



# Thinking Schools South Africa Quarterly Newsletter

## In this newsletter:

Welcome

Page 01

Upcoming Events: Online  
Courses in February/March

Page 02

Past Events: Spring  
Roadshow and Online  
Courses

Pages 03 & 04

Important Information

Page 05

Articles of Interest

Page 06

Welcome to our fourth and final newsletter for 2023. The year has been a busy one, with lots of growth and learning. The TSSA Spring Roadshow in October was hugely successful, with such positive feedback, that we are planning a second Roadshow with Susannah Cole from Bermuda in 2024. Let's hope that a tropical storm does not affect her travels from Bermuda to South Africa, as it did this year! I so enjoyed meeting many of you at the four venues and, as is evident in the 'memory videos' put up on our website, the engagement and joy of learning was evident from all who attended. Susannah will be conducting a 'Check-In Session' for all delegates the Roadshow on 14th March. An invitation will be sent out in the new year. We could not deliver this event without our host schools, so a big thank you to Cornwall Hill College, Woodridge College, Durban Girls' College and SACS Junior School.

Camilla Antonie facilitated an online workshop on 'Developing a Growth Mindset: A Guide for Teachers'. One delegate remarked: "This was fantastic, and Camilla is a wonderful mentor. Such a worthwhile experience. Thank you." and another wrote "The course is well-structured, easy to follow and Camilla presents in such an accessible manner. Thank you so much." Camilla will be presenting a more in-depth course in February and March 2024 on the Growth Mindset. Please see pg 2 for more details.

There are three online courses being held over February/March next year. These courses are designed to be interactive with some implementation and reflection from the delegates. This makes our courses meaningful and worthwhile. Take advantage of the Black Friday Special with a 40% discount that is available until 24th November.

The TSSA Network School membership is growing steadily. There are many benefits to being a Network School. The biggest drawcards are the three free webinars each year for all staff and the 15% discount for any TSSA event (see pg 5).

Wishing you all the best for the the rest of the year, and please keep in touch.

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**

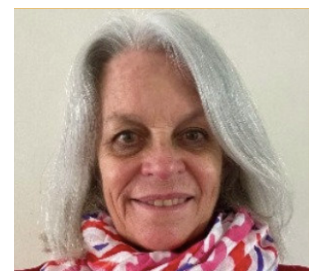


### Thinking Maps to Build Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills

#### 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!](#)**

**BLACK FRIDAY SPECIAL: 40% discount until 24th November**

**Normal price: R3-375**

**R2025 pp per course; R1721.25 pp per course for Network Schools**

# PAST EVENTS

## TSSA SPRING ROADSHOW

### WITH

# SUSANNAH COLE

9TH - 16TH OCTOBER

### What a trip!

I had the privilege of travelling with Susannah from Johannesburg to Gqeberha, then Durban and Cape Town. It was a privilege as we had so many discussions on small but powerful ways to reframe teaching so that students can become more self-directed, and we discussed plans for a way forward between TSSA and reFLEXions. Most of this was written on paper serviettes whilst eating dinner, often the best way to have discussions! Watch this space for more details.

The delegates to the Roadshow will have their own takeaways from each day, but the takeaways for me about developing a Flexible Mindset were:

- consent - an agreement between students and teacher to increase buy-in and engagement;
- the definition of a flexible mindset - “the dynamic and on-going interaction between self-awareness, adaptive strategy use and perseverance that empowers students to evolve and become self-directed”;
- notice - to make time to notice thoughts, feelings, and actions so you can figure out what’s working and what’s not (metacognition);
- strategies - to give students the time to practice developing their own strategies to reach a goal, this needs to be explicit;
- curiosity - curiosity is a tool to help students become active, engaged learners; teachers must resist handing out answers;
- executive function strategies - teach strategies and use tools to learn HOW to learn.



[Click here to read more about the Spring Roadshow!](#)

# PAST EVENTS

## ONLINE COURSES

### Developing a Growth Mindset: A Guide for Teachers 11th and 18th September Camilla Antonie



The potential impact that changing student mindsets has on learning outcomes and success is significant, and has been proven through research. Camilla discussed ways in which to develop a Growth Mindset with students using the following topics :

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

Here are some comments about the course:

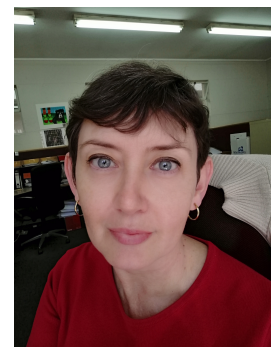
- *It was very helpful having practical examples of how this can be incorporated into teaching - for example how to use mistakes and to expect them during a lesson.*
- *This course provided me with more tools to use in my teaching. It has also challenged me to think not only about my responses or comments, but how I set a task to provide opportunities for good mistakes that we can use as learning tools.*

Camilla will be facilitating an online workshop where she will be delving a bit deeper into these aspects in February/March 2024.

**Don't miss out on the Black Friday discount of 40%! Closes on 24th November.**

**Details on pg 2.**

### Thinking Maps for NS & Tech, Life Skills Gr 4&5 August and September Elmarie Petersen



Thinking Maps promote a shared visual language for learning. The eight Thinking Maps provide a means for putting down and sharing patterns of thinking, such as 'comparing and contrasting', 'defining', 'steps in a process', 'describing'. and more. The Thinking Maps enable students to make sense of all the information that comes their way.

**Sally James will be facilitating an online workshop in Feb/March 2024 on Thinking Maps. Register now to take advantage of the Black Friday discount of 40%. See pg 2.**

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## ● **Become a TSSA Network School!**

Cost: R3000

Join the 37 schools who have joined this dynamic group. For those schools that have a senior/high school and a primary/junior school, and both sections of the school would like to join, the cost is R4 500.

Benefits: 15% off any TSSA event, three free webinars for all staff, network newsletters, priority bookings.

[Find out more here!](#)

[Register by clicking here.](#)

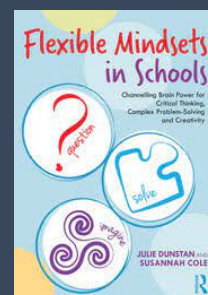
## ● **Whole staff training available on request**

Cost: R23 650 per 6hr training session

This is the most effective way in which to get students, teachers and parents sharing a common language of thinking. TSSA has highly-skilled, experienced trainers who have implemented the following strategies in their classrooms: Thinking Maps, Thinking Routines, Habits of Mind, Developing a Growth Mindset, TASC (Thinking in a Social Context) for Problem-based Learning and De Bono's Thinking Hats.

## ● Susannah Cole co-authored a book on her work called "Flexible Mindsets in Schools". Click below to purchase from Amazon UK.

[Click here for Amazon UK](#)



## ● Please email me if you have any queries, comments or requests: [sonja@thinkingschools.org.za](mailto:sonja@thinkingschools.org.za)

Please note my new phone number: 063 556 3107

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## Is ChatGPT the future of cheating or the future of teaching?

The Messenger

"If the purpose is to prepare children for the world of tomorrow, and I think it should be, ...then ChatGPT is going to be a part of their lives"

Yotam Ophir, Professor of Communication, University of Buffalo

[Click here to read the article](#)

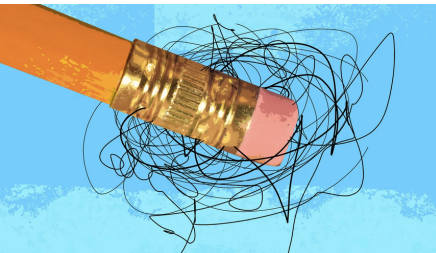


## How to Help Students Focus on What They're Learning, Not the Grade

Edutopia, 30th November 2020

Work that emphasizes students' developing skills instead of a graded product reminds them to see learning as their goal.

[Click here to read the article](#)



## Using ChatGPT to Support Student-Led Inquiry

Edutopia, 24th October 2023

Positioning AI as a mentor or simulator of real-world scenarios can promote student inquiry and aid project-based learning.

[Click here to read the article](#)



## TED talk: When performing gets in the way of improving

Eduardo Briceño, 2016

Working hard but not improving? Looking for more innovative solutions and ideas? Eduardo explains how in life we move between the performing zone and the learning zone, and unless we find a way to successfully spend time in both zones, we compromise improvement and innovation. This talk is relevant to the students you teach and to you yourself.

[Click here to view the video](#)

