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Curriculum GET Minute: DCG 0005/2020

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors, Heads: Curriculum Support, Circuit Managers, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, FET and GET Coordinators, Subject Advisers and Principals of all ordinary public and independent schools with Grades 4-11

Subject: Calling schools to register Grades 4–11 learners for participation in the 4th Global Climate Action Project, October 2020

1. The 4th Global Climate Action Project will be launched in October 2020 and will run over six weeks.
2. This educational project aims to lead to a change of behaviour through education towards climate change. It is done in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the United Nations (UN), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), Global Citizen and it is endorsed by His Holiness (HH) the Dalai Lama, Dr Jane Goodall, the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, Amnesty International, and Greenpeace. It will be promoted by international media in 45 countries including the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Cable News Network (CNN) and National Geographic. Brussels and Harvard universities will be doing research to measure the impact.
3. The Global Climate Action Project aims to include more than one million participants across 100 countries.
4. The project is learner-centred and will provide them with an opportunity to collaborate, do research, brainstorm, discuss ideas, present and share their findings about climate change topics with experts, using various social media platforms.

5. The Global Climate Action Project focuses on learners between the ages of 6 to 22 years with the support of their teachers. The project covers several subjects such as Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Geography, History, Literature, etc. Learners will learn to use certain tools without being instructed on how to use them, for example, Lego, Minecraft, stop motion videos, Office Mix and phones to create videos. Additionally, they will acquire several tools to create short articles.
6. The skills that will be addressed include more than knowledge based learning. It will expose learners to important 21st century skills such as:
 - creativity, critical thinking, exploring, brainstorming, discussing, problem-solving, communication;
 - collaboration and learning from each other on a global scale and sharing findings by creating and uploading weekly videos to the Global Climate Action Project platform; and
 - engage in technology-enhanced learning by creating eco-friendly worlds in Minecraft or Lego.
7. In addition, learners will gain empathy through learning about how their global peers manage experiences such as bush fires, hurricanes, mud floods and other environmental issues.
8. This global collaboration will equip learners for future connections and possible job changes or losses that demand rapid adaptation and innovation.
9. The project will give the teachers the opportunity to join a global community – with some of the best teachers of the world – allowing them to collaborate on a global scale, share findings, best practices, and access to a database of activities. They will receive a curriculum, including lesson plans. They will also be guided by the Global Climate Action Project facilitators, who will provide tips on how to use technology effectively and be introduced to other successful learning approaches. Teachers will be supported as they move from being an instructor to a guide and discussion leader. They will become part of a global community and receive badges and certificates.
10. The Global Climate Action Project will also set up a dedicated page, for example, <http://southafrica.climate-action.info>, for collaboration and engagement with all the stakeholders.

11. How can the schools join?

Teachers can sign up for free at www.climate-action.info/joinus. After signing up on the website, they will join a global community and have access to a platform that allows them to share, interact and highlight learners' efforts. After signing up teachers will:

- receive emails with guidelines on how to get started;
 - have the option to be assigned a facilitator to guide them personally through the journey;
 - be invited to participate in a webinar to point out expectations and share the impact of the project over past years; and
 - be sent a curriculum including lesson plans and activities.
12. The learners' work will be showcased on the Global Climate Action Project website, social media, and through traditional media, where relevant.
13. The Western Cape Education Department invites all schools to participate in this exciting project which aims to strengthen the ability to deal with the impact of climate change emergency and saving lives.

SIGNED: PAD BEETS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2020-08-03