



Eco-School Summary

Kingfisher has just recently enrolled with WESSA to become an Eco-School. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to explain to those of you who are not aware what eco-schools is all about what this now means.

Eco-Schools operate in over 51 countries worldwide. It is an international programme of the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**, managed locally by the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA). Over 1000 schools in South Africa joined in 2011 with 135 in the Limpopo Province. The aim of the project is to improve some aspect of environmental management at the school. This could range from saving electricity to starting a garden.

We need to write an eco-code with the help of the committee. This code will set the standards that the school will strive towards when it comes to environmental management and environmental learning, and an undertaking of how teachers and learners will conduct themselves in this regard. This eco-code will be displayed in the school reception for all to see.

We also need to undertake an Eco-Audit for the school. As soon as we have the results from the audit, the Eco-Committee will decide upon the area which we can undertake an eco project and then we will let you as the educators know what theme and project we are intending to do. There are five themes we can choose from:-

- *Resource Use*
- *Nature and Biodiversity*
- *Local and Global Issues*
- *Healthy Living*
- *Community and Heritage.*

The project we choose must relate to our Eco-Code and the chosen theme must help the school to improve in some respect.

We must work with local authorities, environmental groups, and other service providers and government agencies wherever we can. We must take **photographs** and collect **any other evidence** of the work we have done.

At the end of the project we must conduct a second whole school audit and a second theme audit or other enquiry, to see how we have done! These audits, photographs, etc, must be included in our Eco-Report.

Wherever possible we need to include the learners at all levels in the implementation of the Eco-project. It is also important for the project, if any educator does a lesson or activity with their class that has something to do with the environment in any way, to **please give us a copy of the lesson plan or activity with the outcomes** as this helps us to show that we are working towards the Eco scheme. The activity can be anything from a science experiment to a comprehension about the environment in some way!

The School must teach **at least three lessons** related to their chosen theme, during the year, **reports** on these three lessons should be included in your Eco-Report.

A 'lesson' could be a session taught in one or more periods, or over one or more weeks. It is a coherent set of teaching and learning activities which address particular curriculum-based learning outcomes.

A lesson could be taught in the classroom or in the school grounds, but it could also comprise the teaching and learning activities around learner projects, field work or curriculum-related excursions.

Once our project has been completed we must hand our report into the Regional or National Coordinator by 31 October. If the project was successful we will be awarded a Bronze Certificate. Then in concurrent years we will strive towards receiving the Silver Certificate, Green Flag, Gold Certificate, International Flag and eventually after many years of projects and hard work a Platinum Certificate.

Let's hope that we can all work together and help Kingfisher to become a Green Eco-School flag flyer.