



March 2024

Alexandria Christian Academy Newsletter



Issue 1 of 2024

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is older he will not depart from it."

Starting 2024 with a bang!



Photo caption: Mr Otha Mpenze and Ms Cikizwa Nqana

Students were welcomed back to a new school year on the 17th of January. There were some new faces both on the staff and in the student body who were eagerly greeted at the front of the school.

2024 holds great promise to be a successful year filled with new activities and challenges.



Photo caption: High school students

Mrs Olivier welcomed everyone back - in the hall at the first school assembly of the year. After this, our new school principal, Annene Veldman, gave a word of welcome. Some parents were also present to share the excitement of a new school year.

New learners were welcomed with a gift packet handed out during the assembly.

The year started off with a traditional "bang" as red and black balloons were popped by students to find a Bible verse inside which they can keep. This serves as a reminder that above all, we give Glory to God for all the successes and blessings at the school.



Photo caption: New school year



Photo caption: Mrs Gretel Olivier and Mrs Annene Veldman

Pen Pals from around the world



Photo Caption: Letter from Xiao to Asivile

In an inspiring display of cultural exchange and global friendship, pre-school students from Concordia School in Ningbo, China, have initiated a heartwarming pen pal project with learners from ACA. The exchange has not only fostered new friendships but also provided a unique educational experience for both sets of young students.

The Concordia School students, bursting with enthusiasm, sent their new friends at ACA beautifully illus-

trated letters filled with vibrant drawings and well wishes. Each letter reflected the creativity and genuine curiosity of the young authors, showcasing scenes from their daily lives.

In response, ACA students eagerly engaged in the project, creating their own colorful pictures and heartfelt notes. These young learners expressed their excitement and gratitude, sharing glimpses into their own lives and cultural experiences. The exchange of letters has opened a window for these

children to explore and appreciate a world beyond their own, emphasizing the universal values of friendship and understanding.

The initiative was met with enthusiasm by both schools' staff and parents, who see the pen pal project as a valuable opportunity for the children to develop their writing skills, creativity, and cultural awareness. Teachers at Concordia School and ACA are thrilled to facilitate such meaningful connections, which they believe will leave a lasting impact on their students.

"We are delighted to see our students engaging with their peers from across the globe," said a representative from Concordia School. "This project is more than just an exchange of letters; it's a chance for our students to learn about diversity, empathy, and the importance of global citizenship."

ACA's principal echoed these sentiments, noting that the students' responses were filled with excitement and a genuine interest in learning about their new friends from China. "Our learners have embraced this opportunity wholeheartedly. The joy and curiosity evident in their responses are truly heartwarming."

The pen pal exchange between Concordia School and ACA is a testament to the power of communication and the bonds that can form through simple acts of kindness and creativity. As these young students continue to exchange letters and drawings, they are not only making friends but also laying the foundation for a more connected and understanding world.

Sharing God's love

Valentine's Day isn't solely about romantic gestures; it's a reminder to express love and appreciation for all relationships, including our relationship with God. Through the act of giving and receiving, we emulate the unconditional love bestowed upon us by God, just as he did by sacrificing his son.

This year, the aim on valentines day was to spread God's love with the local community. Older students chose their favorite Bible verse about God's love and wrote it on decorated paper. These were handed out to different people in the community on Valentine's day.



Photo Caption: Ms Bernie's Grade R art

Younger learners emphasized God's love for us through art activities and Bible stories.

The Grade 1 students decorated hearts with Bible verses written inside. A small chocolate was attached to each heart and handed out to staff members at school.

This year's valentine's day was a success at sharing and highlighting God's love for us and sharing it with others. This served as a gentle reminder that this can be done every day, by cherishing every relationship and loving our neighbor as Jesus showed us.



Photo Caption: At the old age home



Photo Caption: At school



Photo Caption: At the Lunchbox

Welcoming Grade 1s

The Grade 1 capping ceremony took place on the 5th of February. This is yet another ACA tradition that takes place every year.

The Grade 1s are welcomed into primary school during a special assembly followed by the capping ceremony.

Each student rings a bell to announce their induction into primary school. A new tradition of lighting a candle was started this year. The lighting of a candle symbolizes how each student will be encouraged to shine with the light given to them by God.



Photo Caption: High school students with the capped Grade 1s



Photo Caption: Ringing the bell

Each Grade 1 student is given their cap by a high school student, who was once capped themselves. High school students helped the Grade 1's light their candles.



Photo Caption: Brothers Eto and Intle Sizani

Excitement for the ceremony was shared by parents who attended and eagerly took photos. This will continue to be a long standing tradition at the school.



Photo Caption: On stage

AGM and parent appreciation dinner



Photo Caption: Decorated table

On the evening of March 6th, ACA transformed into a haven of gratitude and warmth as students, faculty, and parents gathered for the annual Parent Appreciation Dinner. This cherished tradition provided an opportunity for students to express their heartfelt appreciation to their parents for their unwavering support and dedication to their education. The evening commenced with a heartfelt welcome from the school administration, acknowledging the invaluable role parents play in the academic journey of their children. Learners with eager smiles assumed the role of hosts, serving a delectable dinner prepared especially for their parents. But the evening was not just about the culinary delights; it was also a time for students to showcase their creativity and affection. Each student presented their parents with a handmade thank you card,

adorned with heartfelt messages expressing gratitude for their love, guidance, and sacrifices. These tokens of appreciation served as tangible reminders of the deep bond between parent and child, transcending mere words to convey the profound impact of parental support on a child's educational journey. Amidst the warmth and camaraderie, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place, providing an opportunity for parents to actively engage in the school community. The highlight of the AGM was the selection of the new Governing Board, comprising dedicated individuals committed to steering the school towards continued excellence and growth. As the evening unfolded, the aroma of delicious food filled the air, tantalising taste buds and eliciting expressions of delight from all present. Every crumb was savoured with joy and appreciation. As the night drew to a close, hearts were full, and smiles were abundant, reflecting the profound impact of love, gratitude, and togetherness. The Parent Appreciation Dinner served as a poignant



Photo Caption: Welcoming staff

reminder of the importance of cherishing and celebrating the invaluable support of parents in nurturing the next generation of leaders, scholars, and change makers.



Photo Caption: Student and parent



Photo Caption: School bursar with her daughters

World Book Day



Photo Caption: The school dressed up for World Book Day

On March 8th, the halls of Alexandria Christian Academy were transformed into a whimsical world of literary wonder as students and staff alike came together to celebrate World Book Day. Dressed in an array of enchanting costumes inspired by their favorite book characters, the school community embraced the spirit of imagination and creativity with boundless enthusiasm.

Principal Annene Veldman set the stage for the festivities by joining in the fun, donning a resplendent ball gown to embody the beloved fairy tale character, Cinderella. Adding to the spectacle, Teacher Anke Diener and Ms. Deidre Weyers delighted everyone with their portrayal of Cinderella's wicked step-sisters, infusing the day with laughter and joviality.

From the classic duo of Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum to the

adventurous Pippi Longstocking and the iconic Harry Potter, a kaleidoscope of characters graced the event, each bringing their unique charm and personality to life. The school reverberated with excitement as students shared anecdotes about their chosen characters, some even bringing along their cherished books to further immerse themselves in the magic of storytelling.

Amidst the laughter and camaraderie, World Book Day served as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of literature and the joy of reading. Through the celebration, Alexandria Christian Academy reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing a love for books and learning among its students, fostering a culture

where imagination knows no bounds.

The success of the event was

made possible by the enthusiastic participation of parents, whose unwavering support and involvement added an extra layer of warmth and vitality to the festivities. As the day drew to a close, the school community reflected on the shared moments of joy and connection, grateful for the opportunity to come together in celebration of the greatness of books and reading.

In embracing occasions such as World Book Day, Alexandria Christian Academy reaffirms its dedication to providing enriching experiences that inspire, educate, and ignite a lifelong passion for learning. As the echoes of laughter and storytelling lingered in the air, the school looked forward to many more adventures in the pages of books yet to be explored.



Photo Caption: Jonah and the whale

World Book Day continued..



Photo Caption: Walking to the library



Photo Caption: Teacher Bernie reading a story at the library

World book day is a wonderful opportunity to foster a love of reading and storytelling in young children. One fantastic way to celebrate this special day with Preschoolers is by taking them on a trip to the local library.

So on World book day, some of the Preschoolers dressed as a character out of their favourite story book. Learners were encouraged to talk about their favourite books and share them with others in the class.

The preschool walked to the library where teacher Bernie read some books to the children. This gave the children a chance to choose and explore books outside the classroom.

It was a fun day for all, including the dress up and the outing. The children enjoyed it very much and can't wait to go to the library again.

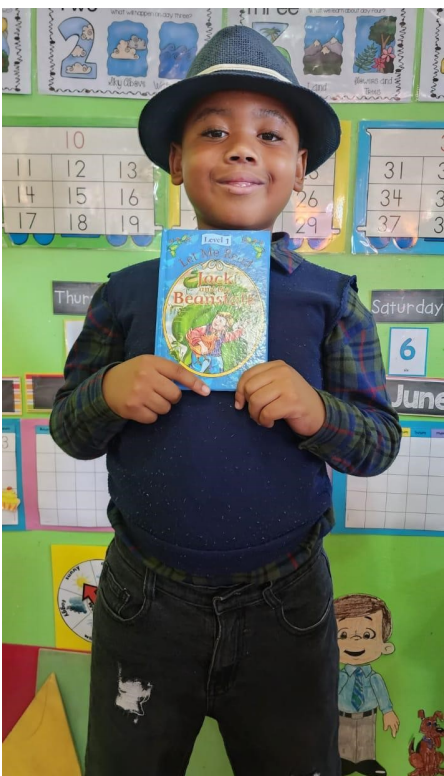


Photo Caption: Jack and the beanstalk

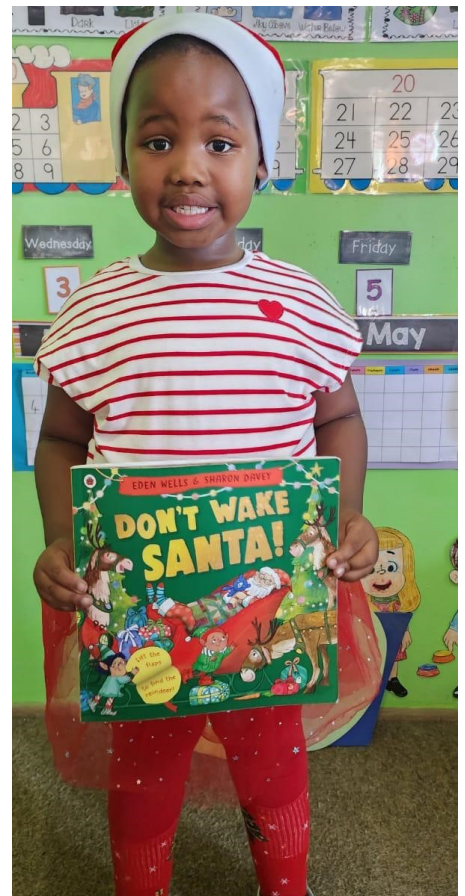


Photo Caption: An elf



Photo Caption: Outside the library

ACA's Term 1 80% win rate



Photo Caption: Players after a soccer match



Photo Caption: Sport training

In an outstanding display of athleticism and skill, the athletes of the Alexandria Christian Academy have triumphed in various sports throughout Term 1, showcasing an impressive 80% win rate across disciplines. Competing fervently against formidable opponents from Nannaga and Kowie Foundation, ACA athletes exhibited sheer determination and prowess, securing victories in soccer, hockey, mini cricket, and athletics.

In the realm of athletics, ACA soared to new heights, clinching a total of 8 first-place finishes, 4 second-place positions, and 2 third-place achievements against neighbouring schools held at Nanaga primary. This exceptional performance underscores the dedication and training put forth by both the athletes and their coaches.

Children ranging from under 7 to under 13, both boys and girls, enthusiastically participated in the sporting events, demonstrating their passion and commitment to excellence. The supportive presence of parents further bolstered the morale of the

young athletes, fostering an environment conducive to growth and success.

As the curtains draw on Term 1, ACA extends a heartfelt appreciation to all parents for their unwavering support and to the coaches for their tireless dedication in nurturing the talents of our budding athletes. With Term

2 on the horizon, ACA eagerly anticipates another season filled with triumphs and achievements, as we continue to uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and excellence.



Photo Caption: Athletics competitors enjoying the shade

Bathurst archery competition

In the heart of Bathurst, amidst the whispering trees and rolling hills, the air was charged with anticipation as archers from far and wide converged for a test of skill and precision. Among them stood the proud representatives of Alexandria Christian Academy, their bows steady, their spirits high. With determination etched in their eyes, the eleven

participants from Alexandria Christian Academy stepped onto the hallowed grounds of the archery range, ready to let their arrows fly. When As every arrow found its mark, the results spoke volumes. Four gold medals a silver and a top girls performer gleamed proudly around the necks of Alexandria Christian Academy's

champions, a testament to their dedication and perseverance. But it wasn't just about the medals; it was about the camaraderie forged on the field, the friendships kindled through shared passion and competition.



Photo Caption: Archery team



Photo Caption: Enjoying the competition



Photo Caption: Medal winners

Badminton news



Photo Caption: Badminton team at the Eastern Province trials

Badminton is a new sport offered at ACA that began in 2023. Learners took on the challenge of learning a new sport with excitement and enthusiasm. Some learners in particular, attended the U13 Eastern Province trials held this month.

U13 Badminton refers to badminton tournaments or events that are specifically for players under the age of 13. These tournaments are organized to pro-

vide young badminton players with the opportunity to compete against players of similar age and skill level. U13 badminton events are often part of a larger junior badminton program or circuit, and they aim to promote the development of young players and nurture their interest in the sport. Badminton helps the mind think fast and clearly. It teaches you discipline and speed.

outs on the 13th of April 2024. All 5 did exceptionally well and they were all selected to go to Cape Town and represent Eastern Province on 15-22 June 2024.

The school is extremely proud of the young players who have shown great potential and perseverance as they have achieved good results within a short time of playing the sport.



Photo Caption: Players in action



Photo Caption: Players in action

Alive, Benjamin, Damin, Nathan and Zintle participated in the try



Photo Caption: Celebration after trials

Fridays are for art



Photo Caption: Grade 2s and 3s making ladybug keyholders

Art is a vital component of a child's development, offering numerous benefits that extend far beyond only creative expression. Art provides a platform for emotional expression, allowing children to communicate feelings and experiences that they may find difficult to articulate verbally. Through painting, drawing, or sculpting, children

can express joy, frustration, sadness, or excitement in a safe and constructive manner. As children experiment with colors, shapes, and textures, they learn to make creative choices and explore different solutions to artistic challenges. Art encourages imagination and creativity, helping children to think outside the box and approach tasks with innovation

and originality. It also promotes cultural awareness and appreciation as children explore diverse artistic styles, traditions, and historical periods from around the world. At ACA, all the above skills are addressed during art lessons which the children look forward to every Friday.



Photo Caption: Grade 4s and 5s creating mandalas

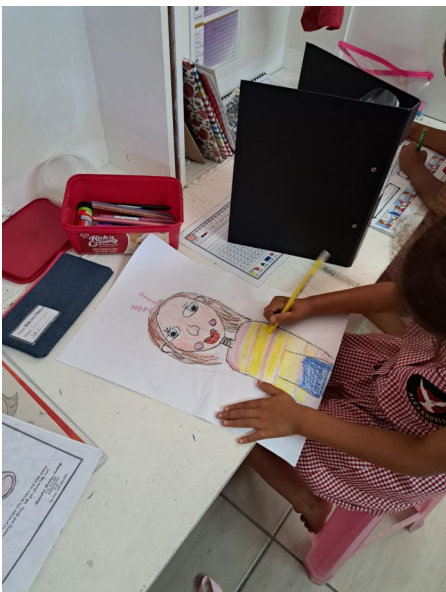


Photo Caption: Grade 1s com-



Photo Caption: Grade RR Valentines day art

Farewell to Our German Volunteers

As the end of July approaches, Alexandria Christian Academy bids a heartfelt farewell to two exceptional German volunteers, Jeremie Klötz, and Felix Kühn. Over the past year, Jeremie and Felix have become integral members of our school community, leaving an indelible mark through their dedication and contributions. Another volunteer, Vanessa, had to return in December and has been sorely missed during the first part of this year.

Jeremie Klötz, known for his quiet demeanor and exceptional mathematical skills, has been an inspiring figure to both students and staff. His love for soccer added a vibrant dynamic to our sports programs, and his thoughtful, supportive nature has endeared him to everyone.

In contrast, Felix Kühn, with his more serious disposition, brought a unique blend of passion for wine and a flair for socializing. His ability to connect with others and his commitment to every task he undertook have left a lasting impression on our school.

Both volunteers, through their work with Volunta, an organization renowned for providing opportunities in practical experience, professional orientation, and personal development, have shown remarkable dedication. Their service over the last year has added tremendous value to our school in numerous ways. They were not just volunteers but vital members of the Alexandria Christian Academy team, giving us countless wonderful memories.

As they prepare to leave, we extend our deepest gratitude to Jeremie and Felix. We will miss their presence and the unique qualities each brought to our school. We wish them all the luck in their future endeavors and sincerely hope that they will return to South Africa to visit us.

Thank you, Jeremie, Felix and Vanessa Fillipiak, for your incredible service and the joy you brought to our academy. Your legacy will continue to inspire us.

