

Stinki-Buster Family Bursts Onto Environmental Scene

They're here to stay and fight every practice that is detrimental to water and people's health!

The Stinki-buster family first appeared on a colourful poster in Mogale City (Krugersdorp) during National Water Week in March this year. The concept is that Blinki represents all that is good and clean, especially as far as water and health are concerned, and Stinki stands for dirty, contaminated water and an unhealthy environment. The family, developed for Rand Water was created to eliminate all the Stinkis in the community.

THEATRE

Along with the poster came a theatre group from Ivory Park. They illustrated the bad environmental practices that are encountered in communities, while educating the spectators as to how to ensure good practices. The two main characters, Stinki – the embodiment of all that is bad and Blinki, the water-wise, paying for services, protagonist, treat the spectators to digestible solutions to environmental nightmares! But, the whole Stinki-buster family is involved in the daily running of community life with its hazards and challenges, doing the right thing! They apply all the water-wise principles endorsed by Rand Water's Water-wise campaign with the grandfather as the Solomon (wise man) of the environment. Together, the family is 'busting' all the Stinkis in the community.

SNAKES AND LADDERS

And then came the game! The traditional 'Snakes and Ladders' was used as model. This board game using the Stinki-buster characters works as follows: *If you do the right and positive things regarding water you will climb the ladders of success, but if*

COLOURING BOOK

The Stinki-buster family did not forget our little people. For the purpose of getting the water messages to the pre-schoolers and lower grades, a beautiful bright colouring book was created. It depicts Stinki and Blinki and the rest of the family doing their daily chores. This book aims

to assist learn-

ers to better understand good and bad practices for water use. With the assistance of a teacher/ adult person these concepts can be conveyed to the little ones while they are busy with a creative action,

also acquiring "water-wise" life skills.

you succumb to wasting water or other negative behaviour such as pollution, wasting water, you will be swallowed by the nasty snakes! Says Willie Potgieter of Water Resources Planning (WRP), this game is a very effective educational tool that can be used in many learning areas of outcomes-based education in a classroom environment. While playing, learners can pick up the important life skills that can lead to sustainable living. Through this game, our precious water resources are getting the exposure needed to ultimately ensure water-wise living.

The use of these materials in a project run by Rand Water in Sedibeng has been very successful in so far as it is really changing people's lives for the better! Learners are prepared to associate with the friendly Blinki (and the Stinki-buster family), rather than to team up with the destructive Stinki and its crew.

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