



Thinking Schools South Africa Quarterly Newsletter

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Welcome to our third newsletter for 2023. To the three-term schools, I hope your final term of the year goes well. It is a busy time, but also one for reflection.

We have two events planned for the rest of this year. The first is an online course titled 'Developing a Growth Mindset: A Guide for Teachers'. This 3 hr course starts on Monday 11th September, so register soon. The second event is our annual Spring Roadshow, being held in Irene, Gqeberha, Durban and Cape Town, in early October. We are hosting Susannah Cole, from reFLEXions, Bermuda. Read more about this event on pg 2.

We are planning online courses to be run over February/March next year. These courses are designed to be interactive with some implementation and reflection. This makes our courses meaningful and worthwhile. Keep an eye out for the Black Friday Special that we run for these courses.

Whole School workshops are one of the most effective ways to implement a thinking skills programme in a school as it builds a common language of thinking with teachers, learners, and parents. Recently, the following schools ran workshops for their staff: Durban Girls' College on Thinking Routines, DISA (Hout Bay) on Thinking Maps, Summerhill (Midrand) on 'Developing a Growth Mindset', and the International School of Cape Town on Thinking Routines (2nd October).

TSSA has continued to work with "Teach the Nation", an NGO doing phenomenal work with a two-year programme for teacher-leaders. We have also continued to work with the Metro-East section of the WCED, running interactive courses on the Thinking Maps.

We have a record 35 schools who have become TSSA Network Schools. I would like to thank these schools for their on-going support.

All the best for the rest of the year,
Dr Sonja Vandeleur
sonja@thinkingschools.org.za

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING ROADSHOW

9th October - 16th October

FLEXIBLE MINDSETS FOR SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

Susannah Cole
from
reFLEXions
BERMUDA



Susannah Cole is co-author of “Flexible Mindsets in Schools” and an executive function coach. She works with students to explore habits and mindsets that facilitate learning how to learn. Susannah holds a M.Ed in developmental psychology and has grown her expertise through 25 years working in the field of education.

Susannah will be in South Africa in early October to share practical, necessary, yet simple tools to build into existing classroom practices. These tools will guide students to become self-directed by developing responsiveness and encouraging curiosity and relevance.

Flexible Mindsets gives learners the essential tools to:

- be self-aware, active and engaged in the learning process;
- respond resiliently and adaptively; and
- direct their own learning journey.

DATES

9th October: Cornwall Hill College, Irene, Gauteng

11th October: Woodridge College, Gqerberha, EC

13th October: Durban Girls’ College, KZN

16th October: SACS Junior School, Newlands, WC

TIME

08:30 - 15:00

[REGISTER BY CLICKING HERE!](#)

Special: Register for 4, pay for 3.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ONLINE COURSE

11th and 18th September

Developing a Growth Mindset: A Guide for Teachers

Camilla Antonie



This course delves into how to bring a Growth Mindset into our classrooms. The potential impact that changing student mindsets has on learning outcomes and success is significant, and has been proven through research. Register for this 3-hr course, which is SACE accredited, and presented by Camilla Antonie, one of TSSA's top trainers.

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

11th and 18th September

TIME

16:00 - 17:30

[REGISTER BY CLICKING HERE!](#)

SPECIAL: Register 3, pay for 2!

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Teaching Note-Taking Skills to Guide Students to Self-Directed Learning

Edutopia, 29th August 2023



These strategies help middle school students improve their critical thinking, in turn encouraging them to take the initiative in their learning.

[Click here to read the article](#)

Self-compassion

Changemakers in Education, 1st August 2023



Self-compassion is a way of being kind and accepting towards our constantly changing selves - especially when we make mistakes or feel inadequate.

[Click here to read the article](#)

Curiosity

Changemakers in Education, 1st February, 2023



Curiosity expands the mind and opens it to different ideas, opinions, and topics.

[Click here to read the article](#)

The Powerful Effects of Drawing on Learning

Edutopia, 14th May, 2019



The science is clear: Drawing beats out reading and writing to help students remember concepts.

[Click here to view the video](#)