



This month's blog...

In the second blog in our series, Sylvia Hannan addresses the question "[Are your children safe at school?](#)", through exploring the issue of school safety in South Africa, with a focus on the prevalence of bullying.

It's happening in August: TIMSS 2015!

Data collection for TIMSS at the Grade 9 level is being undertaken in August 2015 in approximately 300 schools around the country. Learners will be writing tests in Mathematics and Science to test their knowledge and understanding of these subjects, as well as background questionnaires relating to their home and school experiences. Subject teachers will also be completing questionnaires related to their knowledge of the subjects and their learners, while school principals will provide insight into their school environments. Learn more about the data collection and quality assurance [here](#).

Need fast facts on previous rounds of TIMSS in SA?

The TIMSS Fast Facts provide a summary of key findings from the four TIMSS SA studies which took place in 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2011. Find the Fast Facts for the latest round of TIMSS in 2011 [here](#).

How do we address school safety?

The issue of safety in schools has come under renewed scrutiny, and concerns about the lack of safety in South African schools are far reaching. Existing safety concerns include bullying and sexual harassment; and new threats, such as cyber bullying are growing rapidly. The upcoming policy brief addresses the issue of school safety in South Africa, as children need to feel safe in order to achieve to their full potential.

Coming soon!

SAARMSTE North West Chapter 2015 Seminar

The Southern African Association for Research in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education (SAARMSTE) will be holding a seminar from the 5-6 October 2015 at the North West University, Mafikeng Campus. This is the major event for researchers and scholars across the North West Province. The theme of this seminar is "Beyond Benchmarks: Improving performance in Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Technology and Economic Management Sciences in Grades 8 & 9".