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How do the benefits of arts education manifest and develop? a case study of teachers who have completed the ACE: Arts and Culture course at the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Education.

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What *footprints* did the ACE course leave on your life?

Something which a believe i will leave with for the rest of my teaching experience. It was a life changing course in the sense that in your Classroom you became a Brend new Teacher to your learners. You impart new knowledge, skills, values and attitude to the learners. They have worked with a teacher who was struding with activities. A teacher who was unable to stimulate their learning to a teacher who can motivate, stimulate, encourage and develop a positive learning atmosphere. Studying the ACE has improved by teaching in such a way i had developed confidence to my teaching and teaching methods. I had developed skills to develop a class which is more focused on learning than anythi else



A face full of enthusiasm and Caurage. A face of appreciation of the learners efforts towards the learners activities. Appreciation of the educators works and willing to assist were they need help. A face of a qualified Arts and Culture who can attempt to tackle any activity which is based on Drama, Dance, Music and Visual Arts.



The dreams that have been in my mind since the ACE course are...

- ✓ Being the best Arts and Culture Teacher was ~~the~~ my dream.
- ✓ Helping the learners and instilling the love of Arts to my learners at school.
- ✓ Helping educators in my Region about how to Prepare Arts and Culture lessons.
- ✓ Conducting Arts and Culture Workshops for Teachers in the region.
- ✓ Introducing Art in the Community by teaching the young Children about Arts.
- ✓ Completing My ACE course and complet to the honours degree specialising with Arts and Culture.

I was so disappointed when WITS University failed to Contact me when they introduce the Honours Course and it was my Suggestion for them to introduce the honours.

What is the deepest truth that you gained from the ACE course?

- ✓ How to teach Arts and Culture at school.
- ✓ How to Prepare lessons
- ✓ How to Prepare learning Programme.
- ✓ How to Prepare learning Work schedule
- ✓ How to Prepare Arts and Culture activities re. assignments, Projects, worksheets, Performance etc.
- ✓ How to mix and use Paints.
- ✓ To reflect on the completed art work.

I have learned that: to be or not to be Arts and Culture is a bona fide learning area within our National Curriculum Statement. We have reached a time where all Stakeholders Principals, HODs, facilitators SMT's, SAS, LRC, Parents, the Community and learners should realize that Arts and Culture must take its rightful place in Society, we can no longer ignore the fact that this learning area has natural therapeutic value and that learners to a large extent-need this to build their right brain to its fullest and Create entrepreneurship in a world where Jobs are Scarce.

"Every man is his own ancestor and every man his own heir. He derives his own future, and he inherits his own past" HF Hedge

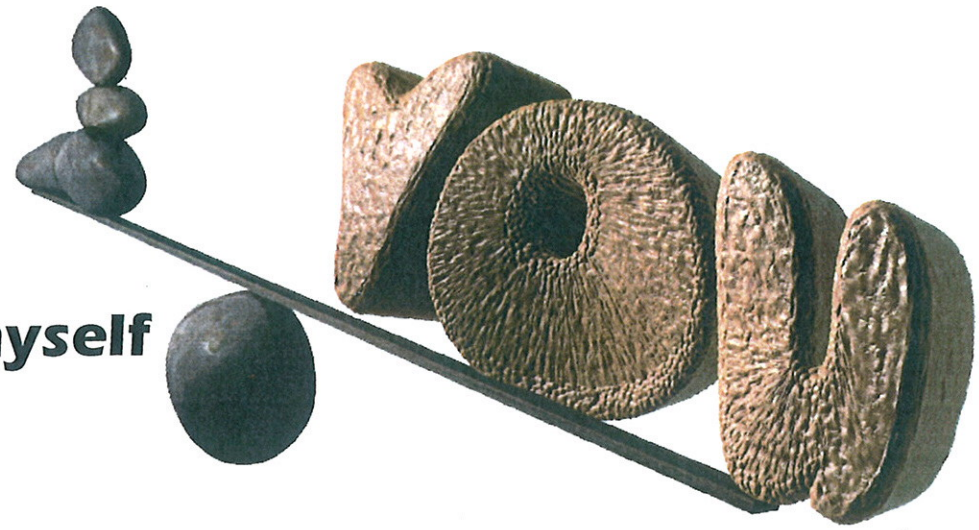
a. What future have you created for yourself by completing the ACE?

A teacher who has specialized with Arts and Culture. A teacher will be known by every Generation that he was an Art teacher.

b. What inheritance has the ACE given you?

I have inherited KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Knowledge & Skills

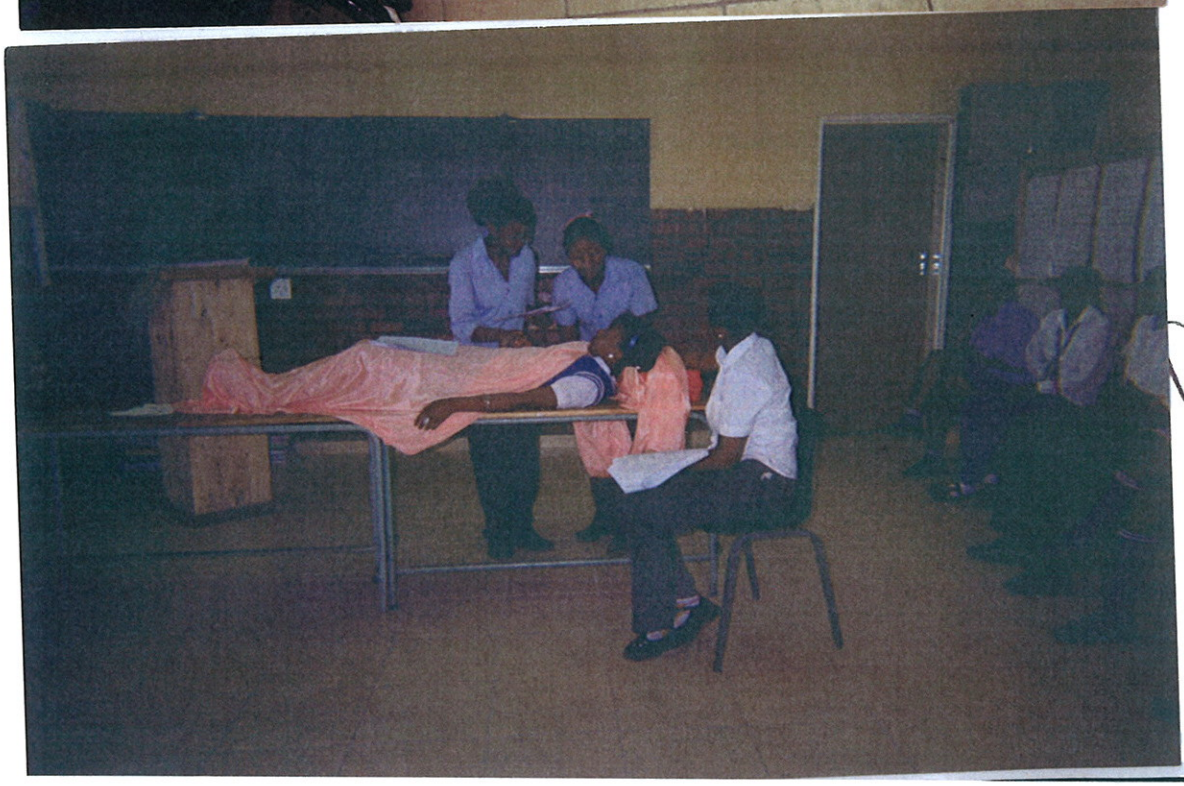


I feel truly myself when ...

I involve the Learners in an Activity like this!



Visual Arts



Drama

In what ways do you feel you are the artist of your own life?

Doing Art! Teaching Art! Visiting Arts Exhibitions! Reading about Arts!

An artist in my own life. I can interpret, acknowledge art around me. Participating in art activities taking place in our country and always being informed about activities taking place ie Exhibitions, Shows and Arts festivals eg Makhufe, Mapungubwe, Grahamstown Arts festival and Domba etc

As an artist i am able to identify some forms of art and apply my interpretation. I also read more about various artist ie Gerard Sekoto, Hellen Sebad Noria Mabasa, Shilakoe, Picasso and many more. Contributing to artistic development of other emerging artist by visiting Arts Exhibitions at University of Pretoria (Arts campus).

"Sometimes the mist recedes and our vision is clear. All that is needed is to take the first step towards your goal. For some people, the path itself is the vision, the journey and the expedition. For them the destination is less important than the magnificence of the route, the exotic fellow travellers they meet and the experiences they have."

In your life as an art teacher, what do you see ahead of you?

An art teacher who has got vision, dream, Mission and Hope. An art teacher with intention to achieve whatever goal come across with.



My Reflection

1. Why i opted to Study ACE Arts and Culture?

The reason is that i am teaching arts and culture at my school. I have been employed by the school because i have the following subjects from the College which is Speech and Drama together with music. I have a little bit of Visual arts skills but iam not familiar with the terminology and how to Stimulate the interest of learners in Competing art activities. I am employed by the school from 2012 to date. Since 2012 i was conducting variety of art activities at school such as Exhibitions, Poetry sessions and Cultural shows but the principal of the School didn't acknowledge that. He used to tell me that i didn't specialise and iam doing trial and error. (1)

I even went to him last year to ask him if we can implement Visual arts, Drama, Dance and Music in Grade 10 but he denied that. He said you didn't specialise. I opted to ACE in Arts and Culture in order to specialise. I hope and believe that miracles are going to happen. ✓ (yes, miracles will happen) (2)

2. What interest me about the course.

I like the way the lecturers conduct themselves and the way the activities are handled. I like Hildor and Kwame because when you look at them you just seee Arts and Culture; Presentations, language, activenes and the way they dress they wear painted clothes. I also like the Organisation

Of the Module. It really shows that art is a Practical learning area and the theory part of it is presented in a practical way. I have interest in the way art language is developed after presenting our art works.

3 Activities i developed interest on

We have done several activities and warm up excersises. I like the Name calling activity (Name game) group outlines, Patterns, Body Outlines and Art language. One may say the activities look Childish but they are stimulating.

4. Skills i have developed

4.1. My Art making Processes.

- Conceptualization (developing a concept)
- Making a draft
- Painting.

(3)

After attending the course i realized that i have skills in art and iam still going to develop more skill such as: Colour mixing and using different ~~and~~ art media.

4.2. My teaching Processes.

The games that we have performed helped me a lot in the learning and teaching of arts and culture. Developing the interest of our learners in the learning of arts and culture. I also established my arts and culture centre (class) last year November after the examination then after visiting Wits University i have realised that i am on track.

P.T.O



What *footprints* did the ACE course leave on your life?

Creativity in my own life; as a teacher too - in my own classroom.
Positive attitude in everything I do.
Openness to learn more
Learnt to be innovative in the way I use art materials, media.
Learnt to reflect on what I did.
Admire beauty in my own environment. Gave me a new outlook
Learnt to express myself in many ways ie writing; drawing; express my thoughts freely without feeling insecure, Learnt to be positive.
Gave me more confidence.
I've learnt to give my children that opportunity to express themselves freely; speech; dance; movement, singing and visually.

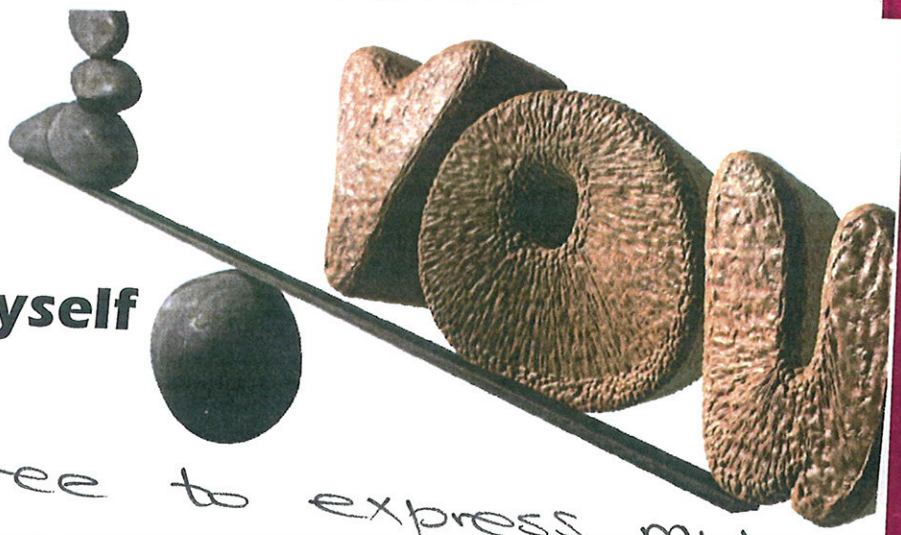
Love and passion for art.

My face is full of hope, love; courage and confidence in everything I do. Full of smiles. My face is full of expectations; I'm more curious and inquisitive. My face sees light even when it's dark. My face sees colour everywhere where people are diverse and views things differently. I find myself more understanding and accomodating to all without being judgemental.
My face is more welcoming to others and ready to learn from others.
I want to see beyond-unseen.



What is the deepest truth that you gained from the ACE course?

- I have gained lots of lessons about life in general ie in and out of school.
- Incorporating learning to real life situations, where one learns to express own thoughts; feelings strengths, weaknesses; morals, values and attitudes.
- Being real and true to oneself has taught me to enhance those true qualities in my own character and in my learners too.
- I have learnt not to be negative and judgemental about people's taste and creativity but to respect that.
- I also learnt to sensitive and to accept peoples differences and uniqueness



I feel truly myself when ...

I am free to express my thoughts; feelings; weaknesses; strengths, morals and my values I feel truly myself when I'm open about my fears to the ears that are willing to listen to give me courage to go on even when its tough.

When what I say is understood without being twisted.

When I am given my space and platform to air my views and to express freely.

I feel myself when loved; cared; accepted; motivated and inspired to be proud of who I am without changing to please others.



WHAT ROADS HAVE YOU TAKEN SINCE THE ACE COURSE?

I have done different things esbecially inspiring others about instilling love for creativity in learners; at school; at church.

I went for other training to train others how to inspire our young ones from pre-school age and with the ace course I felt more empowered that I could do that with confidence. I'm currently studying to learn more so that I can be more empowered.

"Sometimes the mist recedes and our vision is clear. All that is needed is to take the first step towards your goal. For some people, the path itself is the vision, the journey and the expedition. For them the destination is less important than the magnificence of the route, the exotic fellow travellers they meet and the experiences they have."

I see stars in the future

In your life as an art teacher, what do you see ahead of you?

I see light, beauty & hope;
I see children who are confident, open about their thoughts; fears, weaknesses as we empower them to express themselves through art, dance, music + drama.
I see children who are optimistic about education.
I see teachers who are positive to instill love for learning in an exciting way.
I see confident leaders who will lead our country with courage because of their learning.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to do this.

It was like reviving my spirit. Taking me back. Reminding and challenging me of my passion and love for what I'm doing.

Teaching children really need a total commitment for what one does - not just as a job.

Having a positive attitude even when its tough.

Teaching not only the 3R's but considering developing the child holistically.

What *footprints* did the ACE course leave on your life?



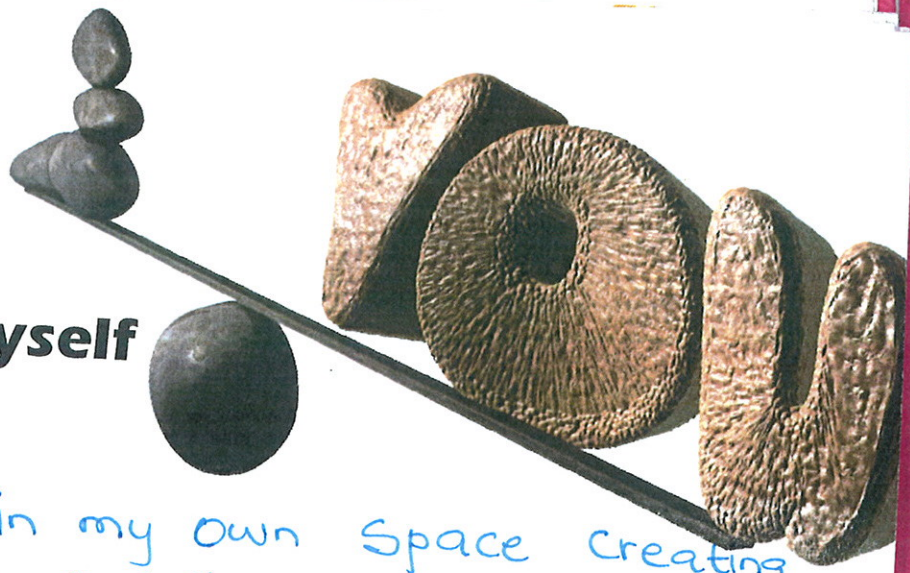
Ace left very colourful footprints, full of patterns and texture, full of lines and life. More importantly the footprints are itchy and irritable,— itching and longing to venture further and in the future.

What is the deepest truth that you gained from the ACE course?

Confidence

Confidence to attempt any art project
Confidence to teach my learners.
Confidence towards the subject arts.
Confidence among my Colleagues
Confidence that I can be a professional artist like Pablo Picasso, Penny Siopis.

Yes I also learned love. To love and appreciate arts.



I feel truly myself when ...

I am alone in my own space creating art, especially painting

I am in the art Centre surrounded by art materials.

When I spent hours in a bookshop at the art department just watching, touching and dreaming art.

I do literature arts like writing poems and children stories.

I am in class with a group of learners doing art and watching them grow in arts.

ACE ARTS SPECIALIZATION

It has really improved my life, my lifestyle and paved a way to my destiny.

Mofshwene Doris



What *footprints* did the ACE course leave on your life?

The footprint that the ACE course has left on my life is that it has saved my life drastically.

In the year 2002, I was really feeling bored in the class-room as I could feel that I am not reaching the learners hearts, which has been my joy for the past years since I started teaching.

But immediately I met the Ace lecturers a miracle happened as all the joy came back and filled the learners hearts



After the ACE course I was so different in my teaching approaches, open to share my skills with my colleagues and working more harder than before.

As I was teaching grade 4 Arts and culture, Technology, Social Sciences, Zulu and Natural Science. It was amazing how we i.e. together with the learners could incorporate the above lessons into Art.

What ever they had to create with their hands for any of the learning area was amazing. Reporting back about the topics they've discussed was just full of confidence and assurance. Same with my grade 3's this year. Listening and reading their reflections filled me with joy.

The dreams that have been in my mind since the ACE course are... Seeing our children being themselves and appreciating who they are without too much imitation of other cultures. Even though I am aware that my mind is fighting a loosing battle.

At the Junior Primary where I now teach I do address parents and learners about artificial beauty amongst our learnes. For now I've won I am not sure, when they leave the school.

My other dream is that, the teacher training institutions may teach Art to the student teachers as for me it has been the learners development in totality. As all the learning areas are embedded into Arts and Culture.

My other dream is to keep on going on with teaching.

WHAT ROADS HAVE YOU TAKEN SINCE THE ACE COURSE?

Since the ace course, the roads I've taken are: to meet the learners needs in my own way. Be faithful and to take an extra mile as far as my work is concerned. e.g. When good or bad things happened around nearby schools or their school learners often write cards to the school etc.

Confidently take part in some Arts and Culture competitions such as: Sekgarona, Izigi, Vitality Heath Discovery etc.

I've also developed learners as early as from foundation phase to understand that they are responsible for their own learning. They also understand that what we do at school, their parents are not there. So, they are the ones who are the coordinates to convey what they've learned to their parents and bring back to school/class e.g. homework and so on.

The above roads, have proved a point to say that they are "little adults."

"Sometimes the mist recedes and our vision is clear. All that is needed is to take the first step towards your goal. For some people, the path itself is the vision, the journey and the expedition. For them the destination is less important than the magnificence of the route, the exotic fellow travellers they meet and the experiences they have."

In your life as an art teacher, what do you see ahead of you?

Oh! How true, to read that "The path itself is a vision and destination is less important than the magnificence of the route". As I am one of those people. What I foresee ahead of me is that, If the Education Departments don't take Art seriously and make sure that teachers are train-ed, especially the foundation Phase teachers. As I've discovered that Art is a must to lay excellent foundation for our LEARNERS. During Art period, see them explore, joy in the hearts to see their own hand made objects, drawings, singing, performance, reflection etc

Only if educators like myself I trained They will come to schools with full under-standing and apply.

So, If art is not seen as a Whole or Total development of a learner. I beg to withdraw. As I believe that Art develops the learners fine



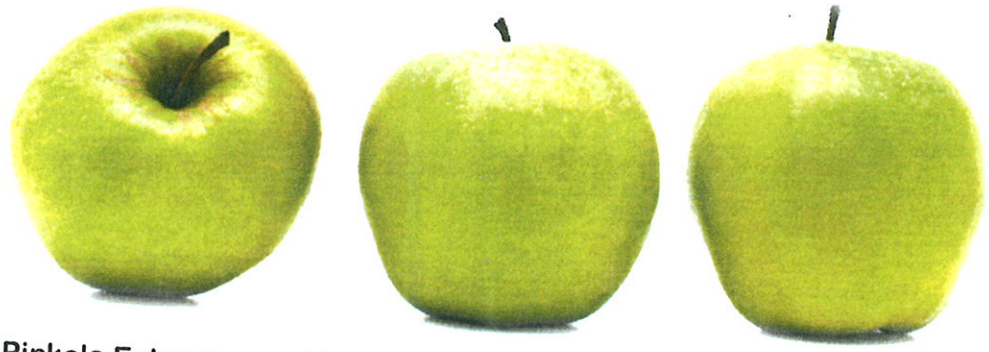
What *footprints* did the ACE course leave on your life?

To learn to reflect on what I have done in class. To work together as a team, irrespective of the background we come from i.e from the primary schools or from the high schools. To take into consideration our social Aspect i.e gender equity. In our groups we were mixed both males and females. Respecting other peoples' ideas and to give them a chance to participate. This is what we must teach our learners to do in class.

- Arts and Culture as a learning Area, must be properly planned for the correct phase, grade and a year and a term. ~~must~~. To link our art work with our everyday life around us.

When doing our practical work, eg body Maps - first activity in the ACE class - which was more complex, our lectures kept on moving around empowering us giving praise with promising work, all that boosted my self-esteem. This simply means that assessment should be continous, be planned, Assessment must have a clearly defined criteria taking into account the Learning Outcomes. My ACE Lectures gave feed back on the tasks we have done, that stimulated and motivated my thinking. I will also follow on these prints.

- That all Art lessons must start with warm-ups to prepare the learners for the lesson. Practical work which was done in the classroom taught me how to approach my lessons with confidence. It is good to display learners' work (exhibition) To show the district officials, parents and other stake holders, the skills and the potential are learners have



Pinkola Estes argues that valuing one's creative life has become an odd occurrence and we no longer regularly value "the utterly original, beauteous and artful ideas and works which issue from the wildest soul."

Describe something that you created from your wildest soul.

Mind Picture:-

Of a big, tall and faceless man. This man has closed all the doors, windows of someone who is practising and utilising her potential and skills. The "Jailer" has fastened the arms, put nails and razor wire along the path that must be travelled by this person. The 'Jailer' faceless man is always happy to realise that his victim is always where he has left her. It is amazing that the locked person is able to peep through the key ~~hole~~ opening at the door, and exert force to extend her fastened arms. The locked person is able to display what is in the heart and in the soul to the outside world. The outside world is able to see and appreciate the work of the locked person. The "Jailer"/keeper is unable to see all the activities and the exposure of the locked person. At the end, he realises that his slave, is being showered with awards. This concludes that one cannot stop the functioning of the soul and heart of a person who desire to fulfill his/her wishes. As Arts and Culture educators, we must not allow other people to block us from delivering and developing the young minds.

What would **you** be like?



I feel truly myself when ...

When I design an Artwork from my mind, and that my design becomes visible and is appreciated by others.

When I participate in the competitions organised by other stake Holders than department of Education and Training., and be among those who are counted as being successful!

- When I organise programmes with my colleagues and that the learners become involved and learners enjoy and develop..
- The district organise some functions and invite me to be their part. eg. Music Competion and Segarong Cultural Activities to become an adjudicator.

WHAT ROADS HAVE YOU TAKEN SINCE THE ACE COURSE?

- Have exhibited my learners Artworks to the school, parents, distnct officials and invited my Arts lectures from Wits to come and witness the results of their work. That the seeds they have planted, O have fallen into a loamy soil, that is why they are germinating.

With the learners painted the flags of the different countries in the work, and decorated our Administration block. It was colourful and has attracted people to admire the work.

- Participated in Segaron' Cultural Eisteddfod - in dance, music and Visual Art and have won trophies
- With my school participated in Indigenous games eg. Juskei, Tik-tok, blikies, skipping. We won the skipping until we reach the National level. My learners were awarded each, medal and the certificate was given to my school.
- Recently, I have been invited by the district to organise learners who will participate in April 2011 in the "Children's and Adult carnival." The theme is "MOZA GAUTENG, CELEBRATING GAUTENG CREATIVITY".

"Sometimes the mist recedes and our vision is clear. All that is needed is to take the first step towards your goal. For some people, the path itself is the vision, the journey and the expedition. For them the destination is less important than the magnificence of the route, the exotic fellow travellers they meet and the experiences they have."

In your life as an art teacher, what do you see ahead of you?

I see the learners who have passion and vision in Arts and Culture - who will later became curators of Art. I see them becoming well known artist like Picasso, Michael Angel and Stanley Mosiete. I see them owning their own Galleries and Studios. Organising tours to bring tourists to come and buy our art products to make a living and to boost the economy of our country.

- That Art ~~must~~ as a learning Area must be taken by all learners and that at Tertiary level & FET they start specialising in what they feel they are good at.
- Learners, and adults who are not good academically to be channelled to the different strands of art, where they excell so that they can be more empowered and utilised their talents

16.03.04
My reflection

My reflection will be based on different things we've done in this course.

Starting with visual arts last year. It was really an eye opener. It inspired and challenged me in many ways. The projects we've worked on as an individual, in groups and as the whole class were very interesting. I must say I learnt quiet a lot from the beginning to our art exhibitions and presentations. Every step we engaged in was a learning process. How we learnt from each other and even going to the art gallery was to broaden our scope of looking at art from various perspectives. The support and motivation through the whole process was inspiring. The feedback we got was positive and building which inspired me to be the same to my own learners at school.

All that we learnt in visual art has really empowered me. In planning the lessons, the visits from our facilitators, feedback after the lessons. It was truly impactful and even my learners looked forward to having a visitor because it made them to feel special in a way.

How I assess my learners

I involve my learners a lot ie Some simple tasks like in maths. I've always seen it as a good way of letting my learners to assess themselves. They know its self assessment. After marking they give themselves a happy face and write own message ie good ; try harder if they did not work hard

Peer assessment gives them an opportunity to assess each other. We can do it in books or some worksheets. They swop work for marking. They can see and follow the same specific assessment standard ie. That helps them to see if the outcomes were achieved.

Last year with some art activities my learners would work on a project as a group. They would follow instructions to complete activities and will participate in the reflection process whereby they share how they felt ; what they learnt ; how they learnt ; what was hard, If they could change what would they do differently. These enabled me to see where my learners were. Their sharing enabled me to see how to change and improve certain things. They would fill in some rubrics. or writing own reflection about activity done. I have included my learners samples of how they reflected on lesson done.

Paper prayers

This was emotionally moving and challenging. It was mainly to assist us to be aware and sensitive about HIV/AIDS.

Personally it was an eye-opener and very inspiring to see how many people are commited to make the difference out there. To want to touch and comfort souls. Its also a reality in the sense that we are working with learners who are affected or infected. It taught me to be more sensitive and understanding to learners needs, peformance and attitudes. So many things contribute to their learning performance. Hearing some stories about how as teachers we could hurt learners with our derogatory remarks.

The workshop was well structured. We played few games as icebreakers. We were introduced to the material and the process of making paper prayers. How art could help as a therapy and how paper prayers could really be used to impact the HIV/AIDS patients. This could help generate funds for supporting destitute people living with AIDS.

Doing those paper prayers was fun and exciting for us and I cannot wait to implement it with my learners.

I'm waiting for a great opportune time like when I do the morals / value / theme where we talk alot about loving; respecting people irrespective of their backgrounds; conditions etc. Making learners to understand to contribute to their own society by giving support to the sick.

I've also learnt not to assume to know and understand HIV/AIDS. To be loving and caring to want to extend my love and support out there.

I want to work with my learners to print more paper prayers for 1st Dec World Aids day. I think this will help our community in raising funds for the sick. This will also raise awareness among our learners - It will instil love; empathy; care; understanding of issues relating to AIDS/HIV. It will empower our learners to be creative and promote healing process. Our learners will learn to express their feelings while they are young. They will learn to be sensitive and not judgemental to each other.

I have started collecting some media to use for printing - i.e. Strings; stamps; paper; cardboxes; cut out shapes; wood etc. Which will be useful when we do the printing.

I'm very pleased to have worked on this identity cloth that as a teacher I can take it to my learners and teach about culture, heritage, identity and changes in todays life.

Young as my learners are I've seen pride and enthusiasm as we were talking about culture and their identity. They have started collecting important things from their families like beads; african clothes, drums covered in goats skin etc. I took that and used it for our school assembly where my learners said various messages on how in S.A we have various languages and they are all special and valuable.

Lovely. Hilton,

When learners are role playing they learn so much and even the shy ones are beginning to be free

How we were engaged in drama was very interesting and unprepared but made us feel like we've done it so well and that made me feel like I need to allow my learners more opportunities to partake and gain more confidence.

I've learnt so many things like body games; name games; space game; position; ball game; imaginary game; bean bag game; partners; Where are you from; fruit salad game; grouping; numbers; greetings; noun games etc. These games can be incorporated with various themes too.

I must say these are fun for kids and has helped me to see their other side where we are relaxed and having fun and they act as though they are outside a classroom. I was impressed when they dramatised various community workers. They acted out different scenes and were fun and interesting. I could see their collaboration; participation and creating own scenes.

Their speech is improving a lot. They are learning to speak freely and not feeling inhibited even to mix with their own home language while dramatising.

I'm finding my learners improving on listening and concentration. Waiting their turn while others are performing. Their thinking skill is really improving too..

Mirroring game is also another interesting game for my learners. It helps them to learn to observe each other and imitate the action without interfering or belittling one another. They are learning to trust each other and respect one another.

Feelings game helps me a lot with reflection. When I want to know how they felt about what we just did they share their feelings and it helps me to know and encourage ; to improve where I need to ; to build on and a lot more to inspire them not to feel shy but to keep trying hard. They have learnt to be open about their feelings. I've heard ~~real~~ real honest answers like bored ; scared ; excited etc. I could help where a learner felt very hurt about someones comment and it helped me to go back to emphasise on how we need to be respectful + sensitive to