

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Enquiries:** EM Van Wyk/KP Smith  
**Contact No:** 053 839 6587  
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**TO: CHIEF DIRECTOR: DISTRICT OPERATIONS  
CHIEF DIRECTORS  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
DISTRICT CURRICULUM HEADS  
DISTRICT CURRICULUM CO-ORDINATORS  
PROVINCIAL MATHS AND SCIENCE CO-ORDINATORS  
CIRCUIT MANAGERS  
MATHS AND SCIENCE SUBJECT ADVISORS  
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

**CIRCULAR NO: 49 / 2024**

**SUBJECT: MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS**

In order to increase learner participation and performance in Mathematics and Science, the Northern Cape Department of Education encourages schools to take part in the following Mathematics and Science competitions and events:

### **Maths Days 2024**

The Northern Cape Department of Education will be celebrating a Maths Fun week from the 13-17 March 2024 under the theme: **"Playing with Math"**

The dates coincide with the International Day of Mathematics which will be held on the 14 March 2024. This is one of the world's largest global educational events aiming at lifting numeracy standards in a fun and meaningful way.

In order for this to be a success, schools must develop innovative ways to celebrate the day. Learners will be encouraged to be involved in activities that will help them master key Maths skills, from easy hands on Maths activities, to more advanced games and puzzles.

Schools are encouraged to celebrate these days by engaging in a range of activities.



The following activities are encouraged:

- Pursue a career in Mathematics
- Partner with college or university
- Find a Mathematician in your area
- Host a contest
- Collaborate with other schools
- Chess Competition
- Maths Quiz
- Maths puzzle
- Maths talks

### **Mathematics and Science Clubs**

Mathematics and Science Clubs are an opportunity for learners to learn and enrich their Mathematical and Science experiences in a fun way. These clubs will address the needs of individual learners and plant the seeds for a confident Mathematical and Science future.

Clubs can focus on:

- Maths and Science recovery
- Extending and challenging beyond potential
- Individualized attention
- Enjoying Maths and Science activities in a fun way

The Northern Cape Department of Education encourages schools to establish Mathematics and Science Clubs. A registration form will be sent to schools. To date 40 Maths and 54 Science clubs have been established in schools around the province.

### **Maths Challenge**

The Maths challenge is aimed at Grade 4-7 learners. The aims of the Maths Challenge is:

- To generate an interest in Mathematics,
- To promote a broader perspective on the nature of Mathematical activity,
- To promote problem solving in Mathematics education;
- To promote the perspective that the calculator is a useful and necessary tool in Mathematical activity (the calculator cannot solve problems for learners);
- To emphasise the importance of reading in Mathematical activity;
- To provide a diagnostic tool to enable teachers to identify learners' misconceptions;
- To develop and disseminate materials that may contribute to meaningful Mathematics

Dates for the Maths Challenge **2024**

**First Round: 11-14 March**

**Second Round: 22 May**

**Final Round: 12 September**



## Maths Olympiad

The Maths Olympiad is aimed at Grade 8-12. The aim of the Maths Olympiad is:

- To advance learners Mathematical competencies
- Expose learners to problems that will test and improve their thinking, discovering and validation of problem skills

Dates for the Maths Olympiad 2024

**First Round: 14 March**  
**Second Round: 09 May**  
**Third Round: 25 July**

## National Science Olympiad

The National Science Olympiad is an annual competition conducted by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) in partnership with the Northern Cape Department of Education which targets Grade 10-12 learners.

The aim of the National Science Olympiad is to identify and nurture evident and latent talent in Sciences as well as encourage excellence in Science education, while also stimulating interest. It seeks to inspire the youth to consider careers in Science and Technology to address the inadequate renewal of Science Engineering and Technology human capital in South Africa.

Dates for 2024:

- **Life Science – Tuesday, 23 July 2024**
- **Physical Science – Thursday, 25 July 2024**

## Natural Science Olympiad

The Natural Science Olympiad is an annual competition conducted by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) in partnership with the Northern Cape Department of Education.

The aim of the Natural Science Olympiad is to identify and nurture talent in Natural Sciences and to increase the participation of learners who offer this subject. It also acts as a feeder for SAASTA's National Science Olympiad for Grades 10 - 12.

The advantages of the competition include the following:

- To promote Science amongst young learners.
- To produce confident learners in Science.
- To create opportunities for learners to interact with others.

The Natural Science targets **Grade 4-9** learners and will be written on the **23 July 2024**.



## **Astro Quiz**

The Astro Quiz competition aims to improve teaching and learning of basic astronomy in Grade 7 learners.

### **The objectives of the project are the following:**

1. To contribute to the improvement of awareness, interest, understanding and insight into basic astronomy.
2. To build appreciation of and pride in South Africa's history of astronomical activity and achievements and current projects
3. To celebrate the participation of women in astronomy in order to foster interest in girl learners for career opportunities in astronomy.

### **Dates for 2023 are as follows:**

Round 1(School level): **9 May 2024**

Round 2(District level) **1 August 2024**

Round 3(Provincial level) **22 August 2024**

Round 4(National level) **5 September 2024**

## **Eskom Expo for Young Scientists**

The Eskom Expo for Young Scientists gives learners the opportunity to exhibit their scientific investigations and projects in Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Humanities and Technology.

The Expo projects can be planned in such a way that it forms part of School Based Assessment. Projects are required in the Grade 10 to 12 Physical Science and Life Sciences subjects. A project also forms part of the Natural Sciences and Technology subjects. Learners and teachers are encouraged to use this project for more than one form of assessment.

The Expo Teacher Training, Expo Judges Training and judging at Regional Expo are calculated as SACE points for teachers.

### **Dates for 2024 Regional Science Fairs:**

Calvinia: 19 July 2024

Aggeneys: 26 July 2024

Kalahari: 8 August 2024



Kimberley: 17 August 2024

### **National Chemistry Week 2024**

The National Chemistry Week (**NCW**) is an annual event held nationally to raise public awareness on the importance of chemistry in everyday life. It will be celebrated from the **14 to 18 October 2024** under the theme "**PICTURE PERFECT CHEMISTRY.**"

Chemistry involves the study of how different substances change colours, shape, size and their forms when reacted with another material or a set of substances. Furthermore, the application of various Branches of Chemistry across different fields has led to many discoveries and high-end innovations which has helped mankind in one or the other way.

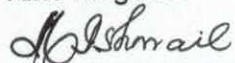
This event will be celebrated throughout schools in the Northern Cape schools. All established Science Club are expected to be part of the National Chemistry Week.

### **National Science Week 2024**

The National Science Week (**NSW**) is an annual celebration of Science, Engineering and Technology which will be celebrated from the 5-10 August 2024. This event attracts thousands of learners and members of the public to workshops, science shows and lectures, which are held at universities, schools, science centers and public facilities countrywide, led by the Department of Science and Innovation (**DSI**).

The Northern Cape Department of Education believes that participation in all these events and competitions will enhance learner performance in Mathematics and Science.

Kind Regards



**DR M. ISHMAIL**

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: CURRICULUM, EXAMINATIONS ASSESSMENT**

