

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am the HOD Educational 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 the co-ordinator of the School Based Support Team, or SBST. Learners who are experiencing learning difficulties are closely monitored throughout the year and extra assistance and support are continuously given by educators.

After necessary intervention we implement an Academic Support Programme for these learners in the Learning Areas of Maths and English. This consists of extra lessons after school and runs concurrently with the Extra-mural timetable. We accommodate the learners by starting the lessons at 14h00 till 14h30 so that they can still attend sport afterwards.

We are fortunate to have a team of in-house therapists who we call on for additional assistance. Working with us for the past 20 years, our Educational Psychologist, Mrs Virginia Schoombie who helps diagnose possible learning problems identified by the educators. Mrs Schoombie also sees several learners for play therapy on a regular basis.

Our Occupational Therapist, Mrs. Rozanne du Toit has an international qualification in Sensory Integration and Therapeutic listening.

Mrs. Du Toit also assists by helping learners overcome their particular problems ranging from fine motor function to visual perception and concentration.

Our Speech Therapist, Mrs. Anet Radford helps learners with speech, language and auditory disorders.

Where a learner's problems prove to be beyond the scope of our interventions and after consultations with the parents, I process referrals for these learners to the District Office for Remedial school placement. Sadly, not all learners are able to progress in a big class of 40 learners, and placement in a school for special needs is inevitable.

Extensive research has shown that early interventions especially in the Foundation Phase, have the best prognosis. Any Support Programme can only

be successful if there is a joint effort between the school and the parents of the learner.

The emotional wellbeing of our learners –

We offer counselling in case of any trauma in our learner's lives – divorce, death in the family, highjackings, armed robbery, molestation, etc. Again, we do this in collaboration with Mrs. Virginia Schoombie.

A Feeding Scheme –

On occasion we supply learners with lunch. We also help the family with essential groceries. This gets handled with complete confidentiality.

School uniform –

I keep a few items on hand in case families are experiencing difficulty.

At CKPS we have a wonderful team working together with our parents – I am looking forward to another good year in 2018!