



Cheetah Outreach EDUCATION NEWS

Bringing Environmental Education into the Classrooms of Disadvantaged Communities

January 2008

*With the close of 2007 we would like to wish you all peace and happiness for 2008.
A productive 2007 put into perspective.*

2007 FELLOWSHIP.....

Our fellow this year was Gordon Olivier. He returned from the Smithsonian National Zoological Park's Conservation Research Centre in Washington DC after spending a two month fellowship there. This fellowship is an international project made possible by Cheetah Outreach, the Western Cape Education Department and the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park's Conservation and Research Centre.

Amongst other things, Gordon was particularly interested in learning about natural science education via enquiry based learning.

Gordon is a grade 7 teacher at Raithby Primary School in the heart of the Western Cape winelands, teaching all learning areas.

"BUS TO US" UPDATE



During 2007 we have been phasing out our outreach programmes to schools and are encouraging schools to visit our updated education facility on Spier Wine Estate instead. Our Earth Foundation Environmental Education Classroom is funded by donations from the Earth Foundation in Houston, USA. This classroom houses an extensive library of Environmental Education media, as well as audiovisual and other interactive displays targeted at school learners. We have also been very busy developing environmental education activities for learners.

A visit to the facility takes approximately two hours. Learners are involved in an interactive slide presentation and a tour of the facility.

They watch a live cheetah run and participate in other activities linked to the curriculum. These activities will be decided on in conjunction with the teacher. Learners also have the opportunity to be personally introduced to one of our ambassador Anatolian Shepherd dogs. We hope these visits will also instil an awareness of greater conservation efforts taking place, both at Cheetah Outreach as well as on national and global levels.

Schools who cannot afford transport to Cheetah Outreach are encouraged to apply for sponsorship of the bus through Cheetah Outreach.

We would like to extend a big thank you to Bearwood Lakes Golf Club in Berkshire, England, for so generously raising and donating funding for 40 bus visits to our facility for disadvantaged schools.

To date we have sponsored 25 bus trips for nine disadvantaged schools. This enabled a total of 1136 disadvantaged learners to visit our education facility.

We also undertook 15 offsite school trips this year. All in all our Education Facility has hosted a total of 4415 learners from schools and community programmes this year.



I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defence of our resources is just as important as defence abroad. Otherwise, what is there to defend?

~Robert Redford

Take care of the earth and she will take care of you.

~Author Unknown



SHADOW ANNOUNCES HIS SEMI RETIREMENT

Cheetah Outreach's longest standing member of our Education Department, **Shadow**, announced his semi-retirement at the end of 2007.

Shadow, during his career saw on average 80 schools and 17 000 learners per year, covering a career of 11 years! We estimate that Shadow has probably seen just under a quarter million children since starting his duties at schools, orphanages, hospitals, charity events etc.

At Cheetah Outreach we will drink a New Year's toast in his honour

- and we hope you will do the same!

LIBRARY OF LEARNING ACTIVITIES

We are in the process of compiling a library of environmental learning activities and references. At this stage this library is available to teachers on CD.

We are also inviting teachers to contribute ideas for learning activities to this library. We would love some real homegrown stuff! Come on Western Cape teachers - we know you are wizards at formulating ideas pertinent to local resources and conditions.

For a copy of this CD please contact either **Dawn** on 082 872 4007 or **Adrienne** on 082 453 6152.

CHEETAH AWARENESS THROUGH LITERACY, NUMERACY & LIFE SKILLS PROJECT REPORT FOR 2007

During the third and fourth term of 2007, the 3-year literacy project was initiated in 10 schools in the Western Cape Province. Lynedoch Primary School (Lynedoch), Raithby Primary School (Raithby), Parkdene Primary School (Kraaifontein), Primrose Park Primary (Athlone), Bongoletu Primary School (Phillipi), Lehlohonolo Primary School (Guguletu), Sentinel Primary School (Hangberg, Houtbay), Observatory Junior School (Observatory) and St. Konrad's Primary School and Dysselsdorp Primary School (Dysselsdorp, Oudsthoorn) all confirmed their participation in this project.



All foundation phase (Grade R-3) educators at these schools received their initial training in the AAWARE Literacy Resource for the foundation phase. The educators were introduced to the big book reader "The Hunt" and the literacy and integrated lessons provided in the accompanying teachers' guide. The educators enjoyed the experience and many have already started introducing the resource into their classrooms. The resource will be integrated into their year planner for 2008 and the use and further development of the resource will be closely monitored and assistance provided to the teachers where needed.

"The Hunt" draft used in the pilot was refurbished with professional illustrations and layout. Omniexpress has come on board with the sponsorship of the printing for this big book reader in full colour.

SECOND ECO FLAG FOR PRIMROSE PARK PRIMARY

Carol Birch (one of our fellows) is proud to report that her school has qualified for its second eco flag. The aim of this initiative is to provide learners with the capacity and skills to make informed decisions about their lifestyles, livelihoods and relationships with our environment.

When schools register with the programme, both teachers and learners commit to an ongoing process of developing lesson plans and learner-centred activities that are in line with Revised National Curriculum Statements (RNCS). Well done. We will monitor Primrose Park's progress in this regard closely. You are well on your way to your fifth eco flag!!!



READING EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



Ms Birch's class

From Mannenberg to Fortworth with love



Ms Oliver's class

We have taken great delight in following the progress of the Reading Exchange Programme between North Hi Mount School in Fort Worth, Texas, USA and Primrose Park Primary School in Mannenberg. The two teachers involved in this programme are Ms Frances Oliver (on the Texas side) and Carol Birch on the local front. Thank you to both of you for your efforts in this rewarding programme.

TOWARDS A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

Here are some great natural recipes for household cleaners taken from the City of Cape Town's "Smart Living Handbook." These recipes were developed by Muna Lakhani for Earthlife Africa's Toxics Group, as well as the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Waste Management Directorate.

All-purpose household cleaner

- Vinegar and salt.
- Liquid soap and baking soda. (Bicarb)
- Baking soda (1 part) and warm water (2 parts).
- To a litre of warm water, add 1 teaspoon (5 ml) liquid soap, 1 teaspoon (5 ml) borax and ¼ cup (62 ml) undiluted white vinegar. Mix and store in a spray bottle to use for cleaning countertops, floors, walls and carpets.

Descalers

Use distilled white vinegar for lime scale in kettles and toilets. Lemon juice is a fragrant alternative for treating teapot stains.

Bath and shower cleaner

Wipe with vinegar and then rub with baking soda, using a damp sponge.

Degreaser

Use vinegar or lemon to cut grease. A degreasing solution can be made by mixing together ½ teaspoon (2,5ml) washing soda (sodium carbonate or soda ash), 2 tablespoons (30 ml) white vinegar and ¼ teaspoon (1 ml) liquid soap and 2 cups (500 ml) water.

Floor cleaner and polish

Vinyl or linoleum: a capful (5 ml) baby oil and water.

Wooden floors: apply thin coat of equal amounts of vegetable oil and white vinegar. Rub in well.

Painted wooden floors: 1 teaspoon (5 ml) washing soda diluted in 4 litres hot water.

Brick and stone tiles: 1 cup (250 ml) white vinegar diluted in 4½ litres of water.

Rinse with clean water after all procedures.