



SAALED NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026 - ISSUE 08

INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

2027 Theme
Launch

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Reflections

Thank you

WELCOME

As we move through October, we are pleased to share another edition of the SAALED newsletter, bringing our community together through shared experiences, valuable insights and a continued commitment to supporting students with diverse educational needs.

Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive in an environment where their individual strengths are recognised and their needs are understood. Through collaboration, ongoing learning and the sharing of good practice, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in our schools and communities.

In this edition, we share updates, resources and opportunities to connect with others who are passionate about inclusive education. We hope you find something that inspires you, strengthens your practice or reminds you that the work we do is most powerful when we do it together.

Thank you for being part of the SAALED community and for the difference you make every day.

Happy reading!



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2027 THEME LAUNCH

The future is now! Artificial Intelligence and Social Media in Education.

As we look ahead to 2027, SAALED is excited to introduce our annual theme: *The future is now! Artificial Intelligence and Social Media in Education.*

Artificial Intelligence is increasingly shaping the way we teach, learn, assess and support students. It presents exciting opportunities to personalise learning, improve accessibility and equip educators with new tools to respond to diverse educational needs. At the same time, it raises important questions about ethics, equity, privacy, academic integrity and the role of human connection in education.

For students with educational differences, these conversations are particularly significant. Could AI help remove barriers to learning, strengthen individual support and create more inclusive classrooms? How do we ensure that technology enhances rather than replaces professional judgement, meaningful relationships and an understanding of each student's unique needs?

Our 2027 theme invites us to explore these questions from different angles, including the perspectives of educators, specialists, researchers and technology developers. Rather than viewing AI as either a solution to every challenge or a threat to education, we aim to encourage informed discussion, critical thinking and responsible practice.

As we continue to champion inclusive education, collaboration and lifelong learning, we recognise that the future will require us to remain curious, adaptable and thoughtful in how we embrace change. Looking towards 2027, let us explore not only what AI can do for education, but what education must do to ensure AI serves every student.



2027 SPEAKER LAUNCH

Stay ahead of the curve with our upcoming webinar series for next year, focusing on the highly pressing themes of AI and Social Media in education. The upcoming webinar series lineup features targeted sessions designed to address the common challenges and opportunities faced by schools today:

AI in the Classroom: Dina Segal (Owner at Success Cascades)

shares exclusive research on real-world AI implementation in schools, analyzing what works and what fails.

The Mechanics & Risks of Generative AI: Judith Ancer

An Educational Psychologist dives into Generative AI, breaking down its inner workings, risks, and automatic biases.

Technology Overwhelm & Learning: Anthony Egbers

Director of IT at Dainfern College shares how to tackle the rapid rise of technology, exploring why learners struggle to stay afloat and how to navigate the discomfort of learning.

The Displacement Effect: Educational Psychologist Ashley Jay

Will discuss the displacement effect created by the increased use of screens, how this affects teaching, and shares insights on digital regulation.

Rethinking Education: Jude Foulston

Director at Tomorrow Today Global challenges traditional models, exploring how to transform education to prepare children for a fundamentally different future.

Resilience vs. Instant Gratification: Sam Kaufman

Educational Psychologist tackles the culture of instant gratification, highlighting how delayed gratification builds vital skills like emotional regulation and problem-solving.

Tech & Demand Avoidance: Clinical Psychologist Juazel de Villiers

Unpacks Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA), comparing it with Demand Avoidance and providing guidance on when technology acts as a supportive tool or a negative coping mechanism.



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2027 Fee Structure

Please take note of important information.

With your continued support, SAALED can expand its resources, advocacy initiatives, and professional development programmes that empower educators, parents, and specialists to make meaningful contributions to learner success.

SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP

- R2 600 per school p.a
- ✓ Up to six teachers
 - ✓ Member rates
 - ✓ Networking
 - ✓ Resource access
 - ✓ Professional development

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- R360 per person p.a
- ✓ Discounted webinars
 - ✓ Networking
 - ✓ Resource access
 - ✓ Professional development

RENEW TODAY

Secure your 2027 membership and stay connected to South Africa's community of inclusive-education specialists.

Contact SAALED to renew: memberships@saaled.org.za

WEBINAR FEES

Member Rate
R250.00 per webinar

Non-Member Rate
R350.00 per webinar

Contact SAALED to book your webinar attendance: events@saaled.org.za



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Reflection on past Webinar

Structured Literacy in the Foundation Phase Classroom

SAALED hosted an insightful and engaging webinar on Structured Literacy in the Foundation Phase Classroom on 16 October 2026, featuring Gillian Forbes and Ruan Fourie.

Both speakers demonstrated an impressive depth of knowledge and a genuine passion for structured literacy, bringing the Science of Reading to life through practical examples and classroom-based strategies.

The session explored how research can inform everyday teaching, with a particular focus on helping students develop the skills they need to decode words accurately and make meaning from what they read. Participants were given a wealth of practical, useful information to support literacy instruction, strengthen reading foundations and make evidence-informed teaching approaches more accessible in the classroom.

The webinar was very well received, with its clear links between research and practice offering valuable takeaways for educators working in the Foundation Phase. A heartfelt thank you to Gillian and Ruan for sharing their expertise so generously and for equipping educators with practical strategies to support students on their reading journey.

At SAALED, we remain committed to sharing knowledge, strengthening professional practice and empowering educators to meet the diverse learning needs of every student.

Missed the Webinar?

Here is some good news for SAALED members and education leaders: if you missed any of our 2026 webinars, recordings are available for purchase at the same price as the live webinar. Reach out to events@saaled.org.za if you wish to purchase a recording.

- ✓ Available on demand
- ✓ Member pricing



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Thank you to Pearl and Nikki

We extend our sincere thanks to Pearl Sangoni and Nikki Potgieter for their contributions to SAALED during their time on the Board. Nikki supported us as a secretary, while Pearl contributed to our Outreach Initiatives. We are grateful for their time, skills and energy that they shared with SAALED and wish them both every success and happiness in their future endeavours.

With heartfelt thanks and best wishes from the SAALED family.

**Pearl
Sangoni**



**Nikki
Potgieter**



As we look ahead to 2027, we are thrilled to announce SAALED's new theme and line-up of speakers. I'm sure you are familiar with many of the names! Our 2027 webinar series promises to bring fresh ideas, valuable insights and practical strategies to support inclusive education and empower the educators who make a difference every day. Be sure to look out for our final newsletter of the year where we will share the webinar topics and dates. Save the dates in your diary and join us for another year of learning, sharing and growing together.

Looking ahead with SAALED!

Shirley Gray
CHAIRPERSON