

SAASTA celebrates Primary Science Day

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) has designated the 18th of September 2008 as Primary Science Day. Primary Science Day is a designated day devoted to celebrating the wonders and excitement of science at primary school level. This day will be celebrated at all participating schools in Limpopo, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng provinces.

“One of the key aims of Primary Science Day is to demonstrate at primary school level that science can be fun, practical and exciting,” says Beverley Damonse, Executive Director of SAASTA.

The theme

The theme for the 2008 Primary Science Day is Electricity and learners and educators are given information on electricity, an electricity kit, and building of simple circuits, electrical safety and how to save electricity.

“We thought the electricity theme would be an appropriate theme especially considering the challenges that South Africa is now facing with regards to the saving of electricity. But also, we have found that the performance in electricity in grade 12 is poor and thus this project aims to positively contribute towards the improvement in Physical Science,” adds Damonse.

The project also includes educator workshops where educators are given recourse materials, kits and are explained the concepts so that they can be able to interact with the learners.

The competitions

All participating provinces also take place in competition. In the Eastern Cape, the finals were held on 17 September in King Williams Town; in Limpopo the finals were held in September and in Gauteng, the finals will be held on 25 September 2008 at SAASTA's Johannesburg Observatory. Schools have an opportunity to win electricity kits, super silly games as well as electricity goodies.

For more information on SAASTA's Primary Science Day, please visit <http://www.saasta.ac.za/primaryscience/index.shtml>