

Gauteng

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Awaking education through interaction



maths time = fun time: Award-winning teacher and author of Mom's Maths Manual, Louise Wells.

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They are doing so by coming up with innovative ideas on how to take teaching to the next level in the classroom.

One of them is an award-winning teacher and author of the Mom's Maths Manual series for grades three to seven, Louise Wells.

Wells has been a maths teacher for 25 years. She has been snapped up by Maragon Private School in Johannesburg to join their maths department.

Now she is making things happen in her classroom by teaching maths to her pupils using PowerPoint presentations.

She also uses a laptop and a projector to project her images onto the white board. Wells said it had made a world of a difference and had renewed pupils' interest in maths.

She said lessons were fun and interactive. Children used markers to answer questions on a large white board she uses for their active participation in lessons.

"Today's pupils are a very visual generation and are more able to process concepts when seeing them in action. Many children are masters of high-speed electronic devices, but lack imagination, so I have endeavoured to meet them at their level.

"I have placed all my lessons covering the entire curriculum onto PowerPoint, adding many fun special effects and use colour liberally to assist pupils to focus," she said.

Wells is the mother of two daughters aged 16 and 20. She was diagnosed with dyslexia at a young age and had to attend remedial lessons for most of her schooling career.

A Grade 9 teacher, who showed a special interest in the struggling pupil ignited a fire of understanding that began Wells' love for maths.

Dyslexia is a reading disability that occurs when the brain does not properly recognise and process certain symbols.

It is caused when there is a problem in areas of the brain that help interpret language.

Wells said she was not expected to receive a matric certificate but she managed to pass maths and her proudest moments were when she received prizes for hard work and achievement as well as for sportsmanship and perseverance at her school matric prize-giving.

She trained as a teacher at the Teachers Training College in Pretoria where she qualified as a maths teacher in 1988.

Wells has used her own disability and learnt from her problems to help theirs.
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