

# Resource Centre & *IE Team Newsletter*

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION TEAM

The IE team at Tafelberg School has been very involved this year in conducting screenings for learners on the school's waiting list. This process has enabled the parents of these learners to find out if their child is still a candidate for Tafelberg School, or how their educational pathway should continue, in a much more efficient and quicker manner than was done in the past.

The screening team comprises of a psychologist, speech-language therapist, occupational therapist and educator from the phase that the child is currently in. Each child is screened for an hour, spending 15 minutes with each member of the team. A basic screening is completed to add to the information already received in the child's application. After each member of the team has seen the child, the team meets and discusses the outcome of their assessments and observations. A collaborative decision is made as to the child's educational pathway for the near future, and the team then meets with the parents to discuss the feedback.

Following the screening at Tafelberg School, the IE team gives feedback to the school the learner attends and makes recommendations of how that learner should be supported going forward.



We welcome a new member to the IE team. Natasha van den Berg (Speech-Language Therapist) joined the team on 27 May 2019.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Workshops at Tafelberg School ..... 2
- Outreach Support to Partner Schools in MNED..... 3
- Find us on the internet..... 4

## WORKSHOPS AT TAFELBERG SCHOOL

Three workshops were presented by Tafelberg School staff. Educators and therapists in Metropole North Education District were invited to attend.



### THE BRAIN AND LEARNING OPTIMALLY

On 16 April 2019, Tanya Tolken and Jade van der Merwe presented a workshop to educators in the district entitled 'The Brain and Learning Optimally'.

The outcomes of the workshop were to:

- 1) Understand the mental processes involved in learning, and
- 2) To equip educators to foster a better learning environment.

### ASSESSMENT ACCOMMODATIONS WORKSHOP

Members of our Resource Centre team (Claire McGee, Tanya Tolken and Jade van der Merwe) presented a workshop on 29 January 2019, giving educators from schools in the district, tips on how to accommodate learners with examination concessions in the classroom. The workshop contained an overview of the concessions that learners are able to receive, the rules surrounding those in practice, and what can and should be done during day-to-day lessons.

The workshop was a great success, and prompted the discussion of a greater need for more support for schools with assessment concessions, particularly, scribing. The team has developed a special committee that has redesigned the workshop into a full weekend programme, with one day dedicated just to scribing. Tafelberg School endeavours to begin these training workshops in the next term.



### THERAPY IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Therapists from Metropole North Education District were invited to attend an in-service training session at Tafelberg School.

- Psychogenic non-epileptic seizures (PNES) by Dr Chrisma Pretorius (Psychologist: PhD) - 20 May 2019

## OUTREACH SUPPORT TO PARTNER SCHOOLS IN MNED

In order to extend our services as a Resource Centre, Tafelberg School identified other schools in the district in need of support. The Valley, Blue Mountains, Attie van Wyk and Vissershok Primary Schools expressed their interest in collaborating with Tafelberg School.

*Tafelberg School staff visited the schools on 23 and 24 April 2019. We appreciated that the principals and staff were willing to share information about their schools. We also valued the discussion around the general needs of the schools and the various staff members' positivity in seeking additional support.*

The following information outlines the support that Tafelberg School would like to offer the four identified schools. Our outreach services and programmes are in accordance with policy documents such as Education White Paper 6, Guidelines to Ensure Quality Education and Support in Special Schools and Special School Resource Centres, Guidelines for Responding to Learner Diversity in the Classroom and the SIAS policy.

### Support from educators

The Foundation and Intermediate Phase educators would like to host a workshop entitled "Holistic intervention in the Classroom". In order for this to happen, the team will analyse the Tafelberg School Resource Centre and Inclusive Education Team Questionnaire (that has already been provided to each school), arrange to receive case studies from the schools and conduct classroom observations.

### Support from therapists

Similarly, the therapists will also analyse the questionnaires and case studies received from the various schools so that we can provide the most relevant and practical workshops to the educators.

### Support from the Tafelberg Alternative Assessment Committee

We would like to offer workshops to Intermediate Phase educators pertaining to the process and implementation of alternative assessment accommodations. This will include topics such as barriers to learning, the SIAS process and appropriate assessment accommodations. The two-day workshop aims to empower educators with the knowledge and skills related to the process and implementation of assessment concessions for inclusive education.



Carolien Snyman, new to the Resource Centre team, is the Co-ordinator of the Tafelberg Alternative Assessment Committee.

A few officials from the Metropole North Education District and WCED attended a presentation by Tafelberg Staff on 9 May 2019. This information session highlighted the content to be covered in the workshop series. The delegates expressed their positivity in the workshops and offered their support to Tafelberg School. It is hoped that our school may receive accreditation with regard to our presentations and training in the area of assessment accommodations and procedures.

## Find us on the internet

Remember to visit our Facebook page (Tafelberg School Resource Centre).

Make sure to have a look at the Resource Centre section on the Tafelberg School website, where you can find previous newsletters as well as some useful tips and ideas.

