



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

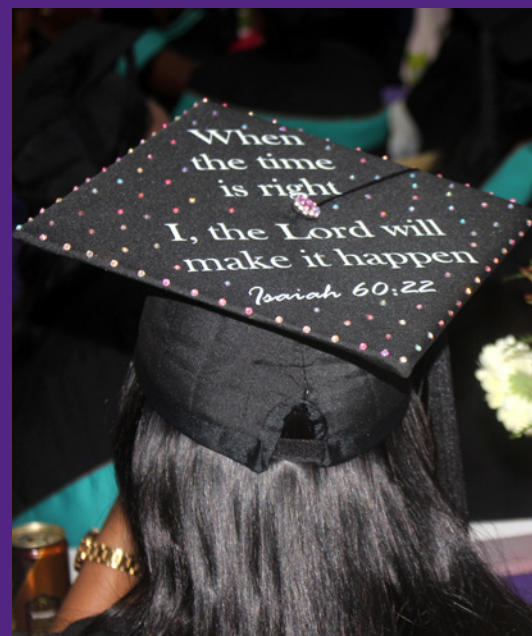
KICP Newsletter

Second Quarter 2026

KICP 2025 Graduate event

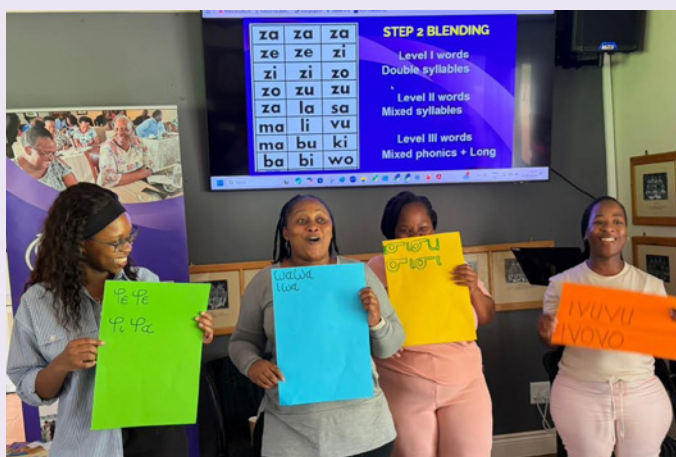
The annual graduation event took place in June for the 87 student teachers who had completed both their degree and their journey with KICP. The recent gathering held on the Inanda Seminary Campus, served as a fitting celebration of their achievements. What made the occasion particularly special were the words of encouragement, the guest address, and the vote of thanks which were all delivered by KICP alumni. Their involvement provided inspiration, motivation, and a sense of pride to the graduating cohort.





Initial Teacher Education Autumn Summit

In preparation for Term 2, KICP hosted intensive three-day Autumn Summits across its North, Central, and Midlands hubs. The summits covered social and emotional learning (SEL), personal and professional development and instructional practice discussions. Notably, one of the presentations student teachers particularly enjoyed, focused on High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS) which incorporated role-play, making the learning engaging and practical. The interactive approach fostered collaboration, deeper reflection, and increased confidence as the student teachers embraced the new term ahead.



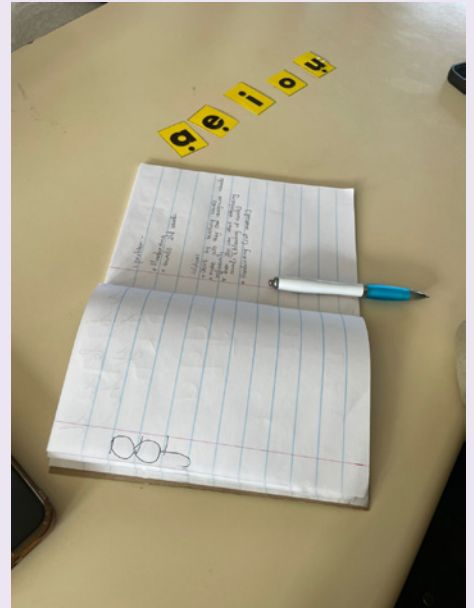
Quarterly School-based Mentor Workshop



The termly KICP mentor workshops across all hubs were well attended, with partner school-based mentors actively engaging in learner and student teacher focused discussions. Sessions covered social and emotional learning (SEL) and mental wellbeing, strengthening mentorship relationships with KICP student teachers, navigating relational challenges, and the value of reflective mentoring practice.

A positive check-in activity encouraged mentors from the same school to sit at different tables, fostering meaningful connections across schools. This created opportunities for mentors to share common challenges, exchange practical solutions, and strengthen collaboration across the hubs.

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy



The KICP - FEMEF Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) Programme continues to support 10 public primary schools across the Pinetown District. One of the programme's highlights this term comes from Siphosethu Primary School, where a Grade 1 learner, Lukhona, is showing encouraging progress through targeted support and collaboration between his teacher and the KICP team. Initially, he experienced communication challenges that affected his participation in class. During Term 2, he began taking books home, engaging with stories through pictures, and participating more confidently in class. His progress demonstrates the impact of early intervention and individualised support in helping learners overcome barriers to learning.



Lead Where You Are



12
Schools



13,461
Learners



378
Staff

The KICP School Leadership Development Programme launched successfully this quarter with a committed cohort of principals and School Management Team (SMT) members from KICP partner schools. Participants completed the first three *Lead Where You Are* (LWYA) modules through interactive workshops and also attended a webinar where graduates from previous cohorts shared practical insights into leadership challenges aligned with the programme content. Strong attendance and active participation across all learning platforms reflect the cohort's commitment to professional growth. By strengthening strategic leadership capacity, the programme empowers school leaders to drive sustainable school improvement, enhance teaching and learning, and foster collaborative, high-performing school communities.



**Stronger
Leaders**



**Engaged
Communities**



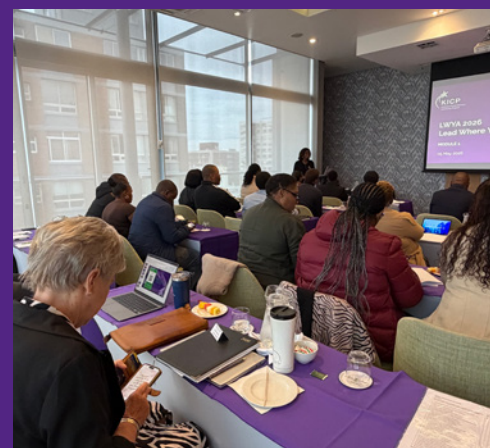
**Improved
Outcomes**



**Lasting
Impact**



**Better
Futures**



ITE Quarterly Workshop



The Term 2 ITE Saturday Workshops took place across the Central, Midlands and North Hubs, offering student teachers space for reflection, growth and practical preparation. Through reflective check-ins and Circles of Control, they explored responsibility, resilience and how these can shape classroom practice. Sessions on the Sustainable Development Goals encouraged purposeful thinking around Quality Education and the 2026 priority goals, while teacher file development strengthened their readiness as emerging professionals.



Mandeni Schools Cluster Inclusive Education Workshop

A Mandeni Cluster workshop was hosted recently at Imbewenhle Primary School, with 46 Foundation Phase teachers participating in an Inclusive Education session titled 'Understanding My Learners'. The workshop focused on differentiated learning, and highlighting that learners process information and learn in different ways. Through practical activities, discussions, and idea-sharing, teachers reflected on the diverse needs of learners and explored strategies to support them effectively. Key focus areas included handwriting development and supporting learners with processing difficulties. Mr Mdlalose, the acting Mandeni Circuit Manager, attended and expressed appreciation for the collaboration between KICP and the Department of Education.



Teacher Professional Development



26

**DoE Workshops
Delivered**



11

**In-school TPD Workshops
Delivered**



1,600

**SMT Members and Teachers
Reached**

Since the beginning of 2026, KICP has facilitated 26 Teacher Professional Development (TPD) workshops in partnership with the Pinetown and iLembe District Departments of Education. In addition, KICP has delivered TPD workshops at 11 partner schools hosting student teachers across the Central, North, and Midlands Education Hubs. In total, these workshops have reached in excess of 1600 SMT members and teachers.

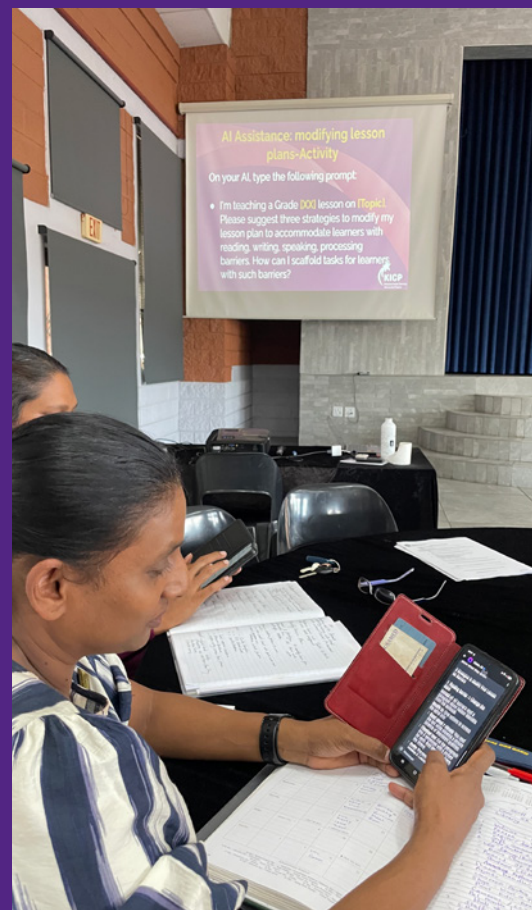
The Pinetown District identified neurodiversity and learner discipline as priority areas for professional development and requested that these workshops be delivered across all Circuit Management Centres (CMCs). Principals and School Management Team (SMT) members were encouraged to cascade the knowledge, strategies, and resources gained through these sessions to educators within their schools, thereby extending the programme's reach and impact.

In the iLembe District, workshops focused on foundational literacy, numeracy, and handwriting. Foundation Phase teachers responded positively to the practical and engaging nature of the sessions and have reported beginning to implement new strategies and approaches in their classrooms.

The school-based TPD workshops have also been well received by participating educators. Feedback indicates that the sessions have strengthened reflective practice, enhanced professional knowledge, and enriched classroom teaching strategies. Participants reported that the workshops "extended my thinking about

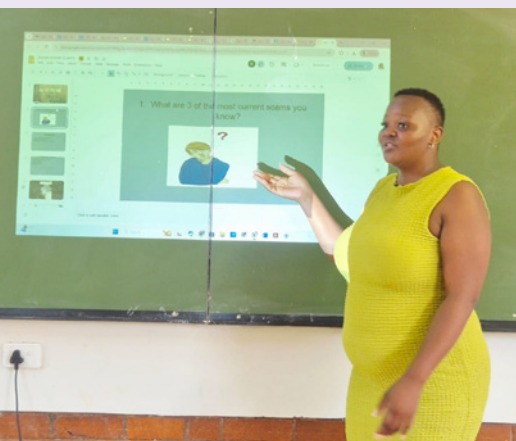
teaching", "increased my understanding of myself and how to respond effectively in different situations", and provided practical techniques, including the use of interactive games to reinforce spelling, phonics, and reading skills.





Newly Qualified Teachers

The second quarter saw two cohorts of Youth@Work candidates actively engaged across two of KICP's education hubs, with 10 NQTs continuing in the Midlands and a further 10 commencing placements in Mandeni schools. Across both hubs, NQTs have demonstrated steady growth in learner-centred teaching, digital competency and reflective practice. Mentors report consistently high professional standards, with NQTs contributing confidently to school life beyond the classroom. Their ability to engage learners effectively reflects their readiness to transition into independent teaching.



Staff Trailblazers



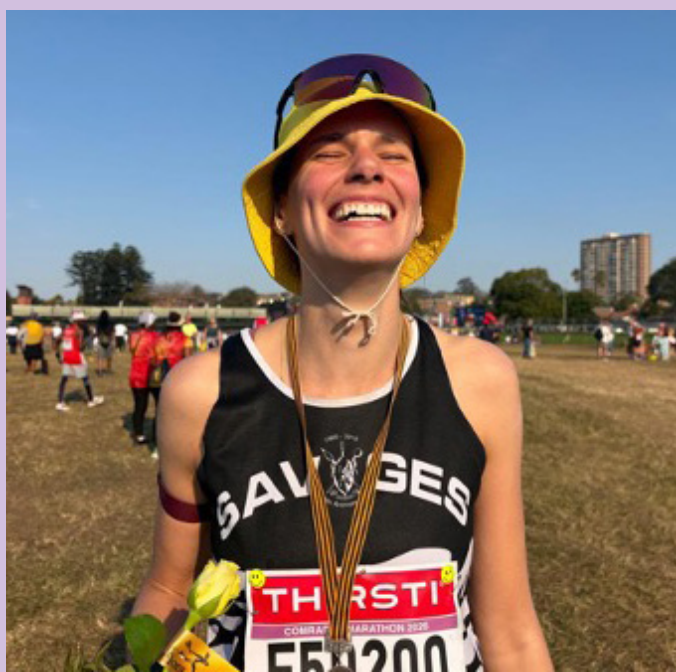
Celebrating a major milestone, Letticia Nzuzo, Trainee Project Mentor has graduated with a B.Ed in the Senior and FET Phase. A major turning point in her academic journey came in 2021 during a UNISA internship with KICP, which provided invaluable classroom exposure. Letticia has grown from an uncertain student into a confident, passionate educator.



Congratulations to KICP Project Mentor, Nontokozo Thango on graduating with a Post-Graduate Diploma in Inclusive Education. Armed with new skills, she is excited to empower and develop fellow educators, proving that endless possibilities exist when we embrace diverse learning needs.

A massive shoutout to Robyn McQueen for conquering the gruelling 99th Comrades Marathon 'Up Run' from Durban to Pietermaritzburg. Running under the slogan *Ska Fela Moya* ('Never lose hope'), Robyn

crossed the finish line and secured a prestigious Robert Mtshali medal. Beyond personal triumph, the race was a beautiful tribute to family history, raising vital funds for the Sizanani Academy in memory of her grandmother, Jenifer, and her late friend Thelma, who founded the NPO.



Point	Time	Time of Day	Pace
Start	00:00:00	5:00:01 am	---
5.5km	00:39:03	5:39:03 am	07:06
Westville	01:20:17	6:20:18 am	06:22
Pinetown	01:58:09	6:58:09 am	05:46
Kloof	02:33:11	7:33:11 am	06:28
Winston Park	03:06:59	8:06:59 am	06:03
Drummond	04:30:46	9:30:46 am	06:27
Inchanga	05:19:59	10:19:59 am	06:34
Cato Ridge	06:10:10	11:10:11 am	07:44
Camperdown	06:39:51	11:39:52 am	05:30
Umlaas Road	07:17:01	12:17:02 pm	06:46
Mkondeni	08:41:38	1:41:38 pm	07:18
84km	09:10:19	2:10:20 pm	05:53
Finish	09:22:31	2:22:32 pm	06:24

Avg. Pace 6:33 min/km



With strong systems and partnerships in place, KICP is well-positioned to deepen implementation across all the hubs in which we are currently working.

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