

# NEWSLETTER

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## NOTE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIR

Dear LITASA Community,

I'm thrilled to share that our recent literacy conference was a resounding success! The event was well attended and packed with valuable insights that left us all feeling inspired and motivated. We were privileged to have captivating keynote addresses and thought-provoking panel discussions from renowned speakers such as Cathy Kell, Shelley O'Carroll, Bonny Norton, Elinor Sisulu, Mandla Ntombela, Mfundi Vundla, and many others.

In addition to these sessions, attendees enjoyed a wide range of paper presentations, practical workshops, storytelling,

and engaging displays from publishers, NGOs, and individuals advancing literacy in South Africa. This conference truly highlighted the impactful work being done across the country and underscored the importance of our mission to promote literacy for all.

We also have some bittersweet news to share: we are bidding farewell to Kgomotso Ramushu, who leaves her position as Operations Manager at LITASA National for an exciting new role with Cambridge University! Kgomotso's warmth, curiosity, and drive to make a difference will be sorely missed, and we thank her for her invaluable contributions. We wish her all the **best** in her **new adventure**.

We also say goodbye to Tebogo Poo, our National Treasurer. She leaves us to join the African Union in Ethiopia. We thank them for their invaluable contributions and wish them both well in their new endeavours.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Taffie Chizu, who will be stepping into the Operations Manager role. Taffie brings with her a rich background in community literacy work in Gqeberha, especially with reading clubs and young girls. She also has experience in the Engagement Office at Nelson Mandela University and has been an active member of EC LITASA. We look forward to her fresh perspective and dedication to advancing our mission.



- Taffie Chizu

As you know, LITASA is a volunteer-run organization that relies on its members to help realize its vision of a fully literate South Africa.

Please keep an eye out for exciting opportunities at both the national and branch levels to get involved. We are always looking for ways to bring our community together, and 2025 promises to be an exciting year for us all.



- Libby

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to making the 2024 conference unforgettable, Libby, the LIT Legends, our Conference Sponsors and everyone behind the scenes! We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Warm regards,

*Nadeema Musthan*

LITASA National Chairperson



# ANNOUNCEMENT: 20TH ANNUAL LITASA CONFERENCE



We are thrilled to announce that the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) branch of the Literacy Association of South Africa (LITASA) will host the 20th Annual LITASA Conference in 2025!

The theme for this milestone event is **"Amazwi Ethu - Our Voices"**, celebrating the diverse stories, experiences, and perspectives that shape our literacy landscape.

While the exact dates and further details are yet to be confirmed, we encourage you to stay tuned for updates on what promises to be an inspiring and engaging gathering of literacy advocates, educators, and enthusiasts.

Keep an eye out for more information coming soon!

all Roads ARE  
LEADING TO  
KWAZULU NATAL

PAKISH'UMTHWALO UVEL'UHAMBE!



# 2025 Membership fees.

We're excited to announce that our new membership rates are now available on the LITASA website! Whether you're an educator, literacy advocate, or simply passionate about promoting literacy, there's never been a better time to join our growing network.

Explore the updated rates below and take the next step to becoming part of the LITASA community. Click the link, sign up, and start making an impact today!



*Individual membership*

**R 385** per year  
**R 1100** (three year option)



*Student membership*

**R 220** per year  
**R 600** (three year option)



*Community membership*  
(includes 5 people)

**R 275** per year  
**R 825** (three year option)



*School membership*

*Quintile 1-3*

(includes three people)

**R 220** per year  
**R 660** (three year option)



*School membership*

*Quintile 4-5*

(includes three people)

**R 880** per year  
**R 1980** (three year option)



*Institutional membership*

(includes three people)

**R 880** per year  
**R 2200** (three year option)

Click the link, sign up, and start making an impact today:  
<https://www.litasa.org.za/membership>

# *Celebrating Excellence at the 19th Annual LITASA Conference Awards*

Each year, at our annual LITASA conference, we take the time to recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions in the field of literacy through our prestigious awards. These awards are presented in various categories to honor individuals and organisations who have made significant strides in research, teaching, and early literacy development. This year's awards were held in collaboration with key partners like AOSIS Reading & Writing Journal and Wordworks, emphasizing the collaborative spirit of our literacy community.

At the 19th Annual LITASA Conference, we were delighted to present the following awards to these remarkable individuals and organisations:



## **Research Article Award (in collaboration with AOSIS Reading & Writing Journal):**

### **Awarded to:**

Prof. Carisma Nel and Elma Marais

### **Research Article Title:**

Preservice teachers' perceptions on eliciting learner's knowledge in a mixed-reality simulation environment.

### **Recognition:**

This award celebrates exceptional research in literacy, highlighting innovative approaches that drive the understanding and development of literacy practices.

## **Best Student Presenter Award:**

### **Awarded to:**

Justine Bussiahn

### **Presentation Title:**

Questioning heavy focus on phonics: a case of three Grade 2 educators' practices.

### **Recognition:**

This award recognizes the exceptional contributions of first-time student presenters at our conference. It highlights the importance of nurturing new voices in the field of literacy and encourages fresh perspectives in literacy education research. By celebrating these emerging talents, we aim to inspire them to continue their journey in exploring innovative ideas and approaches to enhance literacy practices.





# Shelly O'Carroll Early Literacy Award (in collaboration with Wordworks):

**Award Focus:** This award is dedicated to recognizing the efforts of those working with under-resourced children or population groups, underrepresented language groups, and non-traditional spaces for literacy. It celebrates the often unrecognized work of researchers and practitioners in early literacy while broadening the visibility of their contributions to this critical field.



## Mahaneng Pampiri:

Honored for their exceptional work in advancing early literacy among children in challenging contexts.

## Lulamaphiko:

Recognized for their dedication to fostering literacy development in communities that are typically overlooked and for creating impactful learning opportunities for young learners.



These awards highlight the dedication and passion of individuals and organisations who are making a significant impact in the literacy landscape. We are proud to honor these trailblazers who continue to inspire, innovate, and lead the way in literacy education. **Congratulations** to all the award recipients! We look forward to seeing more groundbreaking work and positive contributions in the field of literacy in the years to come.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING...

## Stay Financially Savvy with LITASA Gauteng's Financial Literacy Awareness Series!

LITASA Gauteng is excited to bring you our Financial Literacy Awareness Series, happening every 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of the month! These virtual sessions on Microsoft Teams feature a range of expert speakers, each sharing their insights on different financial topics designed to boost your financial knowledge and skills.



Each month, we bring in a diverse lineup of speakers to cover a variety of themes, so there's always something new to learn.

Keep an eye on our social media pages for updates on upcoming sessions, themes, and speaker announcements—you won't want to miss out on these valuable learning opportunities!

Join us virtually, and take the first step towards better financial management with LITASA Gauteng. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Exciting Update: 2022 LITASA Organisational Report Now Available!

The 2022 LITASA Organisational Report is now live on our website!

This comprehensive report provides valuable insights into our activities, achievements, and the impact we made in the year 2022.

We invite you to take some time out to read the report. It highlights our dedication to advancing literacy in South Africa and showcases the various programs and initiatives we undertook to support this mission.

Thank you for being a part of our journey toward enhancing literacy for all!





# IN AND AROUND THE LITERACY WORD!


## University of Pretoria

The University of Pretoria is interested in exploring the knowledge, experiences, and needs of early childhood educators from diverse settings including South Africa and the United States regarding phonological awareness and emergent literacy. Are you over 18 years old, read and write English and a foundation phase educator (**Grade R to Grade 3 in South Africa**)?


**Who can participate?**


**OVER 18 YEARS OLD AND READ & WRITE ENGLISH**  
You need to be over 18 years old and able to read and write in English.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR**  
You need to be an early childhood educator in South Africa (Grade R through Grade 3) or the United States (Kindergarten through Grade 2).

**LITERACY**  
Your current or recent teaching responsibilities must include providing literacy to the children in the indicated grades.

**Follow this link:**  
[https://pretoria.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_equ1gLuHszuAkGa](https://pretoria.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_equ1gLuHszuAkGa)


**Faculty of Humanities**  
Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology





**Exploring Early Childhood Educators' Knowledge, Experiences and Needs of Phonological Awareness and Emergent Literacy**

This study aims to explore the knowledge, experiences and needs of early childhood educators from diverse settings, including South Africa and the USA, regarding phonological awareness and emergent literacy

**What would you have to do?**

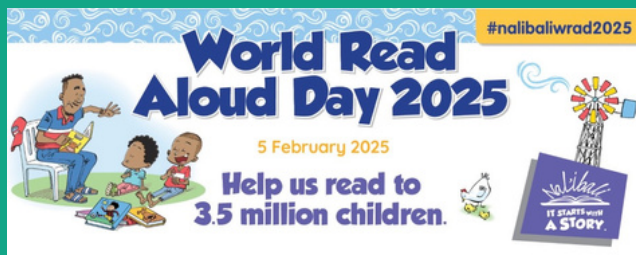
**Read the information brochure to decide if you want to participate**  
Information brochure

**Consent to participate in the research study by completing the survey**  
Informed consent

**Complete the survey to share your knowledge, experiences and needs**  
Anonymous survey

Then, you are invited to read the information brochure, consent to participate in the research study, and complete the anonymous survey at the following link:

[https://pretoria.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_equ1gLuHszuAkGa](https://pretoria.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_equ1gLuHszuAkGa)



Nal'ibali has been celebrating World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) with millions of children in South Africa since 2013, and WRAD 2025 promises to be memorable. Join Nal'ibali in creating positive experiences for children through reading and storytelling by pledging to read for the children in your life on WRAD 2025, February 5, 2025!

Pledge here [Grow professionally with our SACE endorsed courses for professional development points at an affordable price](https://shop.motc.co.za/) View our courses: <https://shop.motc.co.za/> #NalibaliWRAD2025 #wrad2025 #ReadAloudChallenge #WorldReadAloudDay #wrad





## Funda Wande

The Funda Wande Online Training Academy (OTA) is now live!

The OTA is designed to enhance literacy and numeracy skills, empowering educators to make a lasting impact in their classrooms.

Fully online, the user-friendly OTA platform offers a seamless and flexible learning experience.

Course Highlights:

- The Reading Academy covers the Five Reading Activities aligned with CAPS and is accredited with 35 SACE points.

- The Numeracy Academy, divided into four parts, covers essential topics and is also SACE accredited with 15 SACE points.

The courses will run for the next three months, so participants are encouraged to secure their spots!

Enroll Here: <https://fundawande.odoo.com/slides/all/tag/open-course-15>

## Macmillan

Do you want to learn something new? Macmillan Online Teacher Campus (MOTC) is the right platform just for you. You can choose a course from a variety of our latest trending topics in education. These courses can be done at your own time, at your own pace and in the comfort of your own home. This is a user-friendly platform, with images, videos and downloadable resources.



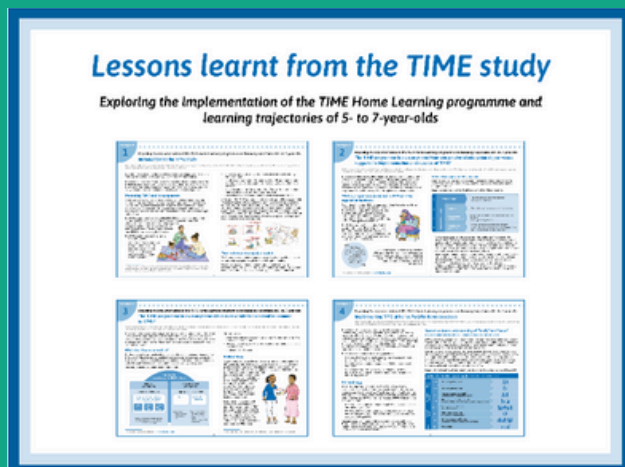
Grow professionally with our SACE endorsed courses for professional development points at an affordable price

View our courses: <https://shop.motc.co.za/>

# IN AND AROUND THE LITERACY WORD!

## Wordworks

Wordworks has recently released its TIME Study, based on our longitudinal research titled Exploring the Implementation of the TIME Home Learning Programme and Learning Trajectories of 5- to 7-Year-Olds.



TIME (Together in My Education) Programme is designed for parents, caregivers, and tutors of children in Grade R and Grade 1. It includes a series of carefully developed, CAPS-aligned activities that can be used both at home and in after-school programmes to strengthen children's language and mathematics foundations.

These can also be access on the Wordworks website:

<https://www.wordworks.org.za/TIME/>



### SILENT READING SESSIONS

*Join us for an hour of silent reading, followed by discussion and socialising with fellow readers.*

16 November EB Pavilion 14:00 - 17:00

23 November EB Rosebank Mall 14:00 - 17:00

7 December EB V&A Waterfront 14:00 - 17:00

RSVP on our website at [exclusivebooks.co.za/pages/events](http://exclusivebooks.co.za/pages/events)



## Siyafunda Sonke SA

Siyafunda Sonke cordially invites all the book lovers, and readers in Durban, Joburg and Cape Town to gather at the above Exclusive Books for the Siyafunda Sonke Silent Reading Sessions.

Please bring your own book; snacks and wine will be served. Go read, network and mingle!

# IN AND AROUND THE LITERACY WORD!

## The 14 PALFA Conference

The 14th PALFA Conference is now accepting abstract submissions for its upcoming event in October 2025 in Nigeria. This global gathering will focus on the critical role of literacy in Africa, with an emphasis on innovative educational approaches, emerging technologies, and social inclusion. Researchers, educators, and policy makers are invited to contribute their work on a wide range of topics that address literacy challenges and opportunities in the African context. Click on the [14TH PALFA CONFERENCE LINK](#) to see more about the conference!



## EdShed

Use EdShed Phonics and Spelling for FREE for the rest of the year (until 31.12.24).

It's the perfect chance to see how our CAPS-aligned, evidence-based programme can improve results at your school. You can also plan ahead for next year by getting a quote. Simply sign up at [www.edshed.co.za](http://www.edshed.co.za) or book a demo call.





## UPDATE ON THE 19TH ANNUAL LITASA CONFERENCE PHOTOS

We wanted to take a moment to acknowledge your patience as we work on bringing you the amazing moments captured at the 19th Annual LITASA Conference. We know you've been eagerly waiting to relive those special memories, and we sincerely apologize for the delay in sharing the photos.

We promise it will be worth the wait, so please keep an eye on our social media platforms and website—the pictures will be posted soon!

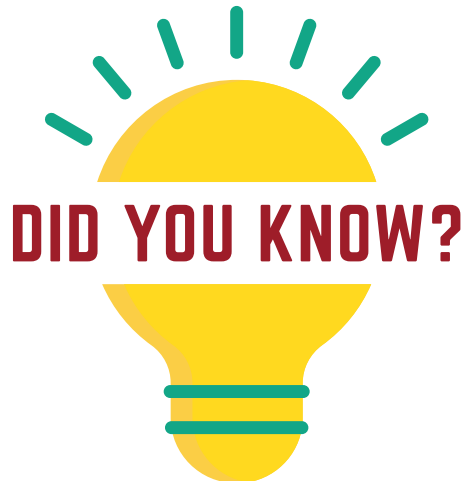
A huge thank you goes out to Jessica Blom and Songeziwe Nelisa Xuba and the Lit Legends, who assisted our Communications Coordinator in beautifully capturing moments of the conference. We truly appreciate their dedication and hard work in making sure these moments were documented.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support!

LITASA is here to help spread the word about your events, initiatives, and news! If you or your organization have something you'd like to share with the community, simply email [hello@litasa.org.za](mailto:hello@litasa.org.za) with all the details, and we'll help amplify your message.

You can also stay connected and receive updates by joining our **WhatsApp Broadcast**. Just send a message to +27 63 621 8271 to get added.

Let's work together to create more awareness and drive impact!



# CHECK US OUT!



**LiteracyAssocSA**



**literacyassocsa**



**LiteracyAssocSA**



**063 621 8271**



**info@litasa.org.za**



**www.litasa.org.za**