



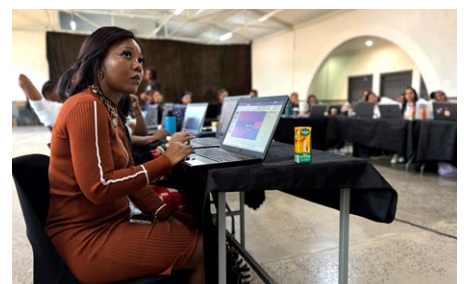
Improving the quality of education in South African schools in order to bring about socio-economic equity

KICP Newsletter

Second Quarter 2025

Short-term Teacher Professional Development

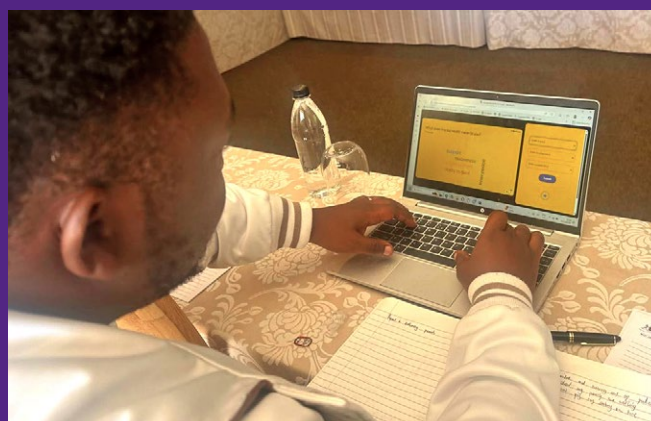
In the second quarter of 2025, the Short-term Teacher Professional Development component of KICP's Teacher Professional Development programme collaborated with the KZNDoE's Pinetown District to conduct ten workshops. Half of these workshops were for professional learning community members representing circuits reporting to the Durban North West Circuit Management Centre. These form part of a proposed two-year project aiming to embed digital teaching and learning skills across the Malandela, Kranskloof, KwaMashu Central and Ntuzuma circuits. The balance of the workshops for other groups from the KZNDoE had varied content. KICP was also pleased to conduct a vision-setting workshop with a development trust looking to enter the teacher development sector.



Initial Teacher Education (ITE) School-based Mentor Workshop



The quarterly meeting for host school-based mentors, held in three different Hubs in which KICP works, opened with a session on mental wellbeing. This emphasised the importance of having someone to confide in and recognising when stress becomes unmanageable. School-based mentors were able to reflect on their own wellbeing and the value of seeking support. The morning meeting also further explored the Core Competency framework which KICP uses to assess student teachers. Recognising the value of experienced school-based mentors, KICP prioritises their input in key aspects of the internship programme, particularly KICP's evaluation of teaching practice. The discussion offered valuable insights, highlighting both areas of strength and challenges for the student teachers placed in the host schools.



Reflective Learning Mathematics Course

Thanks to support from the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, all KICP student teachers are currently engaging with Reflective Learning mathematics modules to strengthen their understanding and build confidence in teaching core numeracy and problem-solving skills. Reflective Learning is an innovative online platform that identifies learners' foundational knowledge gaps and provides targeted support to address them. Reflective Learning has been embedded in an additional fortnightly Academic Support workshop, where student teachers explore a range of maths topics through interactive lessons. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with students participating consistently and thoughtfully. This initiative is enhancing professional growth by deepening mathematical understanding and equipping student teachers to support learners effectively, contribute meaningfully in schools, and step into future roles as confident, capable educators.



ITE Autumn Summit

The ITE Autumn Summit was held over four days at the Khanyisa central venue, with separate sessions for new and returning student teachers to ensure workshops were tailored to their experience. Thoughtfully designed programmes focused on social and emotional awareness, instructional practice, academic development, and professional growth. Student teachers reflected that the further sessions on inclusivity and dedicated time to engage with the Reflective Learning course online was rewarding. Returning interns, representing all hubs were selected to take part in a panel discussion on Human Rights in the Classroom which proved to be a highlight of the Summit.



ITE Saturday Workshop

The termly ITE Saturday student teacher workshop offered the usual spread of personal and professional development, digital skills, and instructional practice strategies. The student teachers at each hub were involved in demonstrating and modelling these techniques, making the learning practical and relevant. Classroom management - particularly in the context of very large classes - remains a central focus at all workshops, reflecting ongoing challenges in the partner school environments.



Inclusive Education - Parent Meeting

Ethel Mthiyane Special School Mandeni



KICP facilitated a successful workshop at Ethel Mthiyane Special School for the parents and caregivers of learners presently placed in the two autism classes at the school. The focus of the meeting was to support parents in understanding their children better and equipping them with tools to provide meaningful support at home. During the workshop, KICP introduced and distributed practical resources such as visual schedules, Makaton signs, and Augmentative and Alternative Communication boards to aid communication and daily routines. The workshop created a safe space for parents to openly share their challenges and concerns, fostering a strong sense of community and collaboration between the school, families, and the KICP support team.



ITE Graduate Leavers Function

KICP hosted the 2024 cohort of graduates at a celebratory Graduate Leavers function held during the week of their UNISA graduations. Proud newly qualified teachers, dressed in their graduation regalia, gathered for a joyful reunion at the KICP site at Inanda Seminary. Guest speaker Nongcebo Mthimkhulu shared her personal journey from being a KICP intern at Dr JL Dube High School in 2022 to gaining a permanent teaching post there this year and urged the graduates to embrace every opportunity offered to them. Further words of encouragement were offered by two past KICP students. Nompumelelo Masango, who is presently teaching in Gauteng, sent her message digitally, while Smanga Khumalo who proudly holds a teaching post at Inanda Seminary, was able to be present.



The elegant yet spirited occasion gave Project Managers the opportunity to congratulate their protégés for their resilience and hard work and send them off with warm wishes for the teaching careers awaiting them.



ECD Principals' Engagement



The focus of the ECD programme this quarter has been on the practical component of their training course. Our ECD practitioners have been hard at work on the Brain Jar NQT level 4 qualification completing practical assignments based on work experience within their six ECD centres. Practitioners have been supported in the completion and compilation of the portfolio of evidence required by the SETA as a prerequisite and is the last remaining hurdle before admittance into an exam in 2025. This quarter's Principal meeting provided KICP with a valuable opportunity to share its pride in the practitioners' perseverance and commitment in preparing to submit the portfolios which will give access to the qualification examination. The Principals were also given training in the importance of recording evidence and were offered report templates to assist in the communication with their parents.

Newly Qualified Teachers Programme



During this term's professional development sessions, NQTs explored creative lesson planning, conflict resolution, responsible citizenship and strategies for creating print-rich classrooms. Their classrooms are transforming into vibrant learning spaces through displays, self-made resources, and cosy reading corners. Some highlights include Zanoluhle Gumede designing prefect badges for her entire school, an inspiring example of innovation in action. At Empilweni Primary, the team's efforts for a cross-border Toyota Teach competition earned the NQTs special recognition for their vibrant classrooms. School visits continue to strengthen relationships and promote shared learning between mentors and NQTs.



Lead Where You Are

This term, the LWYA course continued to inspire school leaders through two face-to-face workshops on Capacity Building and Analysing Challenges. The experiential approach created space for reflection on existing practice and strategy-sharing. Several participants commented on the value of interactive tools used by facilitators during workshops. Notably, two principals presented as guest speakers during the 'Analysing Challenges' webinar, modelling the "I do, we do, you do" framework in action. Assignment submissions remain strong, with participants showing increased ownership of their growth journeys. The momentum is encouraging – leadership is not just being learned, it is being lived.

LEAD WHERE YOU ARE!

WEBINAR 4

ANALYSING CHALLENGES

GUEST SPEAKERS



MRS T NDLOVU
Principal
Khanyanalo Primary

28 MAY 2025
16.00 - 17.00



MS S DLADLA
Departmental Head
Ethel Mthiyane



MS M MGWABA
Principal
Khetamahle Primary

Topics to discuss

- Navigating persistent challenges requiring systemic shifts and mindset change
- Unpacking challenges facing school leaders today
- Lessons learnt from tackling adaptive challenges

 Zoom Meeting ID: 315 101 0110
Passcode: kicp



Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Programme



Foundation Phase teachers of 10 schools in the Pinetown District are strengthening their literacy and numeracy practices through in-house workshops, one-on-one mentoring, and clustered training. This term's focus on handwriting, letter and number formation introduced strategies to boost writing speed and strengthen classroom routines. Phonetic rhymes brought energy to reading lessons, while number writing activities revealed learners' untapped potential for fluency. Resource templates are helping teachers create cost-effective materials and encouraging the use of visuals and concrete objects to enhance understanding.

The KICP EAs placed in these schools continue to play a key role in supporting differentiated learning, modelling strategies from the workshops and reinforcing foundational skills across Grades 2 and 3.

Staff Trailblazers

KICP Project Manager, Nombuso Faya recently completed the honours component of her Bachelor of Commerce degree. She believes that the programme which included modules such as Organisational Change, Project Management and Strategic Management aligns with her professional interests and equipped her with advanced knowledge and the practical tools essential for effective leadership. Nombuso is congratulated on this achievement and the goal to strengthen her capabilities and add value within her current and future roles in education.



Congratulations
TO THE HAPPY COUPLE



Siboniso Makalima, KICP staff member, is congratulated on his marriage to Zanoluhle. Members of staff were able to celebrate and share in the joy of this happy union on Freedom Day this year. The newlyweds are wished a lifetime of love and shared dreams as they build their future together.



Our mission is to provide high quality professional development to teachers, teacher interns and educational leaders, using school-based experiential learning. We look forward to the next quarter to continue fulfilling our purpose.

Contact Us

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