



September 2024

Monthly Newsletter

Education Project

“Unless we are willing to encourage our children to reconnect with and appreciate the natural world, we can’t expect them to help protect or care for it” David Suzuki (Canadian academic, science broadcaster, and environmental activist.)

Nature Based Education

KZNCF’s school excursions (supported by N3TC and the Herman Ohlthaver Trust) expose learners to the natural grassland biome and the experience of, in and through nature. To date over 1500 learners and teachers walked on the three kilometre Education Trail, in nature and given appropriate, curriculum linked lessons. The Education Trail was laid out to include a variety of ecosystems, incorporating bridges over streams and a wetland and examples of human impacts and preventions (e.g. “flappers” on power lines to prevent bird collisions). The impact of the excursions on the learners is often highlighted in their comments.

Examples are:

“This is the first time I have walked on grass, in an open area”.

Grade 10 learner and a member of the schools’ Enviro Club, yet has not had an opportunity to walk on grass. The teacher indicated that her prior experiences have been a cement road to her house and tar to her school.

A teacher reported that a Grade 7 learner was so excited about giving a presentation at school after attending an excursion because he “knew about map work and the Grade 10’s don’t”. His excitement with map reading will transfer to his studies later in his schooling and learning.



Malwande Dlalisa, our edu-facilitator

Malwande Dlalisa, KZNCF Edu-Facilitator

Malwande joined the KZNCF team in 2023 and has grown from strength to strength in her role leading the school groups that visit us, her passion for what she does is evident in the preparation and leading of the enthusiastic learners. Feedback from Malwande: “I enjoy working with children. On each excursion I get to see the huge difference from when they arrive to when they are walking out in the veld. I get very interesting questions from them and they are always buzzing with excitement. It has been wonderful to see students improve and achieve on each outing.

Professional Learning Community (PLC) workshops

The teachers’ Professional Learning Community allows teachers, under expert guidance, to gain confidence in their teaching of the required curriculum, particularly pertaining to environmental components. National studies have shown that over 80% of SA’s teachers are not competent in teaching the environmental curriculum requirements. The KZNCF assists teachers to feel comfortable to teach these requirements through workshops relating to content knowledge (including unlearning incorrect concepts) and potential pedagogical processes.



SNAPSHOTS



From left to right: From a beautiful green Spring view of the BBCONR to the Winter Wonderland! (Crazy weather in September) A school group enjoying some time in the Usher Centre colouring in their Crane Masks.



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