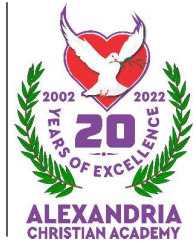




# Alexandria Christian Academy

## School Newsletter Winter 2022



John 8:36 Who the Son sets free, is free indeed

### Fun with color

#### Color run 2022

With the COVID-19 epidemic mostly behind us, it was an amazing feeling to finally be able to have fun in the sun with both our students and our parents. Many people participated in the event for fun, but for some, it was a race to the finish and it was a nail-biter to see who would finish first. The results were as follows: Inamandla Dude (1<sup>st</sup>), Marthinus De Klerk (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Eto Sizani (3<sup>rd</sup>). Medals were given to those that managed to finish the course that required two laps around the outlined area as the teachers stood at their checkpoints and some of the participants even got their revenge by throwing the powder paint at some teachers as well. Colors then stained the air in a myriad of patterns as they threw the powder paint into the air.

Games, such as pin the tail on the donkey, apple-eating, sweet-fishing, dart-throwing, guess-the-number, and water-balloon tossing were offered afterward, and the Lunchbox, as well as a few other independent and privately-owned businesses, kept the masses well-fed and watered during the event.



Left to right Color run winners 2022: Marthinus De Klerk (2<sup>nd</sup>), Inamandla Dude (1<sup>st</sup>), and Eto Sizani (3<sup>rd</sup>).

### Intermediate Market day

#### Learning the value of money and the cost of making a product



From left to right: Sonwabiso Soul, Yonwabisa Harmans, Bukhobethu Manyathi, and Anda Zokoza at Market day.

When making a product to sell, it is not always easy to determine whether the cost of your product will outweigh the profit. This is something that the Intermediate Phase students found out when they were tasked to divide into groups and decide on a product to make and sell.

Some students got it right with the usual favorites such as hotdogs, popcorn, and Currie bunnies while others soon found out that it is sometimes better to keep it simple when it comes to selling a product to a small group of people while still trying to make some profit.

Posters were made and a list of products was sent home so that family and friends, as well as the rest of the school, could place their orders.

This ensured that the students did not end up with extra stock afterward, which would also result in a loss of profits.

Market day is a part of the curriculum for the Intermediate Phase (Grades 4 to 6), and it teaches the students how to determine the cost of their product by first calculating the amount of product that will be required.

The students then work out the cost of the ingredients that would be needed to make the required amount to get their total expenses.

The expenses are then divided by the number of products and a certain amount is added to the divided total, which will then become their profits per item.

The students enjoyed both the planning and the selling phases of the Market day, and it was amazing to see how excited they were when they were informed of their profits.

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## Having fun with coding

### Nelson Mandela University teaches us coding with Lego robots

The Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase students were ecstatic to learn that Nelson Mandela University would once again be coming to visit to teach us about coding.

The team had a unique way of making coding fun to learn by showing off their Lego building skills and then merging them with a small programmable computer.

The team showed the students how different components and gears could be used to make a design move and some students were called to the front to test out different builds, such as a see-saw, a scorpion, and a color-sorter.

The students were then divided into their age groups and they were given different tasks to complete.

The Grade 2 and 3 classes were given a small programmable computer and they followed step-by-step instructions on how to build their robot. They could then add basic movements and sounds to their creation.

The older students were taught about the basic controls that would allow their robot to move forward, turn, and repeat certain sequences.

It was greatly emphasized that the students needed to keep every step in mind for the sequences to work properly.

These commands were programmed into Lego vehicles through a cable connected to a tablet and they had a lot of fun trying to puzzle out the exact sequence and timings needed to make it work.

Many students found a new love for robotics when they noticed how easy it was to build their own robots and to program them to carry food or drinks, or even to help with homework.



Building individual robots by following instructions.



Prizes were handed out to the winners of the golf day during the evening of the competition.

## Golf Day

### You know you love the game when you play rain or shine

Although the weather has steadily been growing colder, it was quite a surprise when heavily overcast skies threatened to break with the arrival of our annual Golf day on 7 May 2022.

Still, many people turned up to play and golfers could be seen braving the pouring rain as they took to the course.

Warm refreshments and hamburgers awaited the participants inside the club as they waited out the worst of the weather.

The competition was fierce, and the weather conditions made it harder to keep track of the golf balls, but in the end, a few clear winners emerged from the competition.

First place went to Lindokuhle Mbabela with 39 points in a count-out with Alvin Bowles and third place went to Colin Mavuso, who scored a fantastic 38 points.

The closest to the pin on the 8<sup>th</sup> went to Michelle Walsh and Ivan-John du Preez.

## World Environment Day

### Save our Earth

For World Environment Day, the Grade RR and Grade R classes came together to pick up litter around the school and along a set route.

They managed to fill two garbage bags with litter during their walk and many were quite eager to participate as they kept their eyes peeled, leaving no litter behind.

The bigger classes held discussions about why it is so important to look after our Earth and many interesting facts about renewable and non-renewable resources were shared.

Discussions were also held on why it is important to recycle certain materials and how other materials could be used to make compost, instead of simply throwing everything in the bin.

*For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. Romans 8:19*



The Grade RR and R classes with the trash they picked up in the area.



From left to right: Mr. Rudolph Trollip, Eto Sizani, Siyoliso Siquanto, Inamandla Dude, Sonwabiso Soul, Nathan Potgieter, Herman Mike, Dylan De Wet (back), Reniel van Rooyen, Sesona Fani, and Jeandré Potgieter.

## Careers Day

Finding purpose through play

We all remember the fun we had while playing pretend. Some of us liked to play doctor while others liked to play vet or farmer, and it gave us an insight into what we might grow up to be one day.

Quite a few of our students wanted to be doctors and nurses while others wanted to be lawyers, farmers, bakers, and even teachers.

The teachers were quite surprised at the depth that some of the students were willing to go to show off their chosen careers and talents, and it is safe to say that we know that they could achieve their dreams if they set their minds to them.



Students show off their chosen careers by dressing to look the part.

## Cross-country Tarkastad

In it to win it!

On 11 June, the Alexandria Christian Academy sent a team of 9 athletes to the Eastern Province Christian Schools' Regional Event.

The students have been training very hard each week to be ready for the event and they could often be seen training in every kind of weather. In the girls' section, Sesona Fani

grabbed 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 4km girls' U/17 and Sonwabiso placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the boys' 3km U/12 races.

Siyoliso Siquanto came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 6km boys' U/17 and Herman Mike, as well as Reniel van Rooyen, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 3km boys' U/12 and 2km boys' U/9 respectively.



The Grade 1 class visited Amakhala to learn more about Earth and how to take better care of it.

## Grade 1 class visits Amakhala

Learning how to take care of our home

The Grade one class visited Amakhala during World Environment day where they learned new facts about the Earth and how they could help to keep it clean.

The class interacted and made friends with other schools that were also there to learn about the Earth, and they also learned about the resources that Earth holds.

They spent some time drawing an amazing picture of the Earth as well as the children from around the world that need to protect it.

The students also played games like musical chairs while spending some time outside in nature and getting to know their new friends.

They also spent some time cutting out pictures that were relevant to nature. The students had many stories and facts to tell once they returned and they really enjoyed the outing.



From left to right, front to back: Dylan De Wet, Nathan Potgieter, Sonwabiso Soul, Junior Tobi, Marthinus De Klerk, Anke Bosman, Mia Schutte, Benjamin Trollop, Eto Sizani, Mr Rudolph Trollop, and Rueben Petzer.

## Archery team brings home the medals

### Bringing home the new bests

The school officially started with archery lessons shortly after schools were allowed to open once more at full capacity.

It drew a lot of interest and attention from the students and many turned up at the lessons to try out, but, as with all sports, archery has certain requirements that need to be met.

The students quickly learned that arm strength was needed to be able to draw the bows and the team was finally formed with more members constantly joining in.

The team practiced during every sport-period as well as after school to hone their skills and it was finally time to attend some competitions.

The first competition was at Port Alfred High and it set a learning curve that guided the goals for the professional archery competitions thereafter.

On 12<sup>th</sup> March the team went to East London and most of the team scored a personal best, with Mia Schutte scoring 222 points out of 300.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May and the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, El Shaddai hosted their competitions, where Marthinus De Klerk won a Gold medal on both days, and Anke Bosman won her first Bronze medal.

The last competition was held in East London where Rueben Petzer won his first Bronze medal with 218 points.

Anke and Mia achieved their personal bests of 262 and 245.

## Highschool Half-year IEB exams

### Our hardworking Senior students

The high school wrote their Half-year IEB exams from Mid May to Mid June. The exams are set by are set and marked by Hatfield Online School and the exams are then verified by the Independent Examinations Board.

The exams were long and grueling and the students were quite happy once they ended, but they still understood the importance of the exams and they studied hard for each test.

## AGM and Parent Appreciation Dinner

### Taking time to say 'Thank you'

With the second term came the return of our annual AGM meeting and Parent Appreciation Dinner. The parents were welcomed and led to their tables where presents and pictures from the students awaited them. Once the meeting concluded, the students served dinner to their parents with trays. The students made use of the opportunity to show their parents just how thankful they were to have them in their lives.

*Prov 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."*



### The Sock-collection drive

We all find a few odd socks in our cupboards every now and again and they are often placed aside in the hope that we would find their match somewhere at the bottom of the washing machine or wash basket. And somehow we seldom find them again.

The sock collection drive was an initiative by Cipla Pharmaceuticals and its aim was to gather odd socks from different schools and businesses. The socks would then be recycled to help Mental Health patients.

### Grade 2 and 3 Amakhala Sidbury Sports day

The Grade 2 and 3 classes took part in the Amakhala Sidbury Sports day where the students achieved the following results within their respective gender and age groups:

For long jump, Reniel van Rooyen and Lchwayito Mbengashe achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place, Milisa Nela and Senzo Cengani achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and Lanje Thomas achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

For short-distance running, Reniel van Rooyen and Alunamda Stefane both achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

And for long-distance running, Reniel van Rooyen achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place while Alunamda achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place. We are very proud of our little star athletes, and we hope they can bring that amazing energy to our athletics during the third term.

Well done everyone.



### Netball and rugba matches

The Foundation Phase showed us their stuff as they played rugby against another school for the very first time.

It took some getting used to as they faced off against the other team, but by the time the second match came around, they were quickly gaining confidence.

The netball girls also played a few matches against the older teams and it was a good experience for both groups.



Students and teachers gather together in their pajamas for a photo in the hall.

## Ending the Term in Pajamas

### Getting ready for the Winter Holidays with fuzzy pajamas

The school term ended with a bang as the students and teachers came to school in their pajamas on the last day of term 2.

It was an especially cold day and many of us were only too happy to bundle up in our warmest pajamas and gowns.

The day started with the usual praise and worship that included songs that were meant to get you warm and moving before we ended off with a prayer.

Due to the rainy weather, the students stayed inside where they played board games, such as chess and monopoly, or word games such as scrabble.

Hot chocolate with marshmallows and chocolate cake was provided by Mrs. Madelein Potgieter and the students enjoyed it immensely. The school day ended at 10:00 and the students went home while looking forward to a well-deserved rest.

### Park Ranger gives advice

#### The dangers of plastic

SanParks Ranger, Zelna Breytenbach, from Woody Cape, visited the school to inform the students about the dangers of plastic to the environment.

The Intermediate and Senior Phase students learned a lot during the lesson about throwing away their papers and plastics instead of throwing them onto the ground.



Students of ACA face off against other schools in the EP competition.

## Getting ready for Eisteddfod

Our budding artists are preparing

Our students are currently hard at work with their preparations for the Eisteddfod competitions and they are preparing to enter their creativity into a variety of fields.

This year we have students who will courageously be delivering their poems on stage, as well as a few artists, both young and older, who will be handing in their art pieces for grading.

The students chose different mediums for their art, such as painting and sketching, and some of the seniors will also be entering the photos that they have taken during their art classes.

## Archery showdown at the NASP EP competition

ACA students face off against other archery schools within the Eastern Province

On Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> of July, the students of Alexandria Christian Academy took part in their biggest competition yet.

With the team steadily growing, it was time for the students to experience tryouts and the competition was fierce as everyone was determined to gain a place on the team.

Once the team was selected, it was all systems go, and the students trained diligently for the upcoming competition. It was a magnificent site to see as the competitors lined up, and the twang of arrows hitting the targets echoed through the air.

For some students, it was their first competition and for others, it was a chance to improve on their personal best. We are extremely proud of them for doing so well and we wish them all the best in the upcoming competitions as well.



Michiano posing in front of his two Bulls Eyes at the competition.

## A Passion for Science

Teaching our children the ins and outs of Science through practical exercises

Have you ever wondered how the new up-and-coming Radioactive Diamond Battery can last up to 28 000 years without any charge at all?

Or how invisible air in an airtight bottle can suddenly turn to visible smoke when enough pressure is inserted?

During our weekly Science classes, we learn the inner workings of both the everyday objects around us, as well as the new technology that is helping people with disabilities to live a more fulfilling life.

Science has progressed by leaps and bounds during the 21<sup>st</sup> century and although the innovations may sometimes seem scary, there are some truly amazing innovations out there that many people around the world do not know about.

So far we've written secret messages using lesson juice, built a circuit using a simple battery, two cables, and a small light bulb, and made a water filtration system, but there is so much more to discover when it comes to Science.

During this class, we aim to get students away from the books to think critically for themselves, and to put into practice, the theory that they have learned from the books themselves.

This critical thinking is an important skill to have because it allows you to think actively, instead of simply repeating something that has already been done, and it also allows for a broader understanding to occur, as some students learn better when they actively participate in creating something.

Studies show that each individual has their own way of interpreting new data or information and just as some students do well by studying words or numbers before a test, other students have been found to learn better when they are actively being taught.

Hands-on Science is such a tool that helps with the active understanding of a theory when the verbal or theoretical explanation is not enough to ensure that the student understands the learning material.

Do not be afraid to try out some fun experiments, like homemade dough, or oobleck, with your young one at home during the weekends or whenever possible, they might unlock a hidden passion for Science, and who knows, maybe you will discover one too.