

RESOURCE CENTRE Newsletter

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LEARNING IN ACTION

This semester, the Resource Centre has been buzzing with activity as we hosted a variety of workshops designed to enhance the way we support learners in our school community. These workshops have been aimed at equipping educators, students, and therapists with the knowledge and practical tools needed to create an inclusive and effective learning environment.

By fostering collaboration and ongoing professional development, the Resource Centre continues to play a vital role in ensuring that every learner has the support they need to thrive. We look forward to continuing this important work next year and beyond, keeping "learning in action" at the heart of everything we do.

UNLEASHING THE WRITER WITHIN

The Speech Therapy department presented a workshop on 31 July 2024, where educators who attended were able to “unleash the writer within”. Intermediate phase educators were engaged in interactive and practical exercises, which allowed them to explore the different aspects of written language. These activities included strategies used by the learners (e.g. superheroes, detective work and more), that helped them remember the finer details of language in the spoken and written form. The educators reported that they were inspired by the ideas shared and excited to start implementing these written strategies with their learners to unleash the inner writers.



SCRIBING WORKSHOP

Our biannual scribing workshop, held on the 17th of August 2024, was once again a very successful endeavour. As always, this workshop was aimed at equipping educators from various schools, as well as community members, with the necessary skills to assist learners with barriers to learning by facilitating reading, scribing, and prompting. This training is designed to ensure that those performing these roles follow the Educational Department’s regulations, providing support in a manner that neither advantages nor disadvantages learners. The workshop covered best practices to maintain fairness and uphold the integrity of the assistance provided to learners with diverse needs.

A highlight of the workshop was the presence of an official from the Department of Education, who observed the session to ensure our adherence to the Department's guidelines. We are proud to announce that we received positive feedback and were given the official “thumbs-up” for our approach.



DISABILITY RIGHTS AWARENESS MONTH

Tafelberg School proudly participated in the Disability Rights Awareness Month event at the Metropole North Education District. The event aimed to raise awareness about learners with disabilities and highlight the importance of inclusive education. It also provided an opportunity to showcase the valuable services that Tafelberg School offers to support learners with diverse learning needs. Through this event, Tafelberg School reinforced its commitment to promoting understanding and advocacy for individuals with disabilities.





TAFELBERG
NIHIL • NIMIS • DIFFICILE

CORE VALUES

- RESPECT
- RESPONSIBILITY
- HONESTY
- CARE



SUPPORTING NEURODIVERSITY

At Tafelberg School, we are dedicated to providing our learners with the best possible support to thrive academically and socially. In line with this commitment, the Resource Centre, in collaboration with the Therapy Department, recently organised a series of professional development sessions focused on the Impact of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The workshop series aimed to equip our staff with the knowledge and tools to better understand and support students with ASD.

The sessions were led by Noëline de Goede, a highly respected expert in the field of neurodevelopmental conditions. With extensive experience in different fields, Noëline's passion lies in advancing awareness and support for neurodiversity, particularly in the realm of autism. She is the founder of Malaika House and Autism Village South Africa, as well as the HEART Program for Autism Resources SA, all of which focus on providing vital resources for those impacted by autism.

Throughout the workshop series, Noëline covered a range of essential topics that deepened our understanding of the unique challenges faced by learners with ASD. Key themes included:

- **ASD & the Sensory System:** Understanding how sensory sensitivities and differences can impact a learner's daily experiences and behaviour.
- **ASD & Pathological Demand Avoidance:** Exploring the challenges faced by learners who exhibit resistance to everyday demands due to anxiety or overwhelming stimuli.
- **ASD & Anxiety:** Addressing the high prevalence of anxiety in learners with ASD and promoting effective strategies for support.
- **ASD Support & Resources:** Providing practical tools and resources for educators to better support ASD learners in the classroom.



One of the most valued aspects of the sessions was their practical approach. Staff appreciated the opportunity to learn concrete strategies and methods to apply in their classrooms, enhancing their ability to meet the diverse needs of our learners. The workshops not only deepened staff members' understanding of ASD, but also inspired fresh ideas for fostering a more inclusive and supportive learning environment for all learners.

As we continue to strive for excellence in supporting our neurodiverse learners, these professional development opportunities are integral to ensuring that every child at Tafelberg School receives the personalised care and attention they need to succeed.



WORKSHOPS 2025

Becoming a Thera-parent

Parents of junior school learners

5 February 2025

Bringing Maths to Life

Senior school educators

25 February 2025

Scribing

Open to the public

13 April 2025

Classroom management

Foundation Phase educators

21 May 2025

Visual perceptual skills

Junior school educators

27 August 2025

