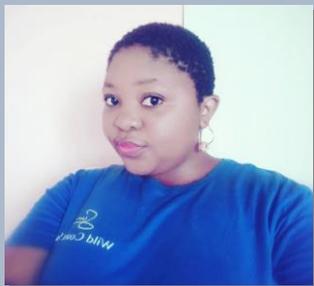


NMBSTC NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 January 2021

RECAP ON PREVIOUS ISSUE



Zingisa Gono

Hello, I hope you enjoyed the previous issue of our newsletter. We were thrilled to receive positive feedback from some of the recipients, and we are looking forward to receiving more constructive feedback from you because we value your opinion.

The previous issue covered the launch of a successful Career Summit, the production of hand sanitisers by NMBSTC in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the unemployed youth empowerment programme as well as the curriculum aligned programmes for learners. Stay safe and enjoy the stories covered in this issue.◊

CURRICULUM ALIGNED CATCH-UP PROGRAMME FOR GRADE 12 LEARNERS.

The NMBSTC team assisted the Department of Education (DOE) with the curriculum catch-up plan, for Grade 12 learners from Uitenhage Schools falling within quintile 1 – 3, after the schools were closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The team implemented the programme on the 22nd of August 2020 and continued for 3 consecutive weeks on Saturdays. An “acid-base titration” practical and an “internal resistance of a battery” practical were conducted for the grade 12 learners where the learners were given an opportunity to have a hands on practical experience on how neutralisation reaction takes place using the laboratory equipment from Nelson Mandela Bay Science and Technology Centre.



Grade 12 learners from Molly Blackburn Centre during the practical session.

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Stories featured

- Curriculum aligned catch-up programme for grade 12.
- International science communication webinar on best practices for science communication and engagement using digital platforms.
- NMBSTC launched new website.
- NMBSTC response to the 2nd wave of Covid-19 pandemic
- Lookout for the new programmes/trainings,
- 2nd Annual Career Summit and launch of new exhibits.

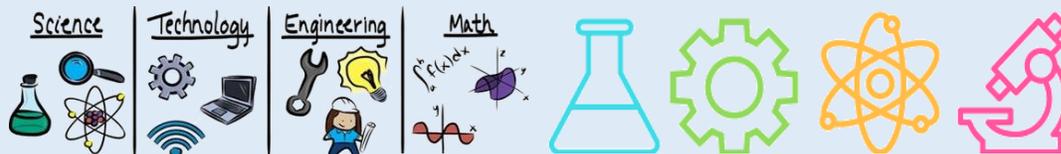
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www.nmbstc.co.za



Learners from Molly Blackburn Centre showing their solutions during the practical session – **left**: the solution is alkaline, indicated by strong purple color, and on the **right-hand side**: the solution is neutral, indicated by green color.

The programme was implemented in VM Kwinana and Molly Blackburn. These two schools were selected as the main centers, hosting several other schools from KwaNobuhle township. Sisonke High School, Nkululeko High School and Marymount High School were some of the schools which participated in the programme. The programme benefitted a total of 102 matriculants. The two centers in KwaNobuhle where the programme was implemented were the Molly Blackburn and V.M Kwinana centers. These centers also accommodated other high schools such as Sisonke, Nkululeko, and Marymount. A total of 102 learners benefited from this programme from five schools. ◊

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COMMUNICATION WEBINAR ON BEST PRACTICES FOR SCIENCE COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT USING DIGITAL PLATFORMS.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the daily operations of every Science Centre across the globe. As such, the NMBSTC initiated a webinar and partnered with the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) and Scifest Africa. The webinar was hosted on 21 October at 10h00 AM CAT. The objectives of the webinar were to: share the changes or adjustments made amongst science centres/institutions to their daily operations during the pandemic and the programmes implemented; look at post Covid-19 adjustments to daily operations and programme implementation; share the best practices to be adopted to facilitate digital platforms as well as to develop a concept document that will inform the best practices for science engagement using digital means.

20 panelists from 9 different countries shared how they adapt to the pandemic & the lessons learnt. The participants of the webinar were 20 panelists from 9 countries (SA, Mauritius, Kenya, Australia, USA, Burkina Faso, United Arab Emirates, India, and Singapore). Each panelist presented a 5-minute presentation about their organization and informed the audience of some of the best practices they adopted amidst the Covid-19 pandemic as well as what they anticipate – **See next page**



Liso Mqulwana (Science Communicator) with learners from VM Kwinana Center during the catch-up programme



as the best practices for exploring the path to digital. The webinar was a success with a total of 842 people who watched from different platforms i.e., Facebook and Zoom. ♦

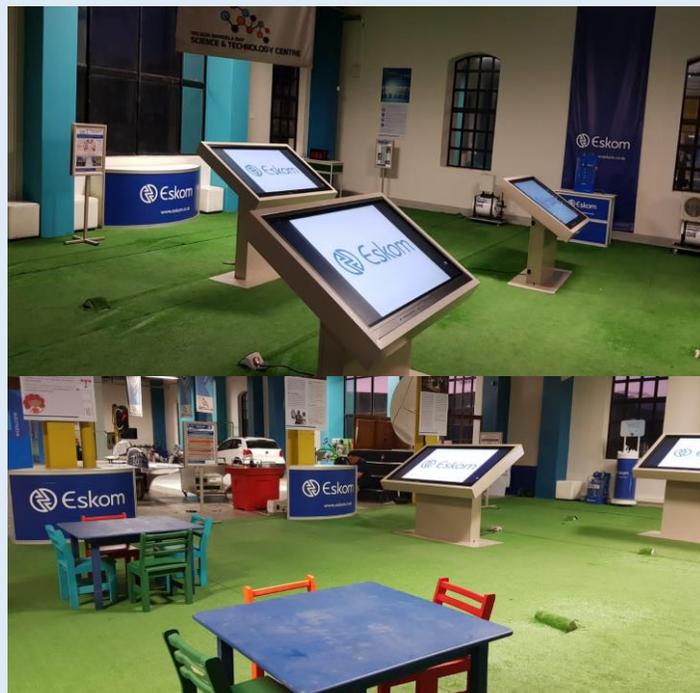
NEWLY RENOVATED EXHIBIT AREA

The NMBSTC has an exhibition space of approximately 3400m² which is divided into 8 zones with interactive exhibits. Electricity is one of the zones within the exhibition hall, and this zone consists of exhibits that increase awareness on different ways in which energy is produced and used. The NMBSTC engaged with the Eskom marketing department to renovate and upgrade exhibits that the company has in the electricity zone.

The new exhibits installed are interactive and exciting – with educational content installed which accommodates children of all ages and adults. The content on the exhibits educates the users about the importance of electricity. Be on the lookout for the launch of this new area ♦



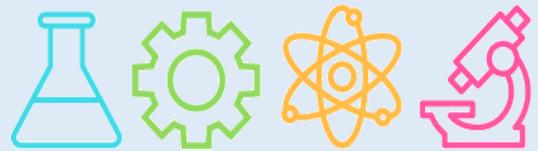
Zukiswa Jacobs (NMBSTC Staff member) in one of the newly installed exhibits at NMBSTC.



The new interactive exhibits

NMBSTC LAUNCHED NEW WEBSITE

The Nelson Mandela Bay Science and Technology recently launched its website on the 9th of October 2020. Our website is designed to be user-friendly and assist learners to access content that will help them. The users can view our upcoming events and make a booking for science shows, workshops, guided tours, etc. Users can also participate in the surveys conducted by the centre. Learners can watch practical demonstrations – the prescribed practicals (CAPS) and curriculum aligned lessons. Under the “Career Corner” tab, learners will be able to listen to the interviews of experts in the STEMI field talking about their career paths, these interviews were structured to inspire learners to consider taking up these careers. The website can be accessed on www.nmbstc.co.za ♦



NMBSTC RESPONSE TO THE 2ND WAVE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

The Nelson Mandela Bay Metro is faced with an increasing number of Covid-19 pandemic cases with five areas with the fastest-growing number of cases (KwaNobuhle, Motherwell, Zwide, Despatch, and Bethelsdorp). In response to the 2nd wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the NMBSTC offered free hand sanitizers to the local Schools, Exam Centers, and NGOs assisting learners (Tutoring). NMBSTC offered to give 60 hand sanitizers per School/Center/NGO. The local schools/NGOs and Exam Centers have been invited to come and collect these free hand sanitisers from the NMBSTC. So far, a total of 790 hand sanitisers has been collected from the centre by 11 schools, 2 daycare centres as well as 1 education centre assisting learners (tutoring centre).◊



Left: Ntombozuko Ncula (NMBSTC staff) handing over sanitisers to an educator from Sikhothina Primary School. **Right:** Zukhanye (NMBSTC staff) handing over sanitisers to an educator from Sisonke High School.

LOOKOUT FOR THE FOLLOWING.

- Following from the year's magnificent Annual Learner Career Summit, which was a success, the NMBSTC in partnership with VW Academy and NUMSA will host the Second Annual Career Summit at the beginning of 2021.
- The NMBSTC will also launch new Virtual Reality stations and programme for learners and general public. The launch will take place at the beginning of 2021.
- The upcoming training programme for unemployed youth in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. This training will be done at the NMBSTC to equip the local youth in gaining the skills one needs to survive in this Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). The call for application will follow once everything has been finalized.

More information on the above-mentioned events and programmes will be shared on our Facebook page and our website, keep a close watch on these platforms. ◊



Right: Zingisa Gono (NMBSTC staff) handing over sanitisers to the principal from Marymount Secondary.