



→ Provincial Winner

Excellence in Primary School Teaching

Name: Charnelle Hector

School: Belmor Primary School, Hanover Park

District: Metro Central Education District

Ms Hector is an experienced, dynamic, and innovative Grade 7 teacher. She is currently the departmental head of the Intermediate Phase at Belmor Primary School, a school in an impoverished area of Hanover Park on the Cape Flats region. Ms Hector believes in teaching from a values-based perspective and states, “Teachers are in the life-changing and life-saving business, and therefore should create opportunities for learners to grow. I grew up on the colourful Cape Flats and my story, like the narratives of my students, is like an onion: multi-layered and full of flavour.”

She encourages reading and education as an escape from the harsh and harrowing realities of growing up amidst overwhelming social challenges. The incorporation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) e.g. Tiktok and Kahoots supports a variety of learning and teaching styles which cater for the diversity of learners. Her contribution

to education includes community art projects, Teach the Nation, novice teacher training, being a GrowSmart presenter for English, developing a YouTube channel, and being involved in the Western Cape Education Department ePortal Make-a-Video-Make-a-Difference campaign.

Ms Hector empowers her learners to believe that they can be successful and provides opportunities for them to link curriculum activities and real-life experiences by arranging and coordinating career exhibitions and working with Heroes of Hanover Park which allows her to bring local heroes to the classroom. Visits to the library and the local civic centre and market days are linked and aligned to Home Language, Life Orientation (LO), Economic Management Sciences and Creative Arts (CA). Learner development and educational activities arranged by Ms Hector also include: World Read Aloud Day, Mathematics Day, World Poetry Day, World Book Day, World AIDS Day, to mention but a few.

Ms Hector also cares deeply about her community. She is actively involved in the following community-based activities: library ambassador for the community/school reading club and member of the group, A Novel Idea, which is a community and school-based poetry club. She pursues community improvement by assisting with The Live Poets' Society Project, Sow-A-Sandwich, Sole-Mates, Sanitary Savvy and school holiday clubs. She is a motivational speaker at women-to-women and youth programmes and a coordinator of Project Hope which is aligned to LO and CA.

Ms Hector's closing comment was a perfect summation of her understanding of being a teacher in the current environment, "They say teaching is a walk in the park, in my case it is Hanover Park. I teach a potpourri of students from all walks of life: different races, religions, cultures, orientations and languages and I absolutely love it. Teaching is not for the faint-hearted. You need grit, guts, grace, and the firm belief that you can change the world."