



# Alexander Road High School

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4 February 2022

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Dear Alex Family Members

## A normal week of sorts

Our term and year are well under way and the shock of things that used to be normal has worn off. This week was actually something like a normal week. Normal used to be boring but now it is something to be admired. We nearly melted for a few hours when we lost power to the campus. Thankfully, we were able to get back online again but we really appreciated our air conditioners in the prefabricated classes where it becomes hazardous to occupy the space in such hot weather. Our annual girls' water polo tournament started this morning and runs through to Saturday evening. We are grateful for the cooler weather and are excited to be able to welcome so many visitors back onto our beautiful campus.

I would like to remind everyone about the second round of our SGB by-elections, planned for Thursday next week at 17H00. We did not manage to achieve a quorum this week on Wednesday, so we are able to elect a new SGB member without a quorum next week. If you would like to nominate any parent or guardian of an Alexan to the SGB, please consider completing a nomination form.

In an effort to further improve our security on and around the campus we will be posting an additional guard at the end of King Edward Street from 14H00, who will then move down to Second Avenue, about halfway between Alexander Road and Worraker Street until 16H00 every day. There is a shuttle that runs from school at 16H00 daily. Please encourage your children who need to walk to Greenacres, to walk in big groups or to wait for the shuttle. Please join me in encouraging everyone walking from school, not to wear earphones or to have their phones out while they are walking as this is an advert to anyone with malicious intent.

It is disappointing that we need to be so concerned with security all the time, but we need to keep everyone alert and work together to make it as hard as possible for criminals to function in our vicinity.

Please could you put names into clothing and bags and pencil cases. I know that it is a hassle for you, but it makes the reuniting of people and their lost possessions possible. We accumulate a significant amount of lost property every week. Unless the owner comes to ask about it, we have no other way of knowing who it belongs to. I am sure

you are still recovering from the financial damage that December holidays often bring. Most of us had to make the grudge purchase that is uniform and stationery supplies on credit. It really irks when such a painful purchase must be replaced in February because we could not find the owner, or because someone else has taken a liking to it. Sewing name tags into clothing is an excellent life skill and would do your child the world of good.

Alex has always had such fantastic parents, who are so involved in the life of the school that we seldom have to ask for help. That involvement and support was traditionally organised in the Parents' Club. No activity in the last two years has given us the opportunity to kick the club off with a bang again in 2022. If you are interested in finding out more about Parents' Club, or if you have ideas on how such a thing could flourish for the benefit of our children, please complete [this form](https://forms.office.com/r/015MfNYYhD) (<https://forms.office.com/r/015MfNYYhD>). Once I have a list we can meet and thrash out the details of how best to do it.

Admissions for Grade 8 in 2023 opened this week. We received over 250 applications in the first three days. Please encourage anyone whom you know who would like to consider Alex for 2023 to get over to [www.arhs.co.za/apply](http://www.arhs.co.za/apply) sooner rather than later.

It has been a few weeks since I bombarded you with something about Covid-19. We have had the social distancing requirements removed during the week, but we are still doing what we can to keep our distances. We are continuing with screening in the morning and sanitising between lessons. Please remain vigilant. We cannot allow anyone with symptoms into the campus. If your child is sick, they must stay home. If someone in your home tests positive for Covid-19, the whole household must quarantine to prevent the spread. I know that this is irritating and that for many the fear has subsided, but please don't lose sight of the fact that this virus still has the potential to kill and only our collective adherence to the protocols is going to keep our community safe.

Please remember to send your used cooking oil to school for our collection. We don't want it in down the drain or in a landfill. Please help us to make more biodiesel, save money and the soil, one oil drop at a time.

Please keep yourself and your family safe this week

Regards

Matthew Ridgway  
Principal