

Brett Flugel (FLGBRE001)

Projects: CRC Children's Resource Centre
SHAWCO Masizame Mathematics

Project Descriptions: Facilitating the training of the media team for the CRC children's movement at the resource centre in Rondebosch.

Teaching grade 6 learners mathematics in Hout Bay.

Times Worked:

Date	Time	Duration	Description
17/03/2012	09:00 – 11:00	2	Meeting, Orientation, Methodologies of dealing with children
24/03/2012	10:00 – 12:00	2	Website evaluation
31/03/2012	10:00 – 12:00	2	Updated website including google maps on contact us page
21/04/2012	10:00 – 14:00	4	Session with the media members. Covered introductions, requirements, benefits to members and org and intro to the internet and email
31/07/2012	16:00 – 18:00	2	Shawco Masizame Maths tutoring
07/08/2012	16:00 – 18:00	2	Shawco Masizame Maths tutoring
14/08/2012	16:00 – 18:00	2	Shawco Masizame Maths tutoring

21/08/2012	16:00 – 18:00	2	Shawco Masizame Maths tutoring
11/09/2012	16:00 – 18:00	2	Shawco Masizame Maths tutoring
18/09/2012	16:00 – 18:00	2	Shawco Masizame Maths tutoring
03/10/2012	09:00 – 11:00	2	Meeting, project update, new PCs
12/10/2012	12:00 – 15:00	3	Setup new computers and printers and troubleshoot
18/10/2012	10:00 – 13:00	4.5	Setup new computers and printers and troubleshoot
		TOTAL: 31.5	

CRC

Description:

CRC is based in Rondebosch, but is a real community-based organisation with quite basic facilities. They are a movement – building an alternative with and for 3000 children (7-14 years) at 30 schools in 7 provinces. Wide-ranging programmes in the areas of culture, recreation, food security, health, media, savings, literacy, alternative transport, anti-bullying, gender. Including research done by children. The training program involves helping the youth members of the media team to learn basic computer literacy, as well as other skills they need including using email, facebook, blogs and the CRC website.

The Experience:

First Semester

On our first trip to CRC Andrew and I met with Marcus, the organisations director, for an introduction and orientation. We discussed what we would be doing, as well as how to deal with the children. It was very important to Marcus that we had the right mentality going into the project. We did not want to go there forcing knowledge on the children, but rather to understand their needs

and to learn from them and to find out what they need to learn and what they want to learn.

The next time we met at CRC we unfortunately couldn't meet the children yet as it is quite a process to organise the children to get to the centre and resources are limited in an organisation such as CRC. We did, however, meet the committee members and were assigned the task of evaluating the CRC website. We wrote a report for Marcus and he was very pleased with our ideas and suggestions.

In the week we spent time working on the website and making some improvements. The biggest issue was that the website was not very child friendly and we decided to discuss this with the members.

The following week we met the youth members. We started with an introduction with Marcus and we met with Lindile, who would be helping us coordinate the training. We then took over from Marcus and we spent time getting to know the children and finding out what they know about technology and what they would like to learn. After a lovely lunch, we spoke more about what technologies we could use in the organisation, such as facebook, blogs, email, MS word, mxit and the website in order to communicate and perform the tasks of the media team, which are mainly writing up articles and sending them to the editors. We then got the children to work in pairs and write down how they think we could use these technologies and they presented their ideas to everyone. In the final session of the day, we showed them the CRC website and asked them how they use it and what improvements they could suggest and we gave them a brief introduction to the internet and email.

Second Semester

In the second semester we met with Marcus again to discuss what was happening in the organisation and where we were going. The organisation also received a much needed donation of six computers and two printers.

We spent the next two weekends setting up the computers, installing software, installing printers, setting up the network and cabling and getting the media centre in order. We worked closely with Anthea and Lindile setting up the media centre and training them on the Ubuntu software so that they would be able to teach the other members.

Although we didn't get as much interaction with the members as we would have like we have created a solid platform to build onto. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the members and it was very rewarding training the members and learning from them.

SHAWCO

Description:

Masizame is a unique SHAWCO project that works with a wide range of learners living in Lieliebloem and St Georges children's homes. As well as providing the academic tutoring offered by other projects, special focus is put on individualised interaction with the learners. The aim of this program is to enrich the lives of children in several homes across Cape Town.

Masizame operates twice weekly at each home. One session deals with mathematics, while the other is a fusion of English language, writing skills and life orientation. Our aim is to ensure that the children have a firm understanding of the basic skills required to achieve in these subjects, and that they obtain this through interactive activities that foster good life skills, are socially relevant and informative. Our lessons are therefore structured to avoid a static classroom feel, and rather to allow interaction, active learning and LOTS OF FUN!

Experience:

I started volunteering for the SHAWCO Masizame project at the beginning of the second semester. On our first session we played Maths Bingo with the children, it was a lot of fun and a good introduction and ice breaker.

In the following sessions we worked through a maths workbook with a few select students. The grade 6 learners were able to sharpen their skills in fractions, decimals, long division and multiplication and word problems.

It was a very rewarding experience getting to know my group of students and watching them grow and improve, both in Maths and in confidence. It was an eye opening experience for me and I am very grateful for the education that I have received and now see the dire need for more teachers and a better education system in this country. I will never forget this experience or the students that I got to know and love.