



Welcome to the highlights of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter! BRIDGE is a non-profit organisation that drives collaboration and co-operation among educational stakeholders, sharing knowledge and resources within the education community in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the country.

## Collaboration in Early Childhood Development (ECD)

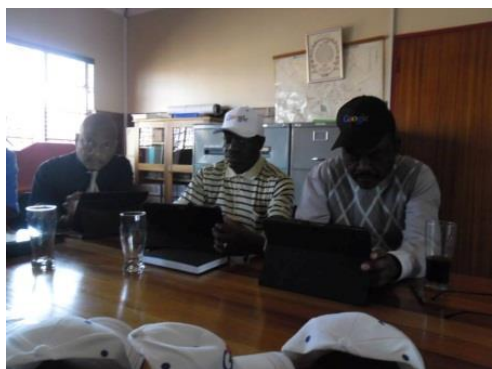
BRIDGE's National Early Childhood Development Community of Practice (ECD CoP) connects stakeholders in ECD and spreads working practice to assist with the delivery of the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP).



The community has been involved in several processes this quarter:

- **Development of the ECD Practitioner Qualification through the QCTO** (Quality Council for Trades and Occupations): BRIDGE in collaboration with Ilifa Labantwana has created an [online chat platform](#) dedicated to supporting the [QCTO qualification development process](#). This platform enables interaction with the QCTO working group, and ensures that the final qualification will be responsive to consultative input from the sector. [Join the chat now to have your say](#).
- **Mapping the sector:** BRIDGE in collaboration with Ilifa Labantwana is mapping existing provincial networks and structures that support delivery to children for improved communication and planning for the ECD sector. The ECD CoP is pooling information to deepen this mapping in the Eastern Cape so that it can better understand the donor and training environment in that province, and develop a way to gather data to support the sector.
- **Sharing research to inform practice:** the BRIDGE ECD CoP engaged this quarter with the DBE on the recently released 2014 evaluation on "The impact of the introduction of Grade R on learning outcomes" (DBE and Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)). [BRIDGE's fact sheet](#) summarises the recommendations of this report.

## Principals: giving learners a voice and hanging out with Google



- The principals of BRIDGE's Gauteng East Community of Practice brought together their top learners this quarter for a **learner review session**, which was facilitated by BRIDGE and hosted by the district. The aim of this session was to get learners' perspectives and feedback on key issues affecting schools. This input helps principals take steps to address school issues with deeper understanding.
- In other exciting news, Google has been supporting BRIDGE's principals in using the **Google Hangout app** in order to communicate online. This means that principals can continue collaborating online in between meetings, and sustain the momentum of their conversations and interactions. Principals have engaged with the app enthusiastically.

**Sharing Learning in the Maths and Science Learner Support Community of Practice**

Members of the national Maths and Science Learner Support community met to learn from practitioners and evaluators.

- Professor Mary Metcalfe led the main community meeting by presenting on **PILO (Project for Improvement of Learning Outcomes)**, an initiative of the NECT that leverages curriculum delivery and stakeholder engagement to improve learner performance in KwaZulu Natal. The community was interested in a number of themes that came up, including the way the project integrated relationships between different actors (such as unions and district officials) in the schooling environment. In particular, the focus on teacher development sparked linkages with other community of practice themes, as outlined in our [What's Trending update](#).
- The Tertiary Access focus group learnt how Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator helps young people get **access to entry level jobs**. Their detailed model offers lessons on sourcing, bridging, matching and the logistics required to bring employers and suitable candidates together.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation Colloquium had an in depth look at the ICT4RED project running in the Eastern Cape. Of particular interest was how the **Monitoring & Evaluation model** was used **developmentally** throughout the project, and the role of utilisation-focused evaluation.
- In the Teacher Development focus group, **Teach South Africa** shared its model and lessons. The focus group is interested in continued tracking of the progress of the Ambassadors, especially in regard to PGCE bursaries.



**South African Extraordinary Schools Coalition shares ICT resources**

The [South African Extraordinary Schools Coalition \(SAESC\)](#) is a Community of Practice that is run by BRIDGE and is made up of school leaders and teachers from low-fee and non-fee schools in South Africa that are providing high quality education to disadvantaged learners. The SAESC's third quarter national meeting took place at Harvest High School in Ladysmith, and coalition members welcomed the opportunity to experience the school and understand its context. Members shared instructional leadership practices, fundraising ideas and resources. During the meeting, the [EdTech Summit](#) hosted a workshop on ICT integration in classrooms. A number of [tools and learning resources](#) for teachers were shared.



**Teachers Upfront Seminars look at support for new teachers, school discipline and ICTs in learning**

In this quarter, a new Teachers Upfront series began. July’s dialogue focused on *Bridging the gap between New Teachers and classroom effectiveness*. Click on [Social tech keeps teachers classy](#) for a summary. September’s dialogue focused on *Alternative Approaches to School Discipline*, which led to a spirited discussion. Click on [Sparing the rod, rebuilding the child](#). The final seminar of the year will focus on *ICTs in Learning: the issues and challenges*.



**Knowledge Management the BRIDGE Way**

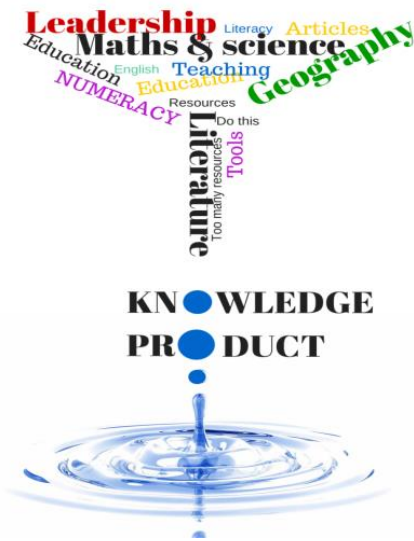
BRIDGE Chairman John Gilmour said recently that all work we do as education NGOs must be connected – we cannot afford a competitive environment in relation to education interventions, but need to focus on ‘deep collaboration’.

One way in which BRIDGE works in support of collaboration and co-operation is in its ‘knowledge management’ role, a key element of our mission. Our knowledge management processes are techno-centric (through Facebook, Twitter and our online community interactions) and people-driven, through the convening of Communities of Practice and other events.

As educators we all suffer from information overload. There is just so much going on in our sector: the amount of knowledge and information coming out of policy developments, schooling interventions, funded projects and research is vast. If we want to keep informed, we all have challenges in terms of both volume and access to different kinds of documents. BRIDGE is therefore working on a range of distilled and summarised ‘knowledge products’ to help with these challenges. These are listed below.

**BRIDGE shares outputs & knowledge products**

- Fact Sheets
- 'What's Trending' updates
- Learning Briefs
- Working Practice summaries
- Presentations
- Tools & Resources
- Reports
- Videos
- Sector maps
- Online conversations



Watch this space for more!

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**Conferences**

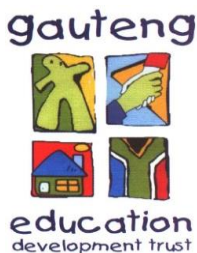
BRIDGE has participated in many conferences and colloquia in the third quarter including:

- August 2014: Zenex Foundation Workshop on Initial Teacher Education
- August 2014: Ntataise Annual Conference
- August 2014: ECD Alliance Strategy Session
- September 2014: EMASA Conference
- September 2014: Department of Basic Education’s Colloquium on Professional Learning Communities
- September 2014: Department of Science and Technology’s Policy Dialogue on information and Communications Technology (ICT) in Education

**Community Meetings in the Western Cape**

In August 2014, BRIDGE Western Cape held a Community Event at LEAP in Pinelands as well as focus group meetings in school leadership, teacher development and learner support. The five provincial focus groups in the Western Cape are:

- School Leadership
- Teacher Professional Development
- Learner Support
- Early Childhood Development
- ICTs in Education



BRIDGE created a repository of key learnings for the Gauteng Education Development Trust this quarter. This repository presents lessons learned from seven GEDT projects that were run between 2009 and 2013. The aim of the repository is to consolidate and share this information in the form of ‘key learnings’, in the interests of informing future interventions in the schooling sector

**“If you want to walk fast, walk alone; if you want to walk far, walk together.”**  
[African proverb]

