

AGM – Information

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awarenet usage – figures

It should all be in the Raw data spreadsheet shouldn't it?

awarenet projects and events

Term 1: Science Project: TERRI

The SciFest was held from the 18th to 24th March 2015 in the monument this year. The theme being "the year of light" lots of schools visited the SciFest from right over South Africa. Eight schools that we teach awarenet to in Grahamstown participated this year. With over 100 learners taking part in the project, they were divided into different groups to work on their SciFest project called "Life after School".

Within the project over 20 posters were created. Three posters were chosen as the winning posters and were displayed at SciFest. The groups of the winning posters were from Ntaba Maria and Archie Mbolekwa, as a winning prize they had the opportunity to visit the SciFest and spend a few hours exploring the exhibitors' stands. Additionally they promoted awarenet at our stand telling some people who stopped by more about their SciFest theme and about their posters they created. The VG Girls promoted their school as well together with us showing optical illusions and doing different experiments with colours and separation of colours in water.

<http://www.awarenet.org/2015/04/08/scifest-presenting-awarenet-and-our-project-life-after-school/>

Term 2: awarenet Health & Fitness Day: TERRI

Each year VSA works together with the learners on the topic "health and fitness" including a culmination at the end of the term. During the awarenet sessions we either played soccer, dodgeball or frisbee or we worked on Blogs and forum questions. This year the health & fitness day was celebrated on the 12th of June. Learners from five different schools participated in the event. In the beginning after having a little snack the karateka of the Joza Karate Club put their skills on stage and amazed everyone with different Katas and training fights. Afterwards the Mr. and Mrs. Fitness were determined within a sports-procedure consisting of pushups, crunches and star jumps. Zezuthu Fikani of the S.D.A School and Thanduxolo Rooi of Nombulelo P.S. won that competition. In the end the schools participated in a soccer tournament which was dominated by

the Grade 9 learners of C.M. Velle. Overall it was an awesome day and we would like to thank the learners who showed up despite being in exam stress.

<http://www.awarenet.org/2015/06/15/health-fitness-day/>

Term 3: awarenet Peace Project including Home of Joy and Posters: KIM

The third term of the awarenet year was about peace and giving back to the community. Due to no funding we could not set up the annual peace day concert and had to find another solution to work on the topic. Lukas and Terri started by writing poems together with the learners and were even able to start a great collaboration with the local poem artist and Rhodes lecturer Harry Owen. After Larrissa and Kim arrived they started to let their learners design peace posters on which the learners could write their message/poem to celebrate the International day of Peace of the United Nations on the 21st September. A selection of the posters were laminated and presented to the public on the fence of the Joza Youth Hub from the 21st of September on. To integrate awarenet into the term the learners wrote some blog articles about what peace means to them and the poems are published on the platform. The highlight of the term was the new founded collaboration with the nearby orphanage "Home of Joy". The SDA learners had the special chance to do a Food Project as part of the term: They cooked fresh food and presented it to the orphans on the 21st of September. A movie about the food giving was produced and published on YouTube.

Term 4: Madiba Project with Fashion Show: LARISSA

Due to Nelson Mandela's death in December, our last project of the academical year was Mandela related. In remembrance of him and the beautiful batik silk shirts he used to wear, we designed our own Madiba shirts with the learners. We started the project with some introductory sessions on who originally designed the shirts and how Nelson Mandela came to wear them using awarenet. We looked at the different colours, patterns and discussed their meanings in several blog posts.

Some examples:

"What I like about the shirts is how they are done. Their colours and the way they glow. The person that did those shirts was really creative at designing. Those shirts represent us as African people and they represent our culture. They remind us of our history as South African people." - Sompani Lisakhanya, Archie Mbolekwa SP School

The next step was to design and paint our own shirts with the learners based on what we had learned before. We ended the term with a little fashion show on the 12th of November where the learners presented their shirts. To advertise the event in advance we gave an interview at Rhodes Music Radio and invited a reporter from Grocott's who wrote about it in the newspaper. The guys from the radio also supported us during the event, organised the music and also jumped in for a stand up poetry slam. We decided to donate the shirts to the nearby orphanage "Home of Joy" that we have worked with before for the International Day of Peace. This time, it will be within the context of a global event called #GivingTuesday (1st of December), which kicks off the charitable season and focuses on doing good and giving back to the community.

Further information:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.860488087402020.1073741851.435001919950641&type=3>

awarenet Music Video Project and CD launch: KIM&LARISSA

On Friday, November the 13th, we finally shot the music video with last year's winners of the Peace Song competition. Our learners from Khutliso Daniels Secondary School put lots of effort

into lyrics and performance and we are happy to present the edited music video on the 3rd of December. We started filming in the township and worked our way through the city until we shot the final scenes in the botanical gardens. We had lots of support from Michael Appelt (AppiApplet Animations) who helped us to organise the shooting and edited the video as well. During the shoot, the whole team was there organising everything from transport, food and filming. Together with the finished video, we will also release the CD, which has been produced with the help of the Sonic Art Studio and Rhodes University here in Grahamstown. The 60 CDs will also contain a downsized version of the Khutliso music video. The video and the tracks will be available on several internet platforms and open to the public.

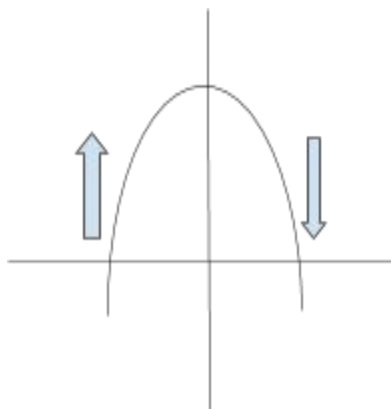
awarenet Open Day: TERRI

The International Girls in ICT Day is held every year on the 4th Thursday of April on which teenage girls and university students are invited to spend the day at the office of ICT companies and other organisations. The VSA participated for the last three years hosting an open awarenet sessions for girls (and determined boys) at the computer lab of the C.M. Vellem Higher Primary School. Since the VSA office is now located in the JYH where we also have our own Computer lab, we invited learners over and spent a whole day with the two most determined ones. Terri took Aphelele Plaatjie from C.M. Vellem (Grade 8) to several awarenet sessions and talked with her about the different tasks and her daily business as a social worker in the IT field. I spent the day with Thanduxolo Royifrom Nombulelo High School (Grade 10). Since he is very interested but not experienced in computer science, we focused on basic computer skills. At the end of the day, both of them wrote a Blog on awarenet about their experiences. In total it was a very nice and fertile day where we tried to teach the two learners as much as possible.

<http://www.awarenet.org/2015/05/12/awarenet-open-day-on-international-girls-in-ict-day-2015/>

Joza Youth Hub: McVay

The Joza Youth Hub (JYH) computer lab is one of the most esteemed rooms in the building. To keep it clean and working, there are more than twenty rules and rights. The computer lab has been used by almost every NGO in the Joza Youth Hub. It is most prominent for its capability to grant access to the internet and other offline programmes (i.e. LibreOffice/ Muscorescore/ Gimp / etc) . For statistical information see google sheets- JYH computer lab usage. There was an increase at the beginning of the year then during the mid year of 2015 the JYH the computer lab has been exceedingly used.



Training for the lab went well with Lukas and Strix and I got to know the computers individually and as a group.

The training included the following:

> Getting familiar with Edubuntu; Software Update and Other programs

>Using the terminal: mostly to operate on the network

The JYH computer lab has been booked for usage quite often. I would like to think computer replacements, printer upgrades and new internet connections that were being made are events on my timeline. There are a number of further plans going forward for the Hub, in terms of upgrades, i.e the use of the awarenet server as a main connection for servers at the JYH lab, the new mast connection for a wifi connection and Eduroam for a faster connection.

SAwN Conference report: TERRI

The Southern African weltwarts strategic Workshop Conference was held in Cape Town over a two day period. Partner Originations from right over South Africa and Africa attended the Conference. Ingrid Daniels gave an introduction, background and objectives of the conference. The Southern African Weltwarts Networks (SawN) was discussed, within the Weltwarts program, during the conference in Port Elizabeth from 12 to 15 November 2014. It's the first program of its kind across the globe and is an internal community network. The networks first task is to choose a SawN interim steering committee. The duties of the SawN Interim committee will be as follows, to form a network for SawN to strengthen relationships and create an information Portal. The following day we had 3 workshops where different issues were discussed, The first workshop (lead by Donald Vogel) we attended was about, what communication and market strategies should we consider to increase SawN?

The second workshop was led by Claus-Bernard Pakleppa. This workshop was all about the Vision, mission and objectives of SawN. The third workshop (by Igrid Daniels) we discussed, how do we structure SawN and enhance fundrasing for SawN?

To end off the conference a Steering Committee and a Working Committee was selected: The duties of the Steering Committee as follows, stimulate membership fee (quarter of 2016), increase review database by end of January 2016 and contribute to draft proposal funds by end of March 2016. The Working Committees functions would be, Admin, fundrasing, research and Communication and Marketing. The Next Conference for SawN will be in April 2016.

<http://www.awarenet.org/2015/12/01/southern-african-weltwarts-strategic-workshop-conference/>

awarenet.org website relaunch: KIM

After long discussions about how the new website should look like and what features it should integrate the relaunch of www.awarenet.org took place on the 17th of November. Since then, many customizations were made and the development is still in progress.

The website should look much more professional and should be a full homepage instead of only being a blog (see screenshots), while still containing all the old content. Both requirements are met with the new page.

The page is based on a single-page-concept through which the visitor has access to all main information and features of the website right on the front page. This includes: a link to the awarenet, an introduction to the awarenet program, links to all pages for our target groups, a pop up to our newsletter, a link to the internal donation page, an introduction to the team members, testimonials of partner schools and learners, an overview about all new blog posts, and a contact form, as well as links to our most important social media appearances.

Besides, there are subpages who give specific information about special topics, the chance to donate right on the page, and a blog.

The main goal of the design of the website was to keep everything as clean and simple as possible, but on the other hand to also serve as a full internet representation, that gives informations about the organization and news. In addition, the backend is designed to be easily used and accessible to all current and future members of the awarenet program.

All in all, the page is much more professional now and can contribute a good part to our public relationship and funding goals. It can be used as the core of the representation of the VSA and the awarenet program and integrates all our other services.

betterplace.org fundraising campaign “Tis Giving Season!”: LARISSA

The main goal of our current fundraising campaign is to raise enough money to pay for the international cooperation and exchange programme with SAGE Net and weltwärts. Further, the costs of living for the German volunteers need to be covered as well. However, with this year's Christmas campaign, our aim is to raise even more money so that we do not have to worry about the financing of our projects in 2016.

The kick-off event will take place on Tuesday the 1st of December, also called „#GivingTuesday“, which is a global day of action to kick off the charitable season. On this day, we will donate the shirts which the learners have designed and painted in context of the Madiba Project to the “Home of Joy” orphanage in the Joza Township. Our campaign for #GivingTuesday will not only be reported about and supported by the VSA, but also by betterplace, a German online fundraising platform. They will publish and support the event and our projects via their Facebook and Twitter accounts and on their website. Our #GivingTuesday event will then be connected with our fundraising campaign to raise money for the volunteers.

Further plans for this year's Christmas campaign are to keep some of the shirts and “sell” them in exchange for donations (comparable to an auction) and to sell some of the new and old Peace Song CDs. The sending out of a Christmas newsletter will also be part of the campaign as well as constant posts, reminders and personal emails to people we believe would like to donate for a worthy and charitable cause.