

REPORT AT THE 2016 AGM – MRS S PILLAY (ACTING HOD EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE IN THE FOUNDATION PHASE)

I am the HOD Guidance for the Foundation Phase and my duties are not just the **emotional wellbeing** of our learners, but also the **academic wellbeing** of learners who need support.

I act as **co-ordinator** of the School Based Support Team, or SBST. Learners who are experiencing learning difficulties are closely monitored throughout the year and **extra help and support** are continuously given by educators.

After necessary **intervention** we implement a **Support Programme** that consists of **extra lessons** in the afternoons.

We are fortunate to have an amazing team of **therapists** who we call on for additional assistance. Our **Educational Psychologist** will assess learners and conduct play therapy if need be. Our **speech therapist** will see learners for speech, language and auditory problems. She also works on Language Enrichment and language structure. The two **Occupational Therapists** see learners for fine motor and concentration problems. We also have one of our ex-teachers on board as a **remedial maths teacher**, and her classes are called Move-on-Maths.

I also apply to get **Concessions** for learners that may write every exam with their specific concession for the rest of their school careers.

Where a learner's problems prove to be **beyond the scope of our interventions** and after consultations with the parents, I process a **referral** for these learners to the District Office for **Remedial School or Special class approval**

On the **emotional side**, we offer **counselling** in case of a trauma in our learner's lives. That may include going through a divorce, death in the family, abuse, etc. This gets handled with complete confidentiality.

We do have a **Charity Budget** – we occasionally supply learners with **lunch**, or help the family with **essential groceries or blankets in winter**.

2016 has been a remarkable year. A lot of hard work, dedication and commitment has been shown by our Foundation Phase teachers.