



Thinking Schools South Africa Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome!

Happy New Year to all our readers! Welcome to this, our first newsletter for the year! I would like to wish you all the best for 2024. We have been working hard to plan and organise for the year ahead, and we certainly have some exciting events lined up. Take a look!

Whole School workshops, which are by far the most effective way to implement thinking skills in a school environment, are happening at Durban Girls' College, Curro Midrand, and Blue Hills College, Midrand. Then, in February, TSSA launches the first of a set of three online workshops:

Developing a Growth Mindset (led by Camilla Antonie with Yanisha Lalla)

Using TASC for Project-Based Learning (Sonja Vandeleur)

Thinking Maps to Build Critical Thinking (Sally James)

These courses are aimed at being practical with easy-to-implement strategies, and they are all SACE accredited. Come and join in the learning! Link to register on pg 5.

On March 7th, TSSA will host the first Network Schools webinar for the year featuring James Nottingham from "Challenging Learning" in the UK. James is also a speaker at the World Education Summit (Get your discounted tickets from TSSA! Register on pg 5). These webinars are free for all staff who teach at our Network Schools, and at a small cost for non-members. I am also in conversation with James to do a series of online workshops in May for us - so watch this space! James has just published a book "Teach Brilliantly" which makes for great reading.

18th - 21st March should be set aside for the World Education Summit. TSSA has negotiated hugely discounted prices for this event, and what an opportunity for professional development for schools. Access to all sessions is available for the year. This is an event not to be missed as it features the world's top educationists.

Susannah Cole (Flexible Mindsets, Bermuda) is connecting with all those who attended the highly successful Spring Roadshow in October 2023. This will take place on 14th March - so all who attended, save the date! You will be hearing from me shortly. Susannah has also promised that she will be here in South Africa (tropical storms willing!) in September to do a Roadshow on 'Productive Puzzling', which centres around the notion of curiosity and problem-solving.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pam Hauptfleisch for her contribution to TSSA over the last two years. She worked quietly in the background to ensure that the financial standing of TSSA remained secure, and I would like to thank her for this.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information, a meeting, or a phone call, even if it is for an exploratory chat (these are my favourite!).

I wish you all the best for 2024!

Dr Sonja Vandeleur

sonja@thinkingschools.org.za

UPCOMING EVENTS

ONLINE COURSES

Starting 12th February, SACE accredited

Time: 16:00 - 17:30

Developing a Growth Mindset: A Guide

Camilla Antonie

You will learn:

- the difference between a fixed mindset and a growth mindset
- how students perceive mistakes and how to change this
- about the power of feedback
- how to create a culture of challenge
- strategies to engage students in effective effort.

DATES: 12th Feb, 19th Feb, 4th March, 11th March



Using TASC for Project-based Learning

Sonja Vandeleur

The TASC Wheel guides students through a process that encourages questioning, curiosity, and deep thinking. This is an approach which can be used when planning, to create experiences that will challenge and engage students – making links with social learning theories such as Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development

DATES: 13th Feb, 20th Feb, 5th March, 12th March



Thinking Maps to Build Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills

Sally James

The Thinking Maps provide a shared visual language for learning. It is a brain-based approach to teaching and learning, and gives students a means of putting down and sharing patterns of thinking. By using the Maps, students will build comprehension, communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

DATES: 14th Feb, 21st Feb, 6th March, 13th March



REGISTER BY CLICKING HERE!

NEW YEAR SPECIAL!

R3 375 pp per course

R2 500 pp per course if 2 or more delegates register

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORLD EDUCATION SUMMIT 2024

18 - 21 MARCH



Bringing you innovative, global headliners, challenging and brave leaders, and cutting-edge schools to debate, learn, and inspire!

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 4 | 400+ | 50K | 100% |
| Live Days | Engaging Sessions | Excited Delegates | Completely Online |

- Attend the live summit to access world-class speakers with incredible expertise, practice and the latest research news;
- Access on-demand for a year via Summit Central over 400 sessions of professional learning;
- Use the sessions as a catalyst for change and improvement - high-impact, time-saving, low-cost;
- Easy-to-follow resources to assist implementation and to measure impact; or
- Attend to further your own personal learning journey.

[Find out more here!](#)

[Register here!](#)



BECOME A TSSA NETWORK SCHOOL MEMBER



Join as a TSSA Network member school to enjoy the following benefits:

- a discount for all staff of 15% off for any TSSA event
- three free webinars per year available to all members of staff
- a letter of certification which will enable your school to use the TSSA Network Schools logo on your letterhead
- lifetime access to recordings of webinars and for any registered course attended
- priority for booking TSSA events
- quarterly newsletters .

NETWORK SCHOOLS WEBINAR

Free for Network Schools, R500 for non-members

7th MARCH

19:30 - 20:30

James Nottingham

Founder of Challenging Learning



James Nottingham is the creator of the Learning Pit®, one of the most widely used models for teaching to emerge in the 21st century. He is also the author of 12 books, a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and is listed in The Future 500, which lists the United Kingdom's most forward-thinking and creative innovators.

[Register here to become a Network School!](#)

[Register here for the Webinar!](#)

ARTICLES AND TALKS OF INTEREST

Helping Students Check for Bias in AI Outputs

Edutopia, 20th December 2023

When students use generative artificial intelligence, they need methods to check for biases that may skew results to prompts.

[Click here to read the article](#)

How your brain's executive function works -- and how to improve it | Sabine Doebel

You use your brain's executive function every day -- it's how you do things like pay attention, plan ahead and control impulses. Can you improve it to change for the better?

[Click here to listen to the TED talk](#)

Where we are going wrong on behaviour: Bill Rogers

TES, 3rd January 2024

Rather than trying to be liked and accepted, teachers need to call every student to account, and craft their language to lead for better behaviour

[Click here to read the article](#)

As a Paraprofessional Working in the Classroom, I've Learned That Relationships Come First:

James Parra

Edsurge, 15th December 2023

What have we been conditioned to think an effective classroom looks like? it's clear that the most effective classrooms aren't necessarily the ones that are most quiet or still, but the ones that prioritize relationships and community building.

[Click here to read the article](#)

IMPORTANT LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

● Online Courses Feb/March

To find out more, visit our website:
<https://www.tssathinkingzone.org/>

To register: [Click here!](#)

● World Education Summit

To register: [Click here!](#)

● Whole staff training available on request

Contact details:

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