



→ Provincial Winner

Excellence in Primary School Teaching

Name: Christine Bester
School: Botrivier Primary School, Botrivier
District: Overberg

Ms Bester is a dedicated Foundation Phase educator and departmental head at Botrivier Primary School. Her school is situated in a rural environment with limited resources. Ms Bester places great emphasis on the emotional development of her learners and encourages cooperative learning and inclusivity. Her classroom stands out for its inclusive approach, featuring an intervention area and enrichment activities that cater to a diverse range of learning abilities, ensuring all learners have the support they need to thrive.

Learners are not disadvantaged due to their environment or lack of resources as Ms Bester exposes her learners to Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) skills and competencies through incorporating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Coding and Robotics (C&R) in her daily teaching. She employs a flipped classroom methodology, encouraging hands-on experiential learning and promoting self-discovery, where

students take an active role in exploring and constructing their own knowledge.

Ms Bester engages parents in their children's educational journey by conducting parent workshops and conducting home visits, fostering a collaborative approach to learner development. Furthermore, she fosters a sense of community and partnership by inviting parents and community members to engage with the school through various activities, such as reading to learners and arranging learner-educator-parent game nights, thereby strengthening relationships, and promoting a fun way of learning.

Ms Bester demonstrates a commitment to ongoing professional growth, actively seeking out opportunities to enhance her expertise and incorporating new knowledge into her teaching methods. As a lead educator in Physical Education, she takes a leadership role by participating

in union workshops, sharing best practices with colleagues during phase meetings, and guiding novice educators through mentorship, further solidifying her dedication to educational excellence.

She sets well-defined learning goals, offers consistent and constructive feedback to learners on their progress, and provides encouraging comments that acknowledge effort and persistence, rather than just focusing on achievement. She also prioritises self-reflection, regularly examining her own teaching practices, and meticulously monitors learner progress through diligent book monitoring, ensuring a comprehensive approach to supporting learner success.

Ms Bester fosters a supportive and celebratory learning environment by showcasing learners' work on display walls, recognising and rewarding their progress and improvements through certificates and merit lists, thereby boosting their confidence and self-esteem. This encourages learners to take pride in their accomplishments and strive for continued growth and excellence.

Ms Bester enriches the learning experience by incorporating diverse cultural activities and offering learners opportunities to explore their creative talents through participation in the Marimba Band, WOW competition, and various other initiatives. Additionally, she extends the curriculum beyond the classroom by organising educational excursions

and inviting external partners to share their knowledge and insights with learners, further broadening their perspectives and understanding.

In conclusion, Ms Bester is an exemplary educator who has made a profound impact on the lives of her learners and the broader school community. Despite the challenges posed by limited resources in a rural setting, she has created an inclusive, supportive, and stimulating learning environment that fosters emotional development, cooperative learning, and academic excellence.

Through her innovative approaches, commitment to professional growth, and dedication to her learners' success, Ms Bester has become a beacon of inspiration and a model for teaching excellence. Her efforts have not only enhanced the learning experience but have also empowered her learners to thrive and reach their full potential, preparing them for success in an ever-changing world.