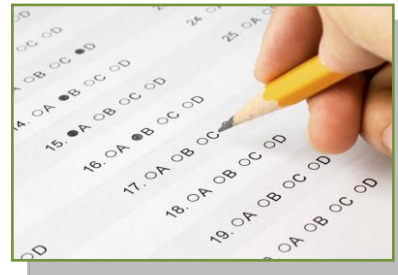


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## NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2011

Hi All,

Another month gone and it's the time of the year when all grade 9 learners have to make their final subject choice for matric. Also, grade 11 learners should be seriously considering their career path when they matriculate at the end of 2012. It's amazing how often learners wake up in their matric year and all of a sudden begin wondering what they're going to do with themselves when they leave school. That is why it's important for learners to have made this decision by the end of their grade 11 year in order to place all their energy into their matric studies.



### SUBJECT CHOICE

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Parents often make the mistake of feeling that they know what the best subject choice is for their learner. Often, because the learner has never had to make an important decision for themselves, they are indecisive and unsure what the best subject combination might be. Many parents may feel that Art is not a worthwhile subject and try and influence their learner not to take the subject. That learner may be extremely talented and love art but is then persuaded to take another subject that he dislikes. Also, if a child is failing mathematics, it is pointless even considering science as a subject as any career where science is a requirement will also have mathematics as one of the required subjects for that career as well. Maths, Science and Biology may open doors for virtually all degrees but if the learner is not achieving the required marks and doesn't enjoy the subject, the chances are that he is not going to perform to his best abilities. There is also the chance that they will not be accepted into the tertiary institution that he may want to attend. Choosing a career is all about passion and interests and if a learner doesn't have the interest or passion for a career that you may feel is best suited to him, this will not work him. In order to facilitate making this very important life decision it may be advantageous to have the child assessed, especially with regards to his interests. I have been involved with subject choice assessments for many years now and the psychometric assessment tool that I administer gives an excellent profile as to what subjects are best suited for the learner. The test is computer based and can be done on a computer at home provided you're connected to the internet. If you're interested please contact me and I can help you, help your learner make the best choice of subjects for him. E-mail me or call me at any of the contact details given at the top of the page.

## CAREER CHOICE

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The two most important decisions we make in our lives is who we choose as a life partner and what career path to take. Virtually no guidance on these huge decisions is given at school. The average learner could more than likely, not be able to list more than five or six careers when asked. It is doubtful that they have any knowledge regarding the qualities and interest and passion needed to follow a specific career. Unfortunately, career assessments have a bad name. All that seems to happen is that a number of tests are done and then a list of careers is pulled out of the mix and the learner is then expected to choose one. Often parents have done most of the investigating regarding the academic and other requirements needed to qualify for a job. I have heard so many parents say to me that they know the job that would best suit their child. Many parents also try and guide their offspring into a career that they're sorry they never followed. They want to fulfil their dreams through their child.



An effective career assessment needs to take into consideration a number of aspects. Does the learner have passion? Are they confident? Can they cooperate with others? Do they work well with people or do they prefer to work on their own? Etcetera. I've just assessed a young lady in her 20's that had chosen a career to satisfy her parents. She followed a course in beauty therapy and passed well only to find that this was not what she wanted to do. Her personality profile showed her to be an outgoing, gregarious but unassertive individual. Her interests showed that she wanted to work with plants and animals. She had been too afraid to tell her parents because she felt that they would not have been happy with this career choice. After consultation with her and her dad, she is now free to explore a career that suits her interests. Another problem at school was that she was advised to drop maths and in this case, this decision has had a huge impact on her being able to choose a career that she would be passionate about. It has limited her choice to follow a career path that may include working with animals.

The career assessment that I administer consists of a battery of psychometric tests, the results of which give an in-depth and rounded picture of the testee. As many young matriculants do not have a clue as to what they want to do when they leave school, the feedback given to them is intended to help them plot a career path and guide them in coming to an informed decision as to what road is best suited for them. This takes into account their personality, interests, and values. Parents are included in the feedback session and are encouraged to allow their child to explore for himself all his options.

Please contact me at any of the above numbers if you're interested or have any queries in this regard.

## KENSWAY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM (KES)

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Pre-primary schools have an ongoing problem with their learners who find difficulty in coping on various levels. This includes concentration difficulties, behaviour problems and other developmental problems. It seems that the only advice that teachers are able to give to parents is to have the child assessed. There is no definitive parenting manual

available where parents can be given constructive advice on how to parent their children more effectively.

'Parenting 911' is a highly effective parenting programme developed and conceived by Ken Resnick where not only are parents shown how to parent their children more effectively, but teachers are also given tools in helping them work together with parents. Teachers are then able to give the parents constructive, consistent and practical advice as to the possible causes of the child's difficulties. The programme for teachers has been recently introduced with 3 pre-primary schools adopting the Kensway approach with excellent outcomes being experienced in the behaviour of their problematic learners.



So effective has the programme been that it has been decided to offer all pre-primary schools training for their teachers as an initial step before introducing Kensway to the parents.

If there are any principals or teachers reading this newsletter, and who are interested in finding out more about the teacher training programme, please contact me at 082 449 0335 or e-mail [ken@kensway.co.za](mailto:ken@kensway.co.za). Kensway is also on Face book and needs friends!

## Parenting 911 update

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Principals and teachers were invited to a cheese and wine get together on the 27<sup>th</sup> July.



The purpose was to launch Parenting 911 workshops for teachers. The Guest speaker was Professor Kim Ncube-Hein who had done the **Parenting 911** workshop and was applying the principles in her lecture room with quite significant results. She related as to how before attending the workshop she had spent up to R350000 on various assessments, therapies and medication on her two children. Since implementing the structures given to her on the workshop, all medication has ceased, the children are performing well at school and there has been a drastic improvement in their behaviour. Those in attendance were quite spellbound by her story and if any readers are interested in contacting Professor Ncube-Hein, you're welcome to contact me and I'll give you her contact details.

Events and workshops will be appearing on a Google calendar linked to my website. If you have any queries or questions regarding parenting issues, please feel free to contact me.

## GOING GLOBAL

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This month we introduce you to Beverley Butcher the newest associate of Kensway. Beverley and her husband Shaun attended the Parenting911 workshop at Snuggles, the preschool of their two youngest children Mitchell aged five and Kristen aged four. The simple structure of the Programme enabled Beverley to put it into place and she was absolutely delighted when she saw the benefits for her family immediately.



Beverley has an eclectic background and has been based in the Information Technology industry for the last 13 years. Here she has facilitated and trained adult computer users, was involved in the information business intelligence and of late been the Programme Manager is a large Project office of the leading ICT Company.

Beverley is on her way with her family to relocate to Melbourne, Australia. Ken has been giving Beverley intense training on Parenting 911 programme, where she has been gaining much understanding to all the various audiences and insights as provided by the vast multi-cultural audience Parenting 911 affects.

Ken and Beverley have embarked on the road map to inform the world of Parenting 911. In collaboration with Liesl Lodewyk, this team has been responsible for the recent launch of Kensway on Facebook and Twitter. Beverley has also been assisting Ken with the look and feel of the newsletters, and will continue assisting with the marketing going forward.

Ultimately Beverley intends to roll out Parenting911 in Melbourne to the local Pre Schools, Schools, Parents and Teachers alike. We wish her all the best with her endeavour there and salute her for spreading the wonderful programme worldwide.

## MID-MONTH NEWSLETTER

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A mid-month edition of my newsletter will be introduced starting mid-August where common issues that confront most parents will be discussed and suggestions given on how to resolve these problems. In my first mid-month newsletter I'll be discussing the problem of cell phones and different option available to parents in controlling these ever-present menaces.

Spring is just around the corner, 'til next time, enjoy your parenting.

Ken

