

Home schooling programme gets the whole family involved

RAPHAEL WOLF

Regardless of educational qualifications, all parents, caregivers and grandparents should be able to help and support their school-going children.

That's according to teachers Miranda Collop and Christina Adriaans of Kannemeyer Primary School in Grassy Park, who run a home-school partnership programme at their school to empower parents, caregivers and grandparents.

"We equip parents, caregivers and grandparents to understand their children and to assist the child with their schoolwork. This programme proves to parents that learning can take place in a playful and fun way. We facilitate a seven-session course for parents to help their little ones at home to improve their literacy and numeracy skills at home. The course makes provision for adults with different levels of education – at a basic level and even those with some educational qualifications.

"We make no distinctions between parents, all are welcome. We guarantee they will enjoy the course and derive great benefits from participating in it, and if they benefit then the children will benefit."

She explained that the programme was introduced to Kannemeyer Primary by Wordworks's Brigid Comrie and Shelley O'Connor, who conceptualised the programme and also trained them and two other teachers from Lotus River Primary and Grassy Park's EC Primary School.

The programme is intended for parents, caregivers and grandparents of pupils aged four to seven years from schools in disadvantaged areas, and not necessarily for parents of pupils who are struggling, according to information from Wordworks, which stresses that the programme "does not aim to impose a set of ideals or an educational framework on parents and communities, but rather to inspire parents to support the children in their care to fulfill their true learn-

ing potential".

The programme also aims to develop a sense of hope and build the self-esteem of families, and a sense of community among parents, as well as create a positive, nurturing space for women to share ideas and ask questions, according to the Wordworks organisation.

Ms Collop said Hout Bay Primary School teachers Dawn Cozett and Anthea Elliot helped her and Ms Adriaans with running the programme at Kannemeyer Primary School. She added that 16 adults joined the programme on Tuesday September 14, and attended every Tuesday thereafter. Twelve received certificates at a presentation on Tuesday night, October 26, and four could not continue, because of working responsibilities, but intended continuing in the programme in the new year.

Principal Ridwan Samodien said they want to roll out the programme to other interested people next year, and that they could call Mr Samodien or the school at 021 706 2365.



■ Pictured at the certificate presentation, in front, from left, are Henry Jacobs, Miranda Collop, Shanaaz Sulayman, principal Ridwan Samodien, Circuit 3 team manager in Grassy Park Faldielia Chotia, EC Primary School principal Bertram Ehrenreich, Pelican Park Primary School principal Vasintha Moonsamy and Jenny Birkett of Wordworks, which initiated the programme. Behind, from left, are educator Christina Adriaans, certificate recipients Kim Julies, Raschid Sulayman, Lynette Lewis, Glenda Lewis, Eloise Ely, Yves Kolegamulomba, Olivia Ely, Kalombo Sadian, Cherydene Snouffer, Nicolene Jaftha, Anthea Elliott and educator Dawn Cozett. The presentation was held on Tuesday October 26.