



# Thinking Schools South Africa Quarterly Newsletter

## In this newsletter:

Welcome  
Page 01

Upcoming Events:  

- Online Courses
- International Conference

Pages 02 & 03

Articles of Interest  
Page 04

Welcome to our fourth and final newsletter for 2024. Reflecting on the year, it has been a busy but exciting one as TSSA continues to grow and expand its offerings. Most recently, TSSA hosted Susannah Cole for the **Spring Roadshow**. I enjoyed meeting so many of you in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pietermaritzburg, and White River. The topic this year was 'Creating Curiosity through Productive Puzzling', and delegates had to engage in much puzzling themselves throughout the day. When a delegate writes in reflection: *It would have been fantastic to have an evening to continue ....* then one knows the workshop was highly successful! The main takeaways for me from the workshops were the strategies given to use in classroom practice, sharing with students the notion of knowing when they are in a Learning Zone or Performance Zone, and the power of simple reflections. The engagement and joy of learning was evident from all who attended. A big thank you to Roedean School, Springfield Convent, St John's D.S.G., and Uplands College for hosting the Roadshow.

James Nottingham presented his second series of webinars titled '**TEACH Brilliantly**'. The fourth webinar on "Can a Growth Mindset really help my students?" and the final webinar on "Teaching Students to use Feedback Effectively" were presented. James's most recent book, 'TEACH Brilliantly', is now available as an ebook at an incredible price of R305. Get the link on pg 04. All five of James's webinars will be available on our website for those who were unable to attend.

There are three **online courses** being held over February/March next year. These courses are designed to be interactive with some implementation and reflection from the delegates, making the courses meaningful and worthwhile. Take advantage of the Early Bird Special. See pg 03 for more details.

And last, and very exciting, is that TSSA is hosting its first **International Conference on Cultivating Thinking Cultures**. Trevor MacKenzie from Vancouver, globally known for his work on Inquiry-Based Learning, is the keynote speaker. Early Bird Specials are available until 6th December, 2024. We hope to see you there!

Wishing you all the best for the the rest of the year, and please keep in touch.

Dr Sonja Vandeleur



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## International Conference on Cultivating Thinking Cultures



Herschel School, Cape Town: 9th & 10th May 2025  
Kingsmead College, Johannesburg: 13th & 14th May 2025



This conference is aimed at leaders, educators, and education professionals who are passionate about advancing student learning. Over two days, a distinguished lineup of national and international speakers will lead keynote sessions and hands-on workshops, providing practical insights for the classroom. Together, we'll inspire schools to cultivate a culture of critical, creative, and collaborative thinking, fostering students who are independent, lifelong learners and adept problem-solvers.

**Early Bird Special until 6th December: R3 600 pp**

**R3 060 pp for TSSA Network Schools and students**

**Register here! <https://forms.office.com/r/KQY9XX6G2q>**

### Keynote Speaker Trevor MacKenzie



Trevor MacKenzie is an experienced teacher, author, keynote speaker, and inquiry consultant, who has worked with schools around the world, including Australia, Asia, North America, Europe, and South Africa. His passion is in supporting schools in implementing inquiry-based learning practices. Currently, Trevor is an inquiry practitioner as a teacher with the Greater Victoria School District in Victoria, Canada.



**FIND OUT MORE HERE!**

**<https://www.tssathinkingzone.org/international-conference>**



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## ONLINE COURSES

Starting 3rd February, SACE accredited

Time: 16:00 - 17:30

### Encourage Active Processing through Visible Thinking Routines

**Camilla Antonie**

In these sessions, you will explore thinking routines to enhance learning and promote critical, creative, and reflective thinking to foster deep thinking and engagement in the classroom.

**DATES: 5th Feb, 12th Feb, 19th March, 26th March**



### Three Key Dimensions to Prepare Students for the Age of AI

**Sonja Vandeleur**

The three key dimensions that schools need to focus on to prepare students for the age of AI are Skills (how we use what we know), Character (how we behave and engage in the world), and Meta-Learning (how we reflect and adapt). The fourth dimension of knowledge (what we know) is what schools and AI provide so well.

**DATES: 4th Feb, 11th Feb, 18th Feb, 25th Feb**



### Thinking Maps to Build Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills

**Sally James**

The Thinking Maps provide a shared visual language for learning. It is a brain-based approach to teaching and learning, and gives students a means of putting down and sharing patterns of thinking. By using the Maps, students will build comprehension, communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

**DATES: 3rd Feb, 10th Feb, 17th Feb**



**[REGISTER BY CLICKING HERE!](https://forms.office.com/r/ZFWj7qHQjy) <https://forms.office.com/r/ZFWj7qHQjy>**

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!**

**Course 1&2: R2 145 until 6th December, then R3 375 pp per course**

**Course 3: R1 440 until 6th December, then R2 400 pp per course**

**15% discount for TSSA Network member schools**

# ARTICLES, TALKS OF INTEREST AND LINKS



## 4 Promises Drive Rural School Transformation in Eastern Hancock Schools

Getting Smart, 21st October 2024

This article grabbed my attention with their 4 promises of Joy, Connection, Growth, and Success to drive transformation. Read what is meant by 'success' - it is not achievement with good grades, but rather experiencing perseverance and 'productive struggle' as part of progress.

[Click here to read the article](#)

## The AI Revolution in Teaching: How It Changes Everything

Getting Smart, 22nd October 2024

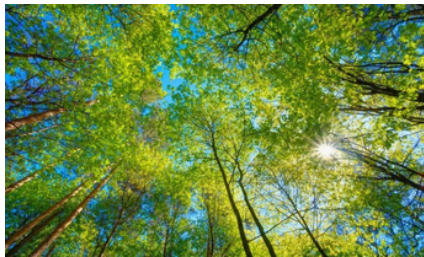


Dr Swann writes: As educators, we've been through countless waves of innovation, but none compare to the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence (AI). While many focus on how AI can personalize instruction or raise concerns about cheating, the truth is that AI changes everything. It challenges not only what we teach but also how we teach and how we prepare students for the future. To keep pace with this monumental shift, we need to rethink our approach to education.

[Click here to read the article](#)

## The Well-Being Tree

Teacher, 23rd September 2024



Supporting a whole-school approach to well-being: What would a whole-school approach look like in your own context? In this latest reader submission, Educational and Developmental Psychologist Dr Jane Kirkham shares details of the 'Wellbeing Tree' - an organisational tool created to support educators in addressing whole-school wellbeing.

[Click here to read the article](#)

## Nurturing creativity and the role of subject-specific knowledge

Teacher, 16th October 2024

Creativity is not just an artistic endeavour, it is a crucial skill for problem-solving, innovation and adaptability across all fields. In a post-AI world, creativity is more crucial than ever, embodying the uniquely human capacity to drive societal progress (Rafner et al., 2023).

[Click here to read the article](#)

## TEACH Brilliantly

Small Shifts That Lead to Big Gains in Student Learning

Here is the link to purchase James Nottingham's most recent book. The book will help you boost the engagement of all your students, provide optimum levels of challenge, and much more. [www.vitalsource.com](http://www.vitalsource.com)

