



→ Provincial Winner

## Excellence in Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning

**Name:** Neil Botha

**School:** Hermanus Primary School

**District:** Overberg Education District

**Mr Botha has a passion for lifelong learning and holistic development. His advocacy for and implementation of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) in the learning environment is initiated with a focus on ICT foundations and the fundamental understanding of the impact technology has on learning and teaching.**

He is a firm believer that anything is possible through persistence, strategy, resilience and determination. Through Mr Botha's leadership and strong vision, he initiated several projects to set up the required ICT infrastructure to enable ICT integration at his school. Validation of Mr Botha's persistence to develop the infrastructure was evident in an article published in Die Burger. In 2016, he was chosen to attend a NASA programme which inspired the Robotics Programme he initiated at his school. His passion for Fourth Industrial Revolution opportunities has driven him to initiate fundraising to develop a Robotics Centre at his school.

Mr Botha, being a strong advocate for the use of ICT in teaching and learning, demonstrates high proficiency and competency in the implementation of ICT. He is persistent and resilient in his efforts to help his colleagues as well as learners adopt and adapt to the changing environment of technology integration. Through the number of programmes and projects he leads, manages and facilitates, he demonstrates inclusive learning and empowers teachers and learners through various developmental opportunities.

He is innovative in his use of technology within and beyond the classroom. His use of digital tools such as Class Craft and FlipGrid allows for learner autonomy, critical thinking and collaboration. He also incorporates gamification through tools such as Kahoot and TopMarks. He fosters learner voices and accountability using various tools to administer and manage his classroom. Mr Botha strongly believes in his role as a facilitator

of learning and strives to ensure that technology is made accessible to learners and the community to provide independent spaces for learning. His focus on teaching “kids as they desire to learn” is imperative for his attempts to empower global citizenship, community involvement and developing strong self-esteem.

Mr Botha considers himself a lifelong learner, so much so that he even allows his learners to review his teaching to ensure he is constantly developing and improving his teaching offerings and practices. His impact at the school extends

into using ICT in his extra-curricular involvement. He has an expansive role as a hockey coach both at school and provincial level as well as a cricket and athletics coach, to name but a few. He incorporates ICT into his coaching by using video analysis and annotation, Google Classroom, and reporting and administrative tools.

Mr Botha is a passionate, highly skilled, energetic and purposeful teacher who makes valuable contributions to the school, community and education as a whole.