

BEEP– UCT Curriculum Based School Environmental Interactive Workshops 2011

BEEP has held more than 44 Interactive School Environmental workshops to date in all the schools combined, which benefit more than 180 learners from 4 different schools namely Bongoletu Primary School, Walta Teka Primary School, Mzamomhle Primary School and St Mary's Primary School.

As mentioned before that BEEP's aim is set up a group of learners that would serve as our young environmental stewardship at the above mentioned schools. It has always been our hope that these selected groups will become the green voices for change and help to save the earth by spreading the environmental awareness among their peers in the respective schools.



Our interactive workshops have been focusing on topic around the importance to save Water; we have covered that topic extensively and is probably one of the best topic, as it present the learners with the most practical implementation strategy, in relation to the implementation of the plan of action as the learners are been put to task to come up with the strategies towards helping to save water in their respective schools.

Our workshops have been facilitated by Khanyiswa, Onke and Lindela. We are indeed very pleased on the progress of the workshops. We have been extensively focusing on the wastage of water by the learners in their respective schools. Most of the workshops are facilitated in a form of groups, the learners would be given questions to discuss as the groups and write their findings or answers based on the questions given on the Flip Cart. The learners would give their group's an animal name, like Lion, Elephant Group, Kangaroo Group etc. Each group would have a group leader and the group would always decide who's going to present, when it is the time to present their findings or answers. The person's presenting would always rotate, as to make sure that everyone gets a chance to present to the whole Class.

After we covered the topic extensively on water, we then shifted our focus on presentation skills as we wanted to make sure that everyone is on the same page. First of all we felt that we needed to combine the learners from Bongolethu Primary School with the learners from St Mary's Primary School. The aim behind this idea of combining the school was based on the knowledge sharing, as they've been taught by different facilitators namely Khanyiswa and Lindela. We felt that it was important to make sure that both schools were in the same page as far as their understanding is concern in relation to water conservation.

So the two schools met for the first time, so we did a joint workshop with more emphasis on presentation skills. The learners were divided into different combined groups consisting of four learners from the respective schools. The learners were then given two same questions to discuss as the new groups about water like "how water is wasted in their respective school & what should be done to save water and how could they could pass on the knowledge they've learnt from our workshops to the rest of the school". The learners that were chosen to present were judged on the following, their eye contact, clear voice, Body Language, Confidence and the information and from each groups we had four persons presenting. We made it clear from the start on what we expected to achieve on the day and we made everyone present as the judges, so when someone is presenting, if someone didn't give the class the eye contact needed, showing no confidence, or not using the body language or not clear when presenting, the learners would simple raise their hands and the learner presenting would pause for a moment, to ascertain why some learners were raising their hands, one would say he's not using his body language, someone else would say she's doesn't give us the eye contact and even her voice is not clear and then the person presenting would have to start all over again and make sure that she or he rectify those mistakes or challenges and master the presentation before the next person could do her or his part and the group would be given points based on how everyone presented and based on the information provided.

After that we then asked everyone to write a page long feedback on everything they've learnt about water, what they've done with the information they've learnt from the workshop and how will they educate others about what they've learnt from the workshops in their schools and in their Communities.

The outcomes from the workshops

Mzamo' mhle Workshop: The learners from this school identified the problems the school faced in relation to how Water is wasted at the school, they identified that there was a busted pipe at the back of the Boy's toilet, they also perceived that the boy's toilets had a leaking taps, they noticed that during break Water is wasted very bad by the pupils and the learners decided to write a formal letter to the school principal to inform her about how water is wasted at the school and the learners then requested to meet up with the principal so that they could inform her in person about the wastage of water at the school. The principal and the Care-taker of the school met with the five leaders from the workshop to inform them about the pipe that got busted, about the blocked pipe, leaking pipes and taps, of which the principal and the caretaker did not know about and the learners edged them to do something about that.

Bongolethu Workshop: The learners at the school decided as the whole group, that they needed to educate other learners about the importance to save Water at the school and as well as in the Community. The learners from this school identified the Tap as the reason for the wastage of water at the school. The taps that used at the school are wrong taps, the taps waste water, before they could say that the learner's waste water because at the school they are using those taps you just press andthe taps closes itself and those taps take a while to close and that is the big problem on its own.

The leaders chosen from the workshop took the matter to the school master, to inform him about those taps and how much water those taps waste at the school and the school principal was not aware that those taps are wasting so much water and the learners edge the principal to do something about those Taps.

St Mary's Workshop: *The learners at this school did the same with other schools. The learners identified how water is wasted at the school, like a lot of water is wasted during the breaks as pupils play with water, some drink from the taps with their mouths. As the learners get feeding scheme, many learners would just go to the taps and wash their spoons as their plates would have been given to the school's kitchen to be washed, so in that way, a lot of water is wasted. So the leadership from St Mary's decided to meet up with their principal, to inform her about their findings about how water is wasted at the school.*

The principal appreciated the fact that the learners identified those problems that result on Water been wasted at the school and this leadership then asked to be given an opportunity to inform the rest of the school about how water is wasted at the school and she did just that, by telling the whole school through the assembly about the importance to save water and they then went to class to class to ask the learners not waste water during breaks and why they should not waste water at school. The group then asked BEEP to buy them plastic Cups, so that during breaks they can make sure that water is not wasted at all, they rotate as the whole group to have people standing by the School Taps, making sure that the pupils don't drink with their mouths, that they use a Cup, so a lot of water is saved through this initiative which they came up with themselves.

Walta Teka Workshop: *This particular school is little bit behind in comparison to the other three schools due to the fact that we had few challenges with the availability of the learners for the workshops at time due to their after-school programs. However the learners likewise with other schools they also identified how water is wasted at the school. Most of the water is wasted during the breaks, due to the fact that most of the learners drink the water from the School Taps with their mouths, some even leave the taps open at times and every-day they also get the flood of water as the results of the fact that a lot of Water is Wasted during breaks. The leadership from the workshop also went to see the principal, to inform the principal about the wastage of water at the school. The leaders also went to educate the rest of the pupils about how water is wasted; they also edged them that they should work towards saving water as we cannot survive without water. The leaders also asked the principal to inform the teachers about their concern with water, so that the teachers could pass on the information to their children.*

We have indeed enjoyed to work with these children, we are amazed by how bright and brilliant they are, it's worth mention that that when the leadership from different school met with their principal, they met with their principals by themselves without our presence and raised their concerns about the wastage of water with their School Masters and they simply reported back to us.



We said that we want to set up a group of learners that would serve as our young environmental stewardship at their respective school and I would like to think we on course to accomplish that goal as these learners are slowly becoming the green voices for change in their respective schools.

