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Curriculum GET Minute DCG: 0014/2017

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors (Head Office and district offices), Heads of sub directorates and sections at Head Office, Heads: Curriculum Coordination and Advice, Heads: IMG Coordination and Advice, Circuit Managers, FET and GET Coordinators, Subject Advisers and Principals of all ordinary and independent schools

Subject: National Science Week incorporating Mathematics: 07–12 August 2017

1. National Science Week (NSW) is an annual countrywide celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation (STEMI). The National Mathematics Week forms part of NSW, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST). NSW is managed by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA), a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF).
2. During NSW there is a special focus on **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education**. The aim is to make these subjects more attractive, engaging and rewarding to learners and the community at large. Schools may highlight the impact of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics on our daily lives and stress the importance of these subjects as a foundation for various careers. NSW is a vehicle to popularise these subjects and to increase public awareness, understanding and appreciation thereof. The theme for NSW 2017 is: *Advancing Science Tourism*.
3. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) requests all schools to have special activities based on these subjects during NSW. The ideal would be to involve learners and their parents. The emphasis is on being aware of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in our everyday lives, having fun and taking part in an interactive way.

4. The following nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) are grant holders who have received funding from SAASTA to run projects involving Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics during NSW. The home page of the WCED website will provide a programme of the related activities to be held in the Western Cape: <http://www.wcedcurriculum.westerncape.gov.za>

Western Cape SAASTA Grant holders	
Organisation	Contact Person
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Institute for Mathematical Sciences Schools Enrichment Centre (AMSSEC) 	Dr Rejoyce Gavhi-Molefe Office telephone: 021 787 9349
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arcelor Mittal Science Centre 	Ms Jacque Willems 0747198904 Ms Lekgabe Dihlabi 082 449 4580 Office telephone: 022 719 1058
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cape Town Science Centre (CTSC) 	Ms Busi Maqubela 083 276 9512 Office telephone: 021 300 3200
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iThemba LABS 	Ms Luchricia Sidukwana 072 228 4423 Mr Ambrose Yaga 0729888893 Mr Hilton Tobias 0817717367 Office telephone: 021 843 1021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garden Route Botanical Garden Trust 	Ms Kristen Hoek 082 567 3133 Office telephone: 044 874 1558
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) 	Mr Sivuyile Manxoyi Ms Buzani Khumalo 083 476 1131 Office telephone: 021 447 0025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South African National Space Agency (SANSA) Space Science, Hermanus 	Ms Elisa Fraser 071 473 3337 Office telephone: 028 312 1196

The WCED, in collaboration with the Cape Town Science Centre (CTSC), will launch a Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Quest competition involving 30 MST

Focus Schools within the Metropolises from 14 August 2017 as an extension of the NSW activities. The knock out finals of this quest competition will take place on Thursday, 07 September 2017. This competition forms part of an initiative to align the science curriculum with fun and inspirational activities to inspire Grade 9 learners from MST Focus schools to continue studying science. Your school will receive an invitation to participate in this fun activity to make the MST subjects more attractive, engaging and rewarding for learners.

5. The WCED would like to offer schools the opportunity to share their activities with officials and other schools in the province. Schools are encouraged to involve district officials and to take photographs and video clips for possible publication on the WCED website. These may be given to subject advisers to upload on the website. Other social media, such as Facebook and YouTube, may also be considered.
6. The WCED appreciates the extra efforts of our teachers to add fun to learning and teaching in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

SIGNED: PAD BEETS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2017-07-24