

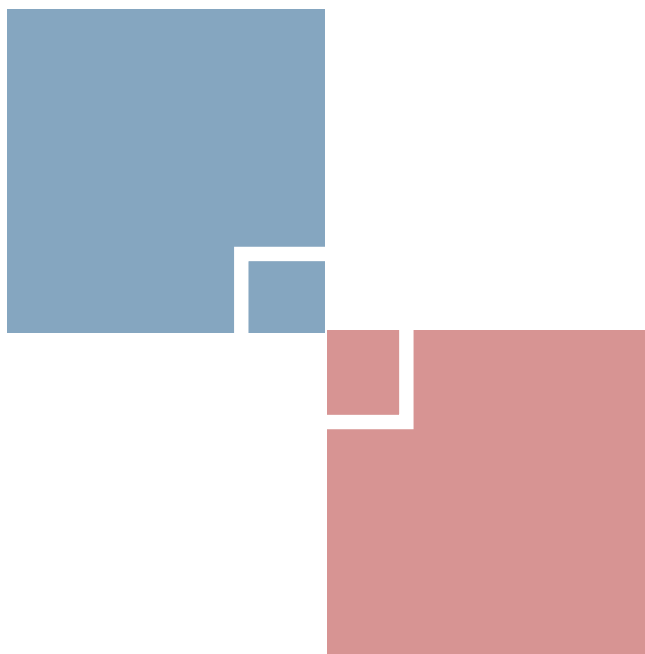


The Hermann Olthaver Trust
Report 2011



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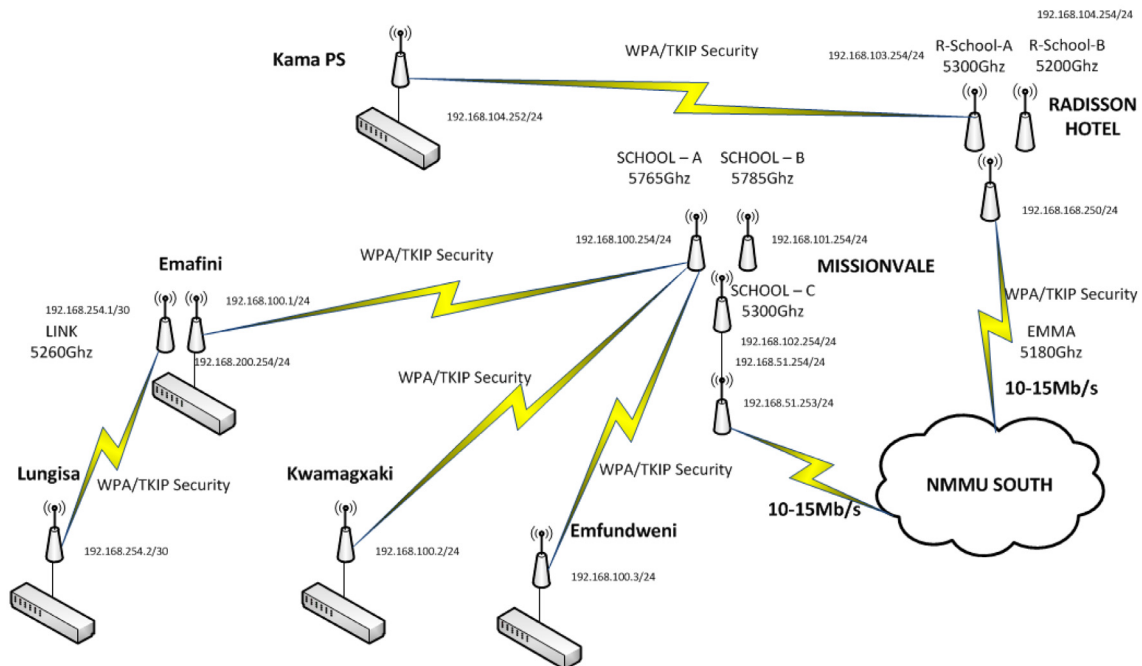


Introduction

Financial support from the Hermann Olthaver Trust in 2011 has focused on introducing ICT skills and capabilities in schools in the Port Elizabeth area. Initially six schools formed the core of the project as they had been equipped after we had solicited 20 computers for each school from the Dell Foundation. These schools were:

- Emafini Primary
- Lungisa High
- Kwanoxolo Primary
- Emfundweni Primary
- Kama Primary
- Kwamagxaki High

During the year, five of these schools were provided with 'line-of-site' internet connection from the NMMU South campus via our Missionvale campus, with the signal being hopped over a hill from Emafini to Lungisa (see Figure below).



Where there was no line-of-site connection from Missionvale, the signal was 'hopped' from the Radisson Blue Hotel in Summerstrand. The arrangement with the hotel allowed four more schools to access the internet connectivity provided by the University, namely Kama Primary, Malabar Primary and Paterson and Woolhope Secondary Schools. Kama Primary was one of the initial five schools on the project (but was obscured from the Missionvale transmitter) while the other three schools were included on the grounds that they had their own computer facilities, that they have teachers on their staff who have been trained in ICT, and because of the enthusiasm shown for the project by the principals and teachers. The figure above shows the Kama Primary connection which also serves Malabar Primary, Paterson High and Woolhope High.

Progress to date

During 2011 the focus of attention shifted from working with the teachers only to include their learners, as we believe that directly targeting the children will accelerate progress towards our end goals. The specific foci for both these groups were to enable the:

- participants to setup email accounts;
- teachers to use email to communicate with one another and with the ICT facilitator (and/or with any other persons);
- schools to install anti-virus software;
- teachers and learners to use the Internet;
- teachers to use PowerPoint as a teaching tool;
- teachers to find PowerPoint resources on the internet that can be adapted for classroom usage;
- learners to use the Internet as a learning tool;

Five formal sessions were run in the afternoons from May to June with groups of 25 teachers per session on email, Microsoft Security Essentials, Internet Explorer & Google, finding PowerPoint resources for teachers from the Internet, and the use of PowerPoint.

During the last week of June, we ran a two-day session just for the Emafini teachers at their request. The ICT support facilitator enabled them to extract relevant teaching information online after which they produced presentations for their peers.

An eight week intervention from March to mid August was run for twenty learners at Kwamagxaki High School during the afternoons. These sessions focused on:

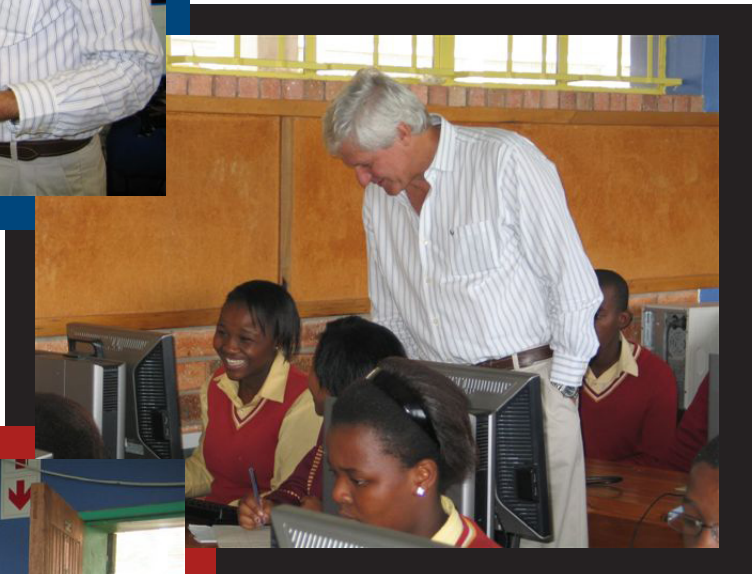
- Email
- Internet Explorer
- Google and
- Wikis.

Computers at all the schools were serviced, anti-virus software was installed, and faulty machines were repaired. Operating systems and software were re-installed on computers that had malfunctioned as a result of viruses and learner/teacher deletions of files.

We also assisted three teachers who had purchased their own laptop computers. They are now wirelessly connected at their schools and are able to access the internet.

Visit by Hermann Ohlthaver representative

Mr Allan Appel of the Hermann Ohlthaver Trust made a site visit to Port Elizabeth on the 10th May 2011 and viewed activities on site at Emfundweni Primary, Kwamagxaki High and Kama Primary School. A pictorial representation is provided below.



We believe that equipping the schools, providing connectivity, training the teachers, and adopting a strategy that directly involves the learners, has enabled us to move towards achieving our goal of having teachers who can independently use the ICT resources that have been provided and learners who are actively involved in ICT activities in schools.

Project to plug PE schools into 'net set to grow in 2011

■ Team's quick thinking connects 120 new computers

Sherman Bhana and Neo Budumelo

FOR many, connecting to the internet is as simple a matter as reading a newspaper, but for children from impoverished communities it's taken a project run by Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) to show them the worldwide web.

Run by the Centre for Research, Technology and Innovation (Certi), financed through the Hermann Ohlthaver Trust and aided by a beachfront hotel, 120 connected computers have now been donated to six schools.

Emafini Primary, Emfundweni Primary, KwaNnoxolo Primary, Kama Primary, Lungisa High and KwaMmagxaki High School have all been provided with wireless connections set up at NMMU's Missionvale campus.

Project co-ordinator Andre du Plessis said cable theft meant that the schools needed to be connected "wirelessly".

At first, Kama Primary in Soweto-on-Sea was out of range and a connection could not be established, but quick thinking by a member of the NMMU team, Vernon Naidoo, solved the problem.

He noticed that the Radisson Blu Hotel enjoyed line-of-sight with the school, and suggested approaching the hotel for help. Approached by Du Plessis and Ceti head Paul Webb, Radisson Blu general manager Clive van Oudtshoorn was eager to help.

The Radisson provided a



HI-TECH BOOST ... Ayabulela Veliso (left), 14, and Siphosethu Fila, 13, from Emafini Primary School in KwaDesi, login to one of the school's new computers. The computers have been connected to the internet via a wireless connection from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's Missionvale campus. e: B-JAY@NMMU

site on the roof of the hotel and installed electrical points for the erection of the equipment for no charge.

"Part of our responsibility as formal business in the metro is to facilitate and get involved in whatever we can do, especially when it comes to education," van Oudtshoorn said.

The aims of the programme – preliminary work on which began in 2009 – are to provide support to schools and also to ensure their computer labs are being utilised.

The project will continue in 2011 and Du Plessis will edu-

cate some of the teachers on his "cyber hunt strategy", a personal formulation to help students find information relative to their cognitive levels.

Emafini computer department head Bonda Thambo said: "Students are benefiting a lot and the programme caters for all learning areas. Further, it gives teachers with limited resources an opportunity to prepare effective lessons."

Training also includes teachers from the six schools, while counterparts at BJ Mnyanda, EZ Kabane, Stephen Mazangula, Tyhiluwazi and Gqebera have also benefited.

Email responses from participating learners

The following are samples of emails sent by learners after their initial introduction to this aspect of ICT.

From: Webb, Paul (Prof) (Summerstrand Campus, South)
To: Affat, Renita (Summerstrand South Campus); allangill@vodamail.co.za <allangill@vodamail.co.za>
Sent: Fri Apr 22 10:30:04 2011
Subject: FW: Andre's project
Dear Renita and Allan

I have cut and pasted a few emails I got yesterday from some of the children who are benefitting from Andre's work at schools. He is really making a difference. He got them to email me from their accounts which he set up at one of the schools (there are five) - we have got online via wireless (line of sight transmission).

See below:

dear mr paul i'm leletu lezar speelman from kwa-magxaki high school and i'm part of the NMMU computer programme, today 12 learners from my school learnt how to use e-mail and to communicate through it, we truly are excited to finally own our own e-mail addresses and it's all thanks to Mr Duplessis for this wonderful opportunity which we are grateful for, i wish this programme would continue and expand to other learners as well for it is a blessing.

DEAR PROF

THIS EMAIL IS WRITTEN BY ONE OF KWA-MAGXAKI HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL.....MY NAME IS SIPHOSETHU BUNYULA I AM CURRENTLY DOING GRADE 11(A) .
IM WRITTING THIS WITH GREAT GRATITUDE IN MY HEART ...I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR SUPPLYING US WITH THESE COMPUTERSINDEED IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE TO GAIN THE EXPERIENCE OF LEARNING HOW TO SEND AN EMAIL...SUR I MUST SAY THAT ALL THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT DR.DUPLESSIS! HE HAS BEEN GREAT !...TO US ALL THIS COMPUTER PROJECT HAS BEEN A TRUE LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE.....THANK YOU SOOOOOOOOOOOO MUCH FOR MAKING A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE TO US,MAY THE LORD BLEES U!!!

Dear PROF

My name is Zikhona Mfuleni im a grade 11 learner at kwaMAGXAKI high school.I am grateful for the time that we spent with DR A Duplessis.I have learned how to write an email and respond to it.

dear prof

my name is nwabisa ndolo,i am doing grade 11 at kwa magxaki high school.i am involved in the computer programme and our instructor is mr andre duplessis and is so wonderful and exciting.thank you for making this possible.

thank you

DEAR PROF.

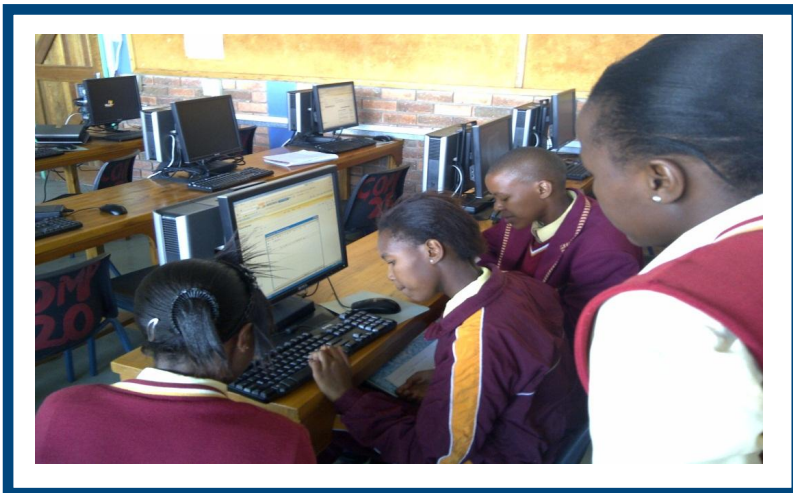
My name is Simphiwe Crouch one of the KWAMAGXAKI HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER PROJECT and I am so greatfull because without you we would'nt have known how to send an e-mail,it was nice to know that and I am looking forwardto the project.

dear prof i am zizipho sikhom from kwamagxaki high school i'm so happy to day ican write an email mr duplessis teach me how to write an email it is a great day

Dear Prof.

Am one the students who are part of the Kwa-Magxaki computer project.

We are so greatful for what you did,I never thought it could be possible for us to know how to send an e-mail via computer, I have been networking for like quite a long time in ma cellphone and now that am using a computer feels like I have heaven on earth and this is a one opportunity of a life time chau much love prof.





Research

We have also conducted research related to ICT in schools, as well teacher requirements for the implementation of successful ICT Teacher Professional Teacher Development. The following papers are in press in the following Scientific journals:

Du Plessis, A., & Webb, P. (in press). An extended Cyberhunts strategy: Learner centred learning-by-design. *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology*, 27(7)

Du Plessis, A., & Webb, P. (in press). Teachers' perceptions about their own and their schools' readiness for computer implementation: A South African case study. *Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology*,

Du Plessis, A. & Webb, P. (in press). An extended 'learning by design' framework based on learner perceptions. *African Journal of Research in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education*, 15(2)