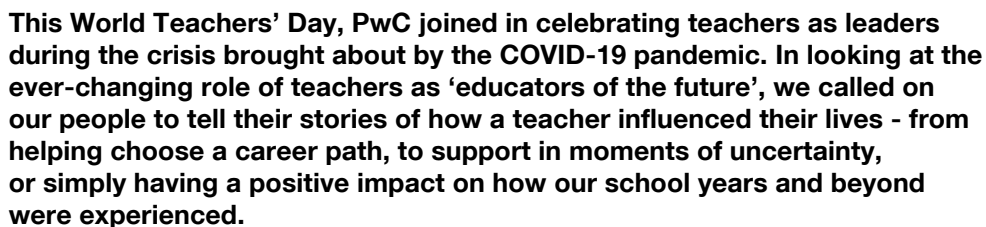




Celebrating the role of teachers

World Teachers' Day

5 October 2020



These are their stories.

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“A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others.” Mustafa Kemal

These words were very true for a special teacher of mine in primary school who taught me the value of always doing more for others than one does for oneself. That there is no better fulfilment than helping others grow and develop.

Roshan Ramdhany
Everest Primary School

“

I was always a very shy kid, and did not like to speak in front of audiences. That was until my high school English teacher taught me that the most powerful tool in life is your voice, and that we should never hide what we are feeling, or what we care about from the rest of the world.

Paul Troskie
Gill College



““

My accounting teacher was known to set challenging tests. Her famous response was, “I can’t test you on what you have seen, I need to force you to grow and let you realise you know the answer”. Only realising the true value years later!

Linell de Beer
Hoërskool Garsfontein

““

In grade 10 I scored 75% in a science test. When handing my paper back to me the teacher looked at me and said she knows I have the potential of getting 80% in matric and that she expects nothing less. It was something small, but stuck with me. I did achieve a distinction in science in matric and to this day believe that it was because the teacher believed in me.

Lourens Klopper
Eldoraigne

““

Mrs Meyer was not only a maths teacher, but also someone with life experience that she would share. At a stage in our high school lives when we were still growing and trying to understand what the world meant to us, Mrs Meyer gave us perspective. She essentially helped us apply what I now know to be the “80-20 rule” to life in general. What an over-and-above teacher.

Mikhail Narsai
Kloof High

““

Not one of my own teachers, but the teachers as a collective at Laerskool Lynnwood took the challenge of the lockdown and delivered high quality learning materials via video and went the extra mile in making sure all children are keeping up.

Petra Vermeulen
Laerskool Lynnwood



“

I was the Afrikaans outsider in an English school, with a fear of English writing. By high school I could speak it well but never received high marks for my essays – until I met an old lady with a white and yellow daisy clip in her hair. Mrs Anne Peltason transformed me. My confidence grew from applying her constructive feedback and watching as my marks improved. By the end of grade 9, I believed in myself. I really believed in myself. By the end of matric, I got the highest English mark in my grade. Mrs P's passion for teaching and English was always so contagious. Our entire class looked forward to reading Shakespeare with her, because it was never boring. There was always a story to be told, an experience to point out and a sparkle in her eye. She would casually share pearls of wisdom. I've never met someone as able to captivate an audience in such a matter of fact manner while imparting knowledge to them that would stick. I made a promise to her that I'd write a book before I'm 30 – I hope a Masters' dissertation counts ...

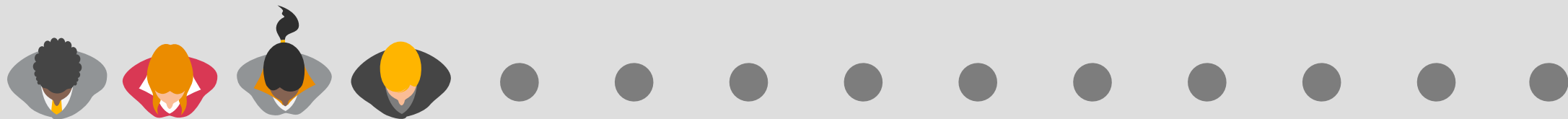
Anneke Fellows (nee Nell)
Riebeek College Girls' High School

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At high school level I struggled with maths. I knew I needed a certain percentage to get into the Bcom Acc degree. My maths teacher, Ms Scholtz, set time aside daily to mark additional work that I have done the previous afternoon. Furthermore, she also sat with me to ensure I understood what I did wrong. She helped me to keep on believing in myself and to keep on trying. She has played a massive role in me getting to where I am today. I will always be thankful and never forget her or her input.

Bianca Roets
Afrikaans Hoër Meisieskool Pretoria





“

My high school teacher used to make us love going to school, to the extent that even when I was sick, I would wake up and go to school. He taught us Agricultural Science in Grade 11 and Grade 12, and that made me fall in love with farming. I have a small patch of farm at the village, and every time I'm there I put my skills into practice. He incorporated humour into his classes and he was just amazing. His jokes and singing in between classes made it easy for us to want to attend his classes.

Tondani Luvhengo

Thengwe Secondary School

“

Mrs Steyn was my grade 3 teacher. I used to love creative writing. I wanted to be an author when I grew up. Mrs Steyn said she knew I would be and would love to receive a signed copy of my first book. That confidence in my ability still rings in my memory today. I hope I will prove her right and publish a book in my lifetime!

Elizabeth Ross

Thomas More College

“

When I was in grade 1, I believe I was 6 years old, I had a teacher who believed in me and told me to attend chess lessons she was involved in. I never looked back after starting; the game has helped me personally and professionally. I ended up being vice captain in high school and won numerous competitions. Now I am training daily for international grandmaster status.

Andile Makaring

Montclair Junior School





“

I had three wonderful female teachers who inspired me and led me to enjoy geography (in Eshowe and Durban) and mathematics (in Durban). My interest in geography gave me the ability to read and understand maps to the point where my go-to tool was a map that I used to learn to navigate the big city of Johannesburg after moving there. My maths teacher was so strict but explained concepts so well that I chose to go for extra maths lessons in high school to improve my grade. In addition and during my second degree, I had the confidence to select advanced mathematical economics as an elective because I had developed a ‘can-do’ attitude towards learning this subject. It was never an easy road but I will forever be grateful that their passions enabled me to be open to life-long learning.

Corinne Lalla

Eshowe High School and Northlands Girls High School

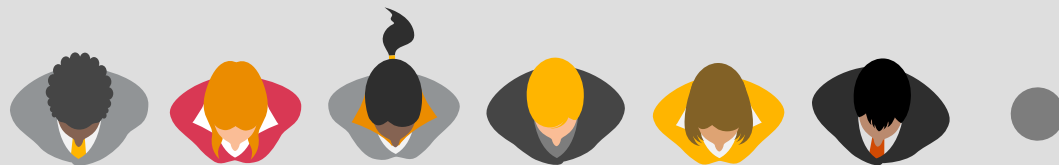
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It is 1993, my matric year. I am walking towards my mom’s work in Margate, and this lady approaches me and says “ Hello Laura, so nice to see you again!” I look at her, recognising her, but cannot place from where. She was my nursery school teacher, Mrs Jansen, all the way back in 1978. She recognised me, we chatted and it was amazing! This made me think; we cross paths with so many people and sometimes that connection lasts a lifetime. She was an amazing lady, and made me believe that anything and everything is possible, if you only dare to dream and believe in yourself! Abba says “I have a dream!” Keep on dreaming and believing, – there are people out there who will always believe in you!

Laura van Gass

Hansie and Grietjie Nursery School





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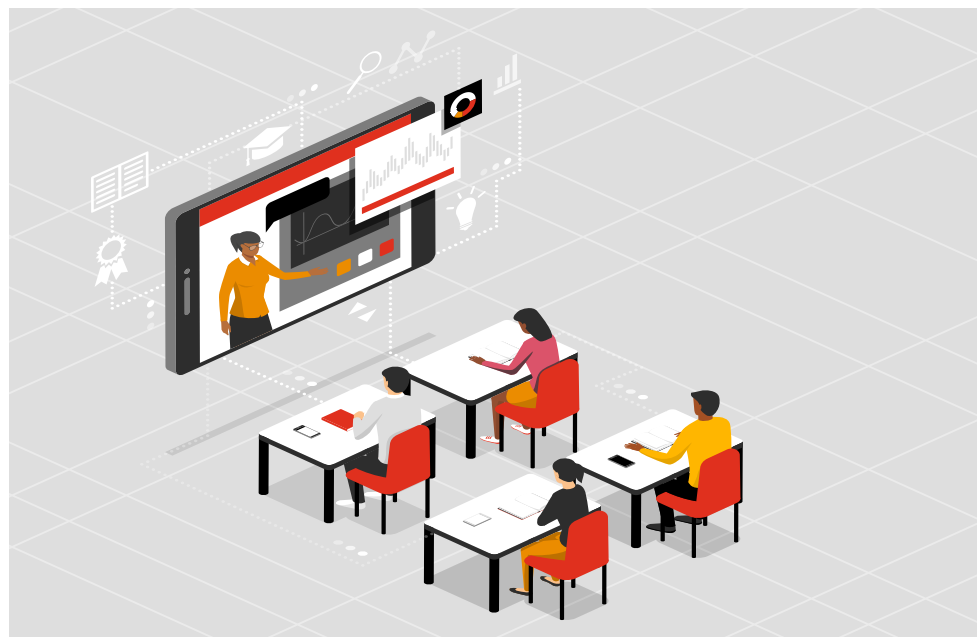
Mam Wilma Marais was a crucial part of my high school career. She was my hockey coach but also a very close friend with whom I shared a lot. We still keep in touch after all these years. She always motivated us to do better and inspired us to reach for our dreams and to work hard for what we wanted in life. She would always take us for ice-cream after hockey practice and she even helped me with getting a dress for my matric farewell. She is an incredible person with the biggest heart and I will never forget what she did for me and all the good times we had together. Her influence in my life has contributed to the strong and proud woman I am today. She is a remarkable teacher and lights up the room wherever she goes. Thank you for making a positive impact in my life Mam Wilma Marais!

Chanel Haupt
High School Monument

“

Mr Landman, the principal of Mahikeng High School, taught me the essence of ethical living. His famous quote was, “Integrity is what you do when no one is looking”. Because of him, integrity has become my biggest value; I always strive to do the right thing regardless of who is watching.

Tsholo Sebolao
Mahikeng High School





“

Lusanda was an amazing lecturer during my time at UJ. She really put so much effort into making lessons fun, engaging and easy to understand. She is so supportive and you never feel like you are in the room with an authoritarian but a true companion. By no means a pushover, this educator is great at what she does and she does it well. I cannot imagine getting through my masters' year without her support and memorable laugh. I keep in touch to this day and she always has my back! I wish her all the love and success in the world in any of her endeavours.

Khongi Bila

University of Johannesburg

“

Mrs Humphreys was my grade 7 English teacher, who gave me such an appreciation for reading and writing, that I now share with my kids. My daughter now attends McAuley and Mrs H and her team, besides being in class every day, work at night. They work on the weekend, they manage virtual and face-to-face lessons. They teach with compassion and care through this very scary time. They give so much of themselves, physically, emotionally and monetarily to their classrooms and they deserve as much appreciation as we can give them.

Giselle Kolkoto

McAuley House





“

Our Afrikaans teacher, Mr. Jannie Fourie, always had a joke in class ... always! My favourite one was when the clouds were packed and the classroom was dark, he would ask us all to put up our hands, and then he would switch the light on whilst saying, “Many hands make light(s) work” (direct translation from “vele hande maak ligte werk”). Until today I appreciate humour in a working environment and I have a great respect and admiration for team work! Thanks Mr. Fourie!

Ella Wilke
Vryheid High School





“

Mrs Enslin was my Afrikaans teacher. As a born and bred English home-language kid, I dreaded Afrikaans class – until Mrs Enslin started reading us Afrikaans short stories. Her passion was amazing – she’d probably read these stories for years, but she still made us feel their strength, as if she was as impacted by them each time as the first. I still remember Benidicta, and the soldier greeting his wife at the station, a red blanket saved from a fire – Mrs Enslin made them real for us. I’m still not an Afrikaans poet, but I’m passionate about the language, more so than I would have believed as a kid. Mrs Enslin did that for me.

Keri Wilson
Hoërskool Bergvlam



“

I grew up in a very poor, but loving family without a father. My parents were divorced and in those years divorce was still a huge scandal and the kids used to bully us. Mr Jonker most probably saw what this did to me and one day he asked me to take part in our debating competition and act out one of AG Visser’s poems. The debating competition was an event in our school and everybody usually attended it. I did not want to, because the competition was not according to age as it was a small school. I was in grade 8 at the time. Mr Jonker said that he would be by my side and take me through all of it, but that he believed in me. I won that competition and I rocked that poem that I had to act out and Mr Jonker inspired me to believe in myself. Everyone in school treated me with more respect after that and I went on to become the head girl and dux pupil for my school. Mr Jonker became my mentor and I am forever grateful for what he taught me. The most important thing he taught me was how to become a good person. I sometimes fail in this, but most of the time I am a good person and I think that is the most important thing in life. Mr Jonker changed my life forever and I thank him.

Tina Brokensha
Uniondale High School



“

When I was in the 4th year of my degree, I had a professor named Joaquim Nhaule who taught Tax Auditing. He always said that we should challenge ourselves and be people with comprehensive know-how because an auditor is a person with several specialties and that we should treat tax models “like you” (with flair). This motivated me to challenge my skills and improve my knowledge not only in terms of tax but in several other areas.

Amalda Sozinho

Instituto Superior de Contabilidade e Auditoria de Moçambique

“

My mathematics teacher was an absolute gem. She took a genuine interest in the wellbeing of her students. Not only did she ensure that we fully grasped the school syllabus, but with love she continuously challenged us to take our knowledge and skill a step further. Through failure, she was there for you. And when you succeeded, she celebrated with you. Her passion for the subject rubbed off on those she taught, and in her classroom my lifelong love for mathematics blossomed.

Lauren Arthur

Stirling High School

“

I loved English and was passionate about writing and reading as a hobby. Mrs Vos selected me to form part of the school newsletter team (four people) in terms of writing articles and releasing the newsletter. She not only recognised my passion but helped me develop it and to this day, I am grateful for the impact she had on me.

Mariangela Venturi

St Teresa's School





“

My sister is a grade 7 teacher. She has helped so many children through their growing years. Grade 7 for me, was the year I started finding myself as a child and all my teachers played a part in that. My sister is giving that back to the children she moulds daily. There are children in her class who come from difficult home environments and backgrounds and it's amazing to see how she comforts them and helps them be better individuals so that they too can start finding themselves. I am very proud of the positive impact she's had on her students and my teachers have had on me.

Mayshree Moodley
Ashley Primary School

“

My teacher played a very important role in my life, because she was like a mother at school. She built a warm environment for me, and she mentored me. She taught me a lot of stuff that brought me where I am today. I told her my dream and she supported me all the way. She would say to me failure is not a downfall, but a way to push yourself to strive higher and a lesson learned. If it wasn't for her, I would not be here today working in such an amazing company.

Ellen Moeng
Dr WF Nkomo





“

I attended a public school in a rural area during my primary days. When I went to high school it was a huge jump for me and as such I struggled with confidence speaking in the classroom, as the other kids sounded very fluent in English, which was the medium of instruction. However, the English teacher, Mr Rhodes Muyunda, was a very patient person, with confidence, integrity as well as a passion for teaching. He taught us the very basics, focused on our weaknesses, and encouraged us to share stories in class by telling stories in order to improve our confidence. The lesson here is that the teacher ensured that he exhibited the right behaviour and confidence, and as such his learners were willing to go the extra mile. Thank you Rhodes Muyunda!

Elizabeth Wilhelm
Otjikoto Senior Secondary School

“

Mrs Wepenaar (science teacher) made chemistry and physics fun, interesting and easy to understand. Her lessons were always captivating and she had great sense of humour. I still remember my equations of motion, many chemical elements' symbols on the periodic table and various other scientific concepts that I would otherwise have forgotten. Mrs Moodley (accounting teacher) was a dedicated, committed and an excellent teacher. She contributed to my journey to becoming an accountant. I can still recall how she use to calculate everything by hand and not using a calculator.

UJ Metropolitan Academy





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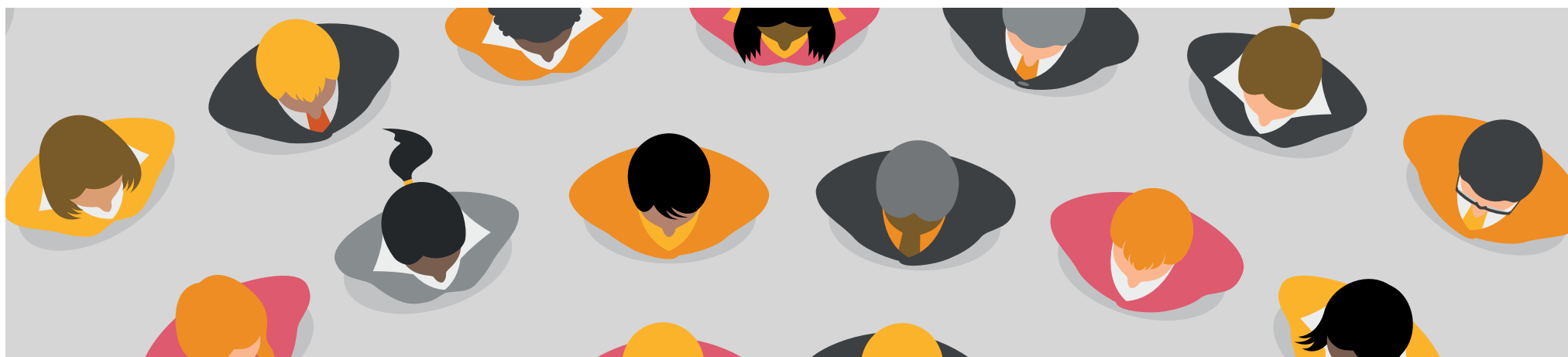
The teachers who made a difference for me during high school: Mrs Westerberg (Principal and Afrikaans teacher), Mrs Moodley (accounting teacher) and Mr Sutton (accounting teacher). Mrs Westerberg was an amazing principal who displayed strong leadership yet was still a compassionate. She set the tone for success in the school. Mrs Moodley taught me accounting and had a dry sense of humor that made classes really fun. Mr Sutton was a really kind teacher and always believed that I could achieve the results I wanted to.

Ayesha Gathoo
UJ Metropolitan Academy

“

Mrs Maheshwari Lall had a really great impact on me during high school and is one of the reasons I chose the CA(SA) career path. Her tough teaching techniques prepared us well for finals. She mentored me and always made sure she took me along to career fairs such as GIBBs Business to better my knowledge about the CA stream and the working environment. Thank you Mrs Lall for always believing in me when I didn't! Lots of love.

Nkosazana Nhlapo
Rand Park High School



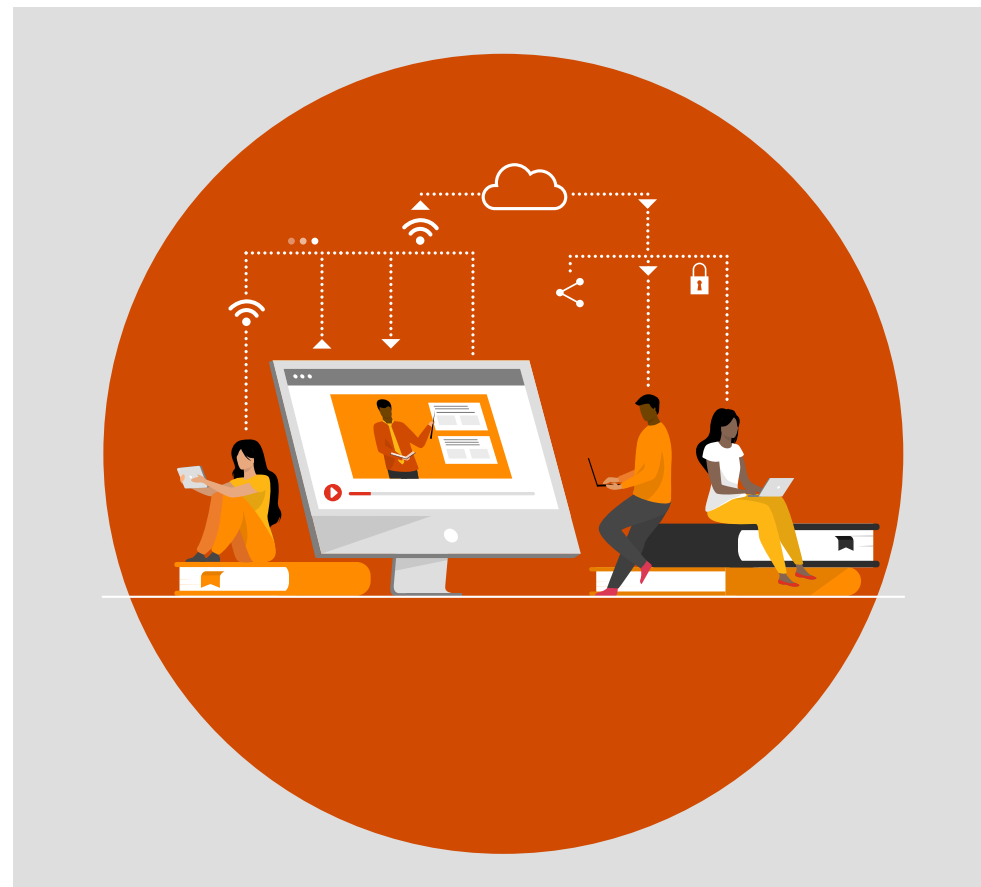


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I had a teacher, Mr Liefbroer, who taught accounting. I was an average student and just could not muster much love for accounting. He, however, was extremely passionate about it and went out of his way to make it interesting for the learners. In grade 9, when we had to choose subjects I did not pick accounting and he was very disappointed as he kept on saying he knew I had the ability to do well and that I should reconsider my subjects. He was very convincing and I carried on with accounting, learning to love it the way he did and walked away with a distinction in matric. At the time I never thought I would one day end up working later in life as a marketer at an accounting firm! Mr Liefbroer taught me to persevere and to give everything in life a chance, you never know what could happen.

Sonja Nel

Hoërskool Verwoerdburg (now Hoërskool Centurion)





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