takes place with the learners. Learners are gathered on the carpet in front of the whiteboard before each instruction is given and followed through.

As a result of this strict control there is no fiddling and loss of concentration even with the young 4-year-olds and it is also very easy for the teacher to then assess who is struggling with the skill being taught.

There are also activities for the competent learners to continue with at the end of the lesson so nobody sits around doing nothing, waiting for his/her peers to finish.

These activities are in the form of games but are actually designed so that the learner practises the skill learnt for that lesson.

Thank you Knowledge Network for making this possible.

Now both the teacher and the learners count the sleeps until their next exciting computer lesson.

"We found a progressive learning programme that teaches learners computer skills and can be implemented in Grade 000."

The now, the vision, plans for the future

IT part of day to day learning

Jean Carey
Principal Intermediate Phase
St Teresa's School

After a comprehensive foundation from Grade 0 - Grade 3, the children entering the Intermediate Phase have a solid understanding of the ILAMM method of learning and working computer projects.

The joy of this system is that students work within the parameters of the project and which is not skills driven. Students are asked to "think out of the box" and have their creative abilities stimulated.

We do encounter a number of students who join us from different schools or countries who have not had the privilege of the basics taught at Foundation Phase.

This is not an issue as these pupils undergo a five lesson "orientation / consolidation" phase at the beginning of the year to bring them up to speed.

This also allows the mentor time to assess the ability and level of the students they are guiding.

There is quite a significant jump at Grade 4 level where pupils are expected to "up their game" and think beyond the simplistic, and apply skills in a more creative and mature manner.

At Grade 4 - 6 level, we have one-hour lesson per grade per week for each class which gives them the opportunity to learn an extensive number of skills in Windows and the Microsoft Office package - Paint, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

This allows all students to find their specific niche in Microsoft so that they achieve at all levels.

Our girls enjoy the creativity and stimulation that each project presents. They become very competent at creating special effects in PowerPoint projects and learning correct typing etiquette and correct page layouts.

Our girls have maintained an 80 - 100% pass rate with their end- of-year summative assessment, which is externally set by Knowledge Network.

We have found their computer knowledge, creativity and skills to be exceptional on most computing devices.

Many are more adept or used to iPads or Androids, but thoroughly enjoy the knowledge they gain on another IT device.

In order to maintain the standards of IT learning and implementation at the school, we have introduced a staff development programme where the staff have attended 6 workshops this year to ensure that all staff are competent and IT savvy.

This means that they are experienced in the classroom when faced with computer issues. As each class has a Promethean Board installed, they need to keep their skills honed and up-to-date.

Our children are exposed to various IT devices through projects and integrated subject themes.

IT is very much a part of day to day learning at St Teresa's.

We are very happy that the girls are able to adapt their knowledge and skill base to any device based on the sound foundation they receive from understanding the project rather than being machine or skills driven.

Many of our students go on to pursue their love for computers into High School grades where they are able to extend their knowledge base into commercial world standards.

> "Our children are exposed to various IT devices through projects and integrated subject themes.
> IT is very much a part of day to day learning at St Teresa's."

Structured, age appropriate IT learning

Carren Ilsley
Deputy Principal
De la Salle Holy Cross College
Junior School

De la Salle Holy Cross College has been associated with Knowledge Network for the past 16 years, when we implemented the Knowledge Network curriculum.

Our pupils have been given the opportunity to develop their computer literacy skills from Grade R all the way through to matric.

Many of our pupils have achieved certification from Grade where they have done the first formal assessment all the way through to matric where they have completed the Level 5 Diploma.

Our pupils have enjoyed working through the different levels where they are given the opportunity to develop their computer skills.

The curriculum is developed in such a way that each year, the sessions enhance skills already learnt in the previous year.

We have been able to provide cross curricular activities in the computer lessons.

The pupils of De la Salle Holy Cross College have been able to integrate their learning from computer lessons into the completion of assignments etc in other learning areas.

Our computer centres are equipped with computers that have the latest Microsoft Software, as well as software purchased from Knowledge Network that is used during computer lessons.

Our pupils are given the chance of using creative skills in completing projects.

We prepare our pupils through the Knowledge Network curriculum to teach them to use referencing techniques and editing skills.

The teachers who have been trained by Knowledge Network® demonstrate the ways in which safe internet access can be used.

We teach them about becoming Cyber aware.

Later this year our parents and pupils will be attending workshops on becoming more cyber aware.

The teachers in our school are given the opportunity of owning either, a laptop, IPad or Tablet that is used to enhance their teaching styles.

We also have Mimio units that are used with white boards to create interactive lessons.

Each classroom in the school both campuses are equipped with data projectors.

We have also ensured that we have wifi connectivity in most areas of our school. We also have a well -run static network connection for the computers in our school.

Our school has encouraged both the teaching staff and pupils to use technology whenever possible.

The teachers who teach the Knowledge Network® curriculum attend training 6 times a year where their skills are developed further.

The biggest advantage of the curriculum is that it is properly structured and age appropriate. There is integration each year of skills learnt previously.

The sessions allow the pupils to complete projects in MS Word, MS PowerPoint and MS Excel. They also make use of online research as well as MS Encarta which is loaded on all computers.

Our pupils have achieved excellent results over the years, the majority of our pupils each year achieve a Knowledge Network certificate for achieving 70 % or more.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the dedicated staff of Knowledge Network for their ongoing support and assistance to our school.

> "The biggest advantage of the curriculum is that it is properly structured and age appropriate. There is integration each year of skills learnt previously."

K.F.S opens

Bridget Mc Nelis
Kowie Foundation School

Kowie Foundation School opened its doors to 13 learners in January 2014. It is a little private school in an 1820 Settler Church in Port Alfred.

For the last 7 years, after returning from a 6 year period in Ireland, I have been back teaching remedial learners in various schools in the area. It was during this time that I saw the need for basic education in the foundation phase.

The older methods had changed, classes had increased in size and there were many other difficulties. So K.F.S. was born.

I had heard about the Bedford Country School, so my husband and I drove to Bedford and spent a very interesting morning with the headmistress, Rene Parks. It was there that I saw the computer setup and she very kindly gave me Knowledge Network's contact details.

I contacted Jil who passed on all the relevant information to me. It made sense that the children require computer skills to equip them for their future.

We have since been donated four towers from a company that closed down and two laptops from parents.

We have no internet and do our e-learning through available books.

The children are very excited about their computer day and are still on their starter packs.

Some learners do have a good insight into handling computers but there are many that either have no knowledge or very little.

These are the learners at this stage who are benefitting hugely. They are learning to co-ordinate eye, hand movements as well as memory.

We can already see that the Knowledge Network programme is not only going to be of great value to them but to all our learners.

K.F.S is on Facebook, search Kowie Foundation School. There are photos of our computer room in action.

Teaching in the modern world

Sharon Walker
Headmistress, Vuleka St. Michael's

Knowledge Network has been used at St. Michaels's since 2011. We began the program on SP Level 01 M and are very excited to have our first group writing SP Level 02 this year.

The ILAMM method of teaching has provided teachers with new methods used to expose our learners to valuable new learning experiences. The skills learned are incorporated into as many other areas across the curriculum as possible.

Our learners enjoy showing off these newfound skills, producing PowerPoint posters, Excel spreadsheets and a variety of research assignments. We are also hoping to eventually produce an electronic school magazine.

One of the biggest challenges we face at St. Michael's is keeping up with the rapid rate at which technology changes.

As a not for profit organisation, we are continually fighting budget constraints, and the majority of our learners are unable to afford their own personal devices.

We aim to counteract this by teaching our learners how to use a variety of smart devices so that their skill base continues to develop. Knowledge Network will assist us with this towards the end of the year.

It is always difficult to really determine how much our learners absorb.

An increasing number of them pass the Knowledge Network exam but I always wonder how relevant our teaching actually is in this modern world.

In a recent computer lesson I asked my class to write witness statements for an unfortunate incident that they had been involved in.

I was expecting them to hand-write the statements but they asked permission to type them out.

When I allowed this, I was completely surprised by their choice of program. All of them chose to use PowerPoint in place of Word.

PowerPoint gave them the opportunity to add emotion to their statements that they probably would not have been able to show otherwise. While the statements were disturbing, they were wonderfully put together and gave me a great sense of relevance.

Sent from my iPad

The Virtual World of Grey High School

Lynne Thackray Smith
Subject Head:
Computer Applications Technology
Co-ordinator:
ICT (Knowledge Network), IT and CAT
GREY HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction

Grey High School has developed a progressive, sustainable Information and Communications Technology (ICT) plan, with emphasis on a quality, scale-able network infrastructure, and integration of resources which enhances classroom learning.

ICT Facilities

Grey has over 300 computers and peripheral devices. It is a complex network, especially given the wide range of software required for both administration and classroom use. Microsoft Windows 7 Professional is the primary operating system used throughout the school.

All servers have raid-array architecture with UPS power protection, and key data is backed up daily.

In order to provide maximum uptime of server resources, all services run in a virtual environment. In this configuration, a single server failure will not result in a loss of connection to the Data Servers or Microsoft Exchange Server data.

The server environment makes use of virtualization to maximize the use of the server hardware.

Virtualization allows more than one virtual server to run on a physical server machine.

The network uses Microsoft Active Directory platform and the servers have been installed using the Microsoft Server 2012 operating system for the Data Servers, and Microsoft Exchange 2013 Server for the Exchange Servers.

Microsoft Deployment Services is used to deploy applications to workstations and Active Directory is used to control access to network resources.

The network infrastructure is standardised using CISCO switches, the backbone running at 1 GB/sec.

Student Access

Students have access to excellent facilities for research, analysis and scanning, with colour and black & white printing. Each student receives an individual logon and password, which gives him access to the network and the internet.

Teaching Facilities

There are three large computer teaching laboratories, a computer laboratory in the Boarding House, and a computer laboratory in each of the Engineering Graphics & Design, Music and Academic Support departments.

All classrooms and departments of the school, including the Boarding House, are linked in a school-wide computer network via high-speed (1GB/sec) fibre-optic connections, so there is access from any of over 270 terminals to the huge range of programs and applications held on the central fileservers. Most resources can be reached from anywhere within the school, and via the VPN from anywhere in the world.

All boys have their own private space on the fileservers in which to store their work, which is then instantly available to them on any networked computer in the school.

At present, excluding administrative computers and the Boarding House, the overall computer to student ratio is 1:8. All teaching venues have large screen projection facilities with data projectors.

The school has a comprehensive policy governing the use of computers, including Internet access.

All the laboratories are fully air conditioned and have extractor fans. Projection facilities, scanning, and colour printing complete the package available to students.

The accommodation is spacious, and the range and quality of the equipment, which is replaced every three years is of an exceptionally high standard, bearing comparison with the provision in many universities.

The facilities are used mainly for teaching ICT in Grades 8-11, as well as Information Technology and Computer Applications Technology in Grades 10-12.

A vast range of specialist departmental software e.g. Borland Delphi 2010, Geometer's Sketchpad, Geogebra, Autograph, Speltoets, Readers are Leaders, Sibelius, Autodesk AutoCAD and GISare also available.

There is constant expansion of the provision, availability, and use of computers within the school.

We aim to remain at the forefront of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Departments increasingly use computers as a matter of course in their teaching, and students are encouraged to do much of their more extended course-work on computers

Computers in the Classroom

Knowledge Network

Grey High School implemented the Knowledge Network Curriculum in January 2002.

All learners from Grades 8 to 11 have ICT classes every second day.

The programme has grown from strength to strength resulting in a 100% Level 5 pass rate at the end of 2013. A record number of 105 Grade 11 boys qualified for their Level 5 Diplomas.

The Knowledge Network Curriculum Levels 1 and 2 are taught to the Grade 8 classes. They do the Level 1 assessment in June and the Level 2 in November.

The Grade 9 classes do Level 3. In Grade 10 those who passed at the end of the previous year, will do Level 4 while the few unsuccessful ones repeat Level 3. The learners who successfully complete Level 4 at the end of grade 10 become the Level 5s in their Grade 11 year and work very hard to achieve the coveted Level 5 Diploma.

We endeavour to expose the learners to the reality if ICT by encouraging them to take part in competitions and by inviting experts in the field of, for example, Cyber Law to present lessons to them.

In 2012 and 2013 some of our Level 5 learners took top honours in a Cyber Awareness Poster competition organised by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

This year we have decided to arrange our own internal Cyber Awareness Poster Competition where the Level 5 candidates can showcase all their skills, whilst at the same time educating the rest of the school body about Online Security.

Information Technology

The main focus of the IT course is programming (Algorithms and Problem-Solving, Application Development and Software Engineering principles) where students are introduced to Scratch and Delphi programming (although one must keep in mind that the purpose of IT is to teach the concept of programming, not the language). Scratch is a programming language learning environment enabling beginners to get results without having to learn syntactically correct writing first.

There is also a significant theory component where students are exposed to Internet and Communication Technologies, Systems Technologies, Data and Information Management and Social Implications of ICT.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Computer Club

The IT department runs a Computer Club that is open to any Grey student who takes an interest in the Computing and Software Development environment. It is intended to motivate for further learning through playfully experimenting and creating projects, such as interactive animations, games, etc.

During the June holidays some club members attended training at NMMU in which they were taught how to build and program a robot with NXT Mindstorms, LEGO construction techniques, programming in NXT-G and how to use rotation sensors, touch and ultrasonic sensors and light sensors.

Computer Club members take part in the annual Interhouse Computer Club Competition.

We have our own closed Facebook group, The Grey Computer Club, which we use to collaborate and communicate with other group members. We also post interesting Computer news and events, and details of competitions.

Olympiads and Competitions

IT students participate in the annual Computer Programming Olympiad (a project of the Institute of IT Professionals South Africa) where they are required to complete a number of programming tasks in two hours, using any programming language generally recognised as a programming language, such as C, C++, Java, Pascal, Python and Delphi. Grey High School is regarded as one of the top schools in this programming Olympiad.

IT boys participated in the NMMU Department of Computing Sciences programming competition for highschool IT learners, held on 12 August.

Teams of 3 learners competed to solve the most programming problems within three hours.

Three of our Grade 12 IT students, Herman Stoltsz, Antin Phillips and Prejlin Naidu, walked away with the first prize of R3000.

What makes this achievement even more remarkable is the fact that they competed against 18 NMMU student teams and 14 School teams and they came first out of the school teams and second overall!Coincidentally these 3 boys are also holders of Knowledge Network Level 5 Diplomas.

Computer Applications Technology

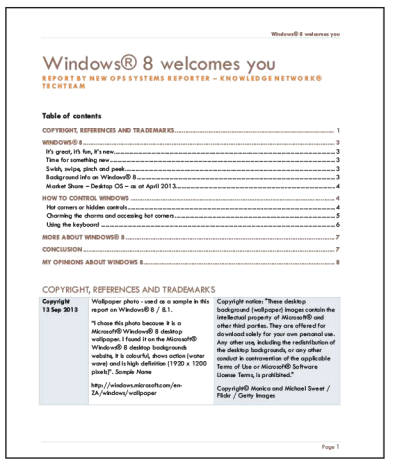
Computer Applications Technology is one of the elective subjects offered in the National Senior Certificate.

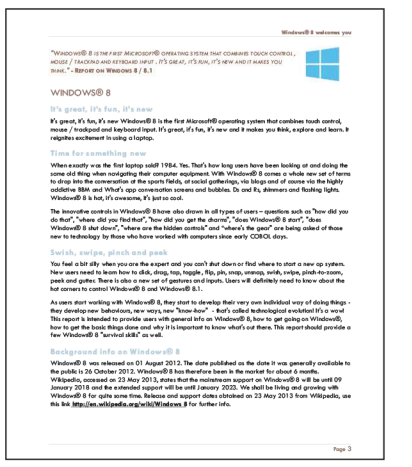
The number of learners who elect to do this subject has climbed steadily over the last few years as more and more boys realise the value of the theoretical as well as the practical aspects of the subject. Information Management and Social and Environmental issues form an integral part of the curriculum.

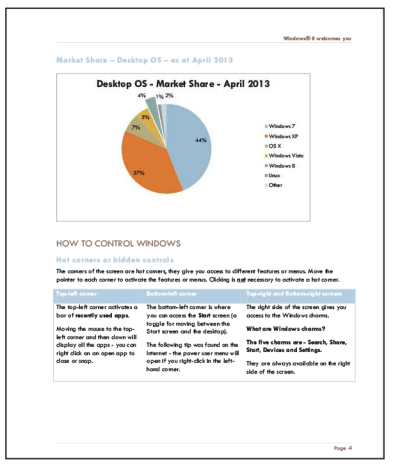
The Computer Applications Technology curriculum and the Knowledge Network curriculum complement each other and learners who do both, appear to improve the overall standard of the electronic work they produce.

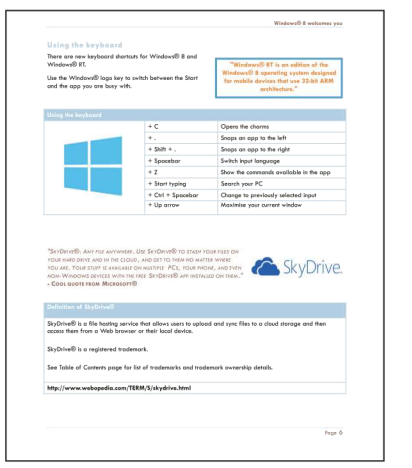
Grey High is very proud of one of the Computer Applications Technology learners of 2013, Gerrit Huisamen, who achieved 2nd place in the National Computer Applications Olympiad which is organised annually by the Computer Society of South Africa.

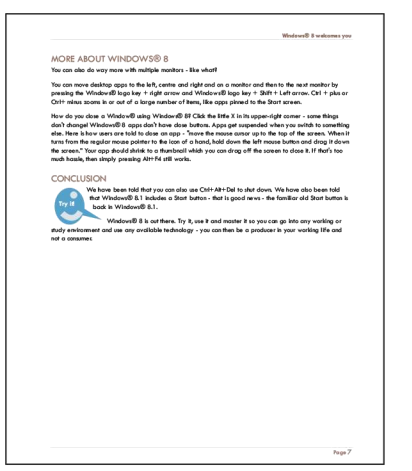
Thanks to their exposure to Knowledge Network, I.T. and CAT, we believe that young men leave the Grey at the end of their grade 12 year as digital citizens, fully aware of their social, environmental and technological responsibilities in the future.











Grey High School scored a 100% Level 5 pass rate at the end of 2013.
A record number of 105 Grade 11 boys qualified for their Level 5 Diplomas.

The Knowledge Network 2013 Level 05 Assessment involved the writing of a report on Windows 8 and Windows 8.1, including graphics, table of contents generation, research, charts, illustrations, references, inclusion of PowerPoint slides in the report, list of trademarks used in the report and trademark ownership details, copyright usage rules for all data sourced and photos used in the report. The report also included instructions on definitions that needed to be researched and included in the report. At the time of the assessment, a company featured in the report was involved in a trademark dispute which provided additional and interesting learning opportunities for the learners. All 105 learners scored 70% or more for the assessment. The work done during the assessment will be used by the learners at varsity and throughout their working lives.

Summerwood Primary School
Vision for information and communication technologies (ICTs)

Alby Nel
ICT-Co-ordinator
Summerwood Primary School

How did we get to where we are today?

The following three quotes underpin the ICT Vision at Summerwood Primary School.

> "The number one benefit of information technology is that it empowers people to do what they want to do. It lets people be creative. It lets people be productive. It lets people learn things they didn't think they could learn before, and so in a sense it is all about potential." Steve Ballmer - Technology - Learning - Innovation - Solutions (2003)
>
> "A goal without a plan is just a wish." Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
>
> "The future is already here - it's just not evenly distributed." The Economist, December 4, 2003 William Gibson

The vision of Summerwood Primary School for Information and Communication Technologies is to embrace the philosophy of Steve Balmer and others. Summerwood wants to support and develop teachers and learners alike to become:

more imaginative,

more dynamic and

actively learn things that they think would be unimaginable.

The motto for ICT at Summerwood is:
Learn, create and inspire.

The future is already here

Summerwood realizes that the future is already here and that it has a responsibility to facilitate the even distributions thereof. It also acknowledges that to achieve goals, one needs a simple and clear plan or strategy. In developing its strategy, the School asks the following questions:

> "Where are we? What do we have to work with? Where do we want to be? How do we get there?"
>
> The first step in the strategic planning process is to address the questions "Where are we?" and "What do we have to work with?"
>
> "Examination of recent history and changing contexts (both internal and external) of the state, organization, program, or sub-program allows participants to assess current positions. Answering the question of what we have to work with involves consideration of strengths and weaknesses and determination of how to capitalize on strengths." (Harvard, 1997)

In terms of where Summerwood is and what the school has to work with, the following strengths should be acknowledged:

> Summerwood Primary School is an established school in Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth. It is situated in a scenic area with innovative education and independent establishments such as various pre-primary schools, Pearson High School, The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and the Boardwalk Hotel and Entertainment Centres.
>
> We have a supportive parent body represented by a dynamic School Governing Body and dedicated, professional staff members. The learners are enthusiastic and the teaching and learning programme is very balanced.
>
> The School follows an established National School Curriculum with a clear Science and Technology focus. The high school in the community offers both Information Technology and Computer Application Technologies as school subjects to learners.
>
> Summerwood has been using the **Knowledge Network** since 1996 to teach core ICT-skills to learners, while various ICT teachers have also been developed continuously. The **Knowledge Network** curriculum underpins the ICTs-vision of the School and learners have been guided to use Technology as an integral tool to be active participants in the learning process.
>
> The School hosts two dedicated Information and Technology centres, one for the Foundation Phase and one for the Inter-Senior Phase. Two dedicated Servers are used for file, print and communication sharing in a domain-controlled **Windows Server** Environment, which is secure and user friendly.
>
> Internet and local network services are provided via cabled Gigabit lines.
>
> Each centre hosts 30 learners on a one-on-one basis. Each centre is equipped with a data projector and screen.
>
> The ICT system for Foundation Phase learners is a lower-end thin client system in a **Microsoft Windows 7 Professional** Environment providing **Microsoft Office 2007** as core application suite. The **MS Office** application software and clipart gallery are deployed from Windows Server 2008 R (with terminal services). The learners use conventional keyboards and mice to execute all tasks. The computer screens offer basic resolution to learners. (1280 x 700 dots per inches).
>
> Audio is rendered to the younger learners via headphones.
>
> The ICT system for the Inter-Senior Phase is a higher-end system in a **Windows 8 Professional Environment** - 64 Bit and x64 - with **Microsoft Office 2013** as core application suite. The **MS Office** application is deployed locally, while the clipart gallery and photo gallery are Internet-based.
>
> The processor of each ultra-book is a 64-bit Core I3-processor.
>
> The Senior ICT-centre offers touch screen ultra-books with touch pads and notebook mice. The ultra-books also render HD-graphics at a resolution of (1600 x 1080 dots per inches).
>
> Each ultra-book is additionally equipped with an internal front web camera and HD-audio.
>
> A revelation is that learners have migrated naturally from one Systems environment to the other. They use touch screen facilities and applications (apps) such as the news app., the sports app. and the tourist attractions app. when these are relevant and increase productivity.
>
> All classrooms in the school are equipped with a computer and Wireless Fidelity(Wi-Fi) Internet access.
>
> The learners use Internet facilities with much discipline and regard for the dynamic environment that they are working in.
>
> By 2015 all classrooms will be equipped with data projectors and flat data screens.
> The School has an apt local ICT service provider - **Digital Dynamix™** - that assists in rolling out ICTs and Internet provision effectively.
>
> E-learning support material is readily available and relatively inexpensive to utilize.

Barriers are experienced and are addressed before the next step in the process is taken.

The next step in the process

"The next step in the process is answering "Where do we want to be?" As the articulated vision stems from the values of those involved in the process, it is essential that this step involves all of those who will have a stake in the achieving the vision. (Harvard - 1997)

Summerwood Primary School has identified that it is essential that:

> Clear policies should guide how ICTs are used at School.
>
> ICT Infrastructure at the School should be maintain and expanded.
>
> Learner ICT-skills should be developed and assessed.
>
> Teacher ICT-skills should be developed.
>
> Both teacher and learner skills should be actively integrated with mainstream curriculum.
>
> Integration of core ICT-skills with mainstream curriculum should be planned.
>
> E-learning support materials should be actively used as these can make teaching and learning so much easier.

"After articulating the vision and determining goals, planners must address means of reaching their goals. This step involves articulating strategies for achieving results. Strategies should reflect the strengths and weaknesses of the entity engaged in the planning. For example, a very small office should recognize that its size could be both a weakness and strength.

> Successful efforts involve stakeholders and gain their support
>
> Prioritizing goals is an essential step in developing a strategic plan for a RBA system.
>
> Successful public strategic planning processes address conflicting mandates and goals." (Harvard 1997)

Summerwood has decided on the following measures to realize its vision and goals:

> The existing ICT-infrastructure, core **Knowledge Network** curriculum and continuous skills development of learners will be maintained.
>
> Learners will be given the opportunity to apply high level ICT-skills in classrooms, by giving them the opportunity to actively use their mobile devices for leaning.
>
> This will be phased in after relevant policies have been accepted, teachers have sufficiently been empowered and e-text books and other apps have been purchased and loaded on all devices.
>
> Integration of ICT-skills with mainstream curriculum learning will be communicated and co-ordinated at staff contact sessions.
>
> Planned staff development for 2015 will empower all staff members to use ICT-infrastructure for teaching-and-learning activities. This will take place at staff development sessions on Fridays.
>
> Hybrid tablet-notebook devices will be deployed to all teachers in 2015 to empower them to use ICT-technologies in the classroom and to prepare anywhere.
>
> To ensure that all teachers and learners are empowered to use ICTs in school whilst accessing data from anywhere in the school building, both staff and student Internet bandwidth will be expanded.
>
> Communication with stakeholders - Department of Education of the Eastern Cape, ICT curriculum and service providers, parents via the School Governing Body, the School Management Team, teachers and learners will be maintained and developed to ensure effective ICT rollout and support.
>
> Communication and collaboration with both departmental and independent schools will be established and developed as from 2015.

Hi-tech

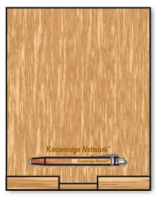
Gadgets
To use at school,
on the go or at home

Did you get a mystery hi-tech Knowledge Network gadget at the ISASA / SAHISA Conference?

Aluminium pen, laser pointer with led light and stylus

Compact and travel-friendly computer brush and screen cleaner - sonic media station with earbuds and mini stylus

Polished chrome pen and stylus filled with chrystals - nicknamed the Knowledge Network "Tiffany bling" set



Bamboo pen with aluminium clip, built-in stylus and chef tablet stand (for recipes, movies or music while you cook). Also good as a stand for marking, moderating, reading

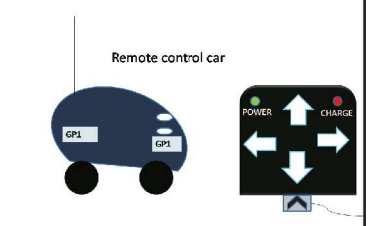
Sunshine solar charger for USB and micro USB input, with micro USB charging cable - made from 45% bio-based material derived from plants not oil. Leading to carbon footprint reduction

Knowledge Network Project

My Favourite Toy by learners from

Cedarwood School

My Toy



My Toy

ELEPHANT

My Toy

Mask

Contributors

Mandy Lachenicht
Campus Head of Innovation and Marketing
St Dunstan's College

Daniela Da Costa
Grade 9 Student at School of Merit

Linda Finlayson
Computer Teacher, St Katharine's School

Grant Gibson
Head of IT Department, Grey Junior School

Carol Cabral
Computer Literacy Educator
Woodlands International College

Joshua K. Labuschagne
Grade 8 student at School of Merit

Ashley Grant
Teacher, School of Merit

Karin Niebuhr
Teacher, Deutsche Schule Durban

Morne Steynberg
IT Specialist, Cape Recife High School

Daleen Pommerel,
Head of Department, Roodepark School
San Von Benecke
Educator, Roodepark School

Candice Macaulay
Junior Teacher (Grd 4 to Grd 9)
St Patrick's College

Kathryn Taylor
IT Educator, St Teresa's School
Foundation Phase

Farzanaa Gattoo
IT Educator, St Teresa's High School

Ian Houston
Headmaster, Unicorn Preparatory School

Denise Wolmarans
Deputy Principal, Lord Milner School

Jenny Copeling
Principal, Woodlands International College
Pre-Primary

Jean Carey
Principal Intermediate Phase
St Teresa's School

Carren Ilsley
Deputy Principal
De la Salle Holy Cross College Junior School

Sharon Walker
Headmistress, Vuleka St. Michael's

Bridget Mc Nelis
Kowie Foundation School

Lynne Thackray Smith
Subject Head:
Computer Applications Technology
Co-ordinator: ICT (Knowledge Network),
IT and CAT - Grey High School

Ann Clark
Director of Operations,
Partner Schools Programme
Director, Knowledge Network, Member
KN Educational Software Development Team

Alby Nel
ICT-Co-ordinator
Summerwood Primary School

Gerry Hrdliczka
KN Educational Software Developer
Director, Knowledge Network

Deidre Hulett
The Ashton Group IT Manager

Dawn Schmitz
IT Manager - Cedarwood School

Jil Hrdliczka
Founder - Knowledge Network

Chatting to Ann about
Session Training for teachers

Teachers across the country, pre-school to Grade 12, attend Session Training Events. The events are for teachers in schools implementing the Knowledge Network Progressive Learning Programme and those using KN-3to5, KN-6to9, KN-10up and KN-2004h. Knowledge Network has an upskilling programme for other teachers (KN-UpSkilling).

"The Session Training Events take me by car or by plane to newly built schools and to schools steeped in history where when walking down the passages one sometimes wonders in whose famous footsteps you are walking - past or future.

I love what I am doing, I love the people, I love places I visit, I love the warm and friendly welcome I receive, the communication via email, sms, bbm, WhatsApp, notes, photos, videos and PowerPoint presentations, the openness of the teachers during the learning process, their honesty, integrity, work ethic, the fun we have, the giggles and laughter, sharing of stories, the caring and passion."

Where are the Session Training Events held?

"In which towns? My scheduled travels take me to Somerset West, PE, Ballito, Tzaneen, Hazyview, Settlers, Edenvale, Benoni, Rosebank, Parktown, Victory Park, Florida and Roodepoort.

I am very fortunate to be able to meet teachers from across South Africa and to interact with them. From small towns to large cosmopolitan cities - there is one thing in common - the teachers I meet all have a passion for learning."

How have the Session Training Events changed over the years?

"Many changes in hardware and software technologies but learning together and working together has remained at the core of every event and becomes stronger and stronger."

You mentioned you started Session Training way back in 1995 / 1996. I can't begin to imagine what could have been covered then. What did you cover?

"It was held at our offices in Rivonia on a 1994 LANtastic network with Internet access for research, a networked area for sound recording, scanning and video editing for animations, presentations and videos.

We later changed to a Windows 3.1 network, followed by Windows server. I believe the Win 3.1 network was the first in the country and the first client to use the network was from a primary school. Apple Macs were used for movie making and graphics."

Networks, software and hardware have changed since the those first days - what do you work on now?

"During Session Training events, we do projects. Tools are needed to complete the projects. The educators get to find and work on whichever tools are available on the equipment that are needed for the Knowledge Network Sessions for pre-school to Grade 12.

Tools such as?

There have been many. From what I recall - Windows 3.1, 98, 2000, XP, Vista, Windows 7, 8 and 8.1, all nature of networks including terminal servers, MS Office 93 to 2013, Pascal, Visual Basic, Access, Delphi, Corel, Adobe, Crayola, web design tools, Open Source, Encarta, Apple technologies and the Internet. The Internet has gone from teacher use to school-wide use. "

Where are the Session Training Events held?

In Rivonia as well as at the host venues. Session Training is usually filled to capacity. The hosting schools go through the same process of keeping their environments continually equipped with the most effective and appropriate technologies for learning. Knowledge Network educational software works on Win XP to Win 7 to Win 8 / 8.1.

How do the teachers cope when faced with a computer different from the one they use at their school?

"Teachers who have attended Session Training at the different venues have benefitted enormously from the exposure to technologies and the vision of each individual school that is being realised through their choice of their technologies and their rollout."

What did you cover in the most recent event for Pre-school and Junior schools?

"A mid-programme consolidation, things to do using KN-3to5, KN-6to9 and keyboard Dexterity, how to complete fun drawing projects without the use of local or online clipart, Knowledge Network e-learning extensions included gifts, modern homes and Disney characters. Thinking and doing, turning waiting (for clipart to load) into creating."

For the higher Grades, say Grade 04 up?

"How to prepare learners for the Knowledge Network Year-end assessments - approach, attention to detail, working smart, managing time, managing Windows-based tools and meeting the standards required per level in the set time frame - all the skills needed to earn the points to score 70% and qualify for a Knowledge Network Certificate."

Could those same skills be used by the learners in other learning areas?

"Whatever IT skills (including research skills) the schools require of their learners for the use of IT in all the different learning areas are covered by Knowledge Network."

What am I likely to see at Session Training in Sep 2014?

Motivated and excited teachers working on drawings, keyboarding software (how to get their learners to type faster), making charts easy to understand and do, preparing professional presentations for projects, data sheets and referencing, Internet and staying legal online.

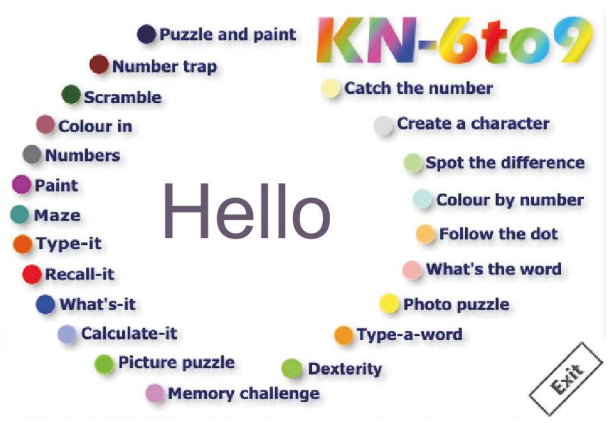
How long are the Session Training Events?

"There monthly, termly and holiday events. All Session Training Events include projects. The projects are a combination of what is required for school and business.

Jil has included a strong business base for all the levels which she has thoughtfully and strategically selected from her many years of experience as a director and shareholder of Damelin Education Group and Principal of one of the leading private technology schools in South Africa. Most learners only realise this when they

KN-3to5 educational software for ages 3 to 5

KN-6to9 educational software for ages 6 to 9



Ashton International College Group

The Ashton International College Group has schools in Ballito and Benoni.

Ballito has run the Knowledge Network® Curriculum from Grades 00 to 12.

Technology Upgrade rollout

2014 has seen the rollout of the Knowledge Network Progressive Learning Programme on the Benoni Campus, from Grades 00 - 7.

In order to be able to do this, the IT infrastructure on that campus was totally upgraded, under the management of Deidre Hulett, the Ashton Group IT Manager, together with Ettiene Botha the IT Teacher on that campus.

Learn while having fun and gain life skills

The Knowledge Network IT Learning System allows the students at Ashton International College to learn while having fun, create graphics, gain life skills, work with functions in spreadsheet budgets and learn interesting facts while researching off safe websites.

Cross-curricular application

Cross-curricular application is often implemented by pupils, especially when complementing their oral presentations using technology.

Club Sessions

The highlight of the week for pupils from Grade 4 - 7 is the Club Session. On Thursday 4 September a 10 year old girl's dad came to fetch her 20 minutes early.

She went on her hands and knees begging him to wait another 20 minutes. Such is the enjoyment of a Knowledge Network lesson at the Ashton Campuses.

Certificates of Successful Completion

Each year pupils from Grd 4 upwards write the external Knowledge Network examinations. Certificates of completion are awarded to successful pupils.

Achievement Award for the IT Educator

The IT Manager for the Ashton group has taught Knowledge Network to every Grade in the school, from Grd 00 to Matric.

She has achieved a Knowledge Network Certificate of Educator Achievement as her pupils continually achieve exam results of over 80%.

Challenging yet energising

IT at the Ashton International College is challenging yet energising.

IT for Grd 00 - Grd 12

There is an IT option for each and every pupil from Grade 00 - 12.