



Alexander Road High School

Private Bag X34377
Newton Park
6055
Gqeberha
South Africa

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Tel: 041 365 1270
E-Mail: info@arhs.co.za
Web: arhs.co.za

Dear Alex Family Members

SGB by-elections and an action-packed week

We started this week where we ended last week, full of energy and zest. We had a fantastic girls' water polo tournament over the weekend with cricket matches and auditions for the 2022 show, *Into the Woods*. The campus was positively buzzing.

We stayed in high gear, hosting Greenwood Primary School's musicians for an evening of enjoyment listening to performances by our musicians, their musicians, and finally a massed-band performance by all the musicians. What a way to spend an evening!

Along with Debating, more water polo, more cricket, DanceSport, tennis, zonal athletics and much more. We also managed to fit in our SGB by-election. We held the first round last Wednesday but did not achieve a quorum, so we postponed the meeting to last night where we were able to proceed without a quorum. We are very excited to announce the election of Ms Galthea Remy to the SGB. Ms Remy replaces Mr Bright who stepped down at the end of last year when his daughter completed Matric.

Mr Tracey Harris was re-elected into the chair; Mr Stan Liebenberg was re-elected into the vice chair position; Mr Quintin Levey was re-elected as the treasurer; and Ms Pam Osborne was re-elected as the secretary. I would like to extend my thanks again to all the SGB members for the important and tireless work that they do without reward. Your energy is very much appreciated by our entire community.

Last year I put out a call for families to host visiting exchange students. We have had a hiatus in the programme but we are keen to get it going again. An NGO, Youth for Understanding is keen to place one or more visiting exchange students from Switzerland, Germany or Argentina with host families at Alex. The request is for a six-month stay with the possibility of an extension to 10 months, starting from August 2022. If anyone feels the call, please visit the YFU page (<https://yfu.org.za/host-families/>) to find out more about what being a host family entails. There is a great deal to be gained for Alex and for your family if you decide to host, so please consider it. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact the YFU office from their web page or let me know.

The rich diversity of our Alex Family means that some of our family members face many challenges on a daily basis. We have a programme called 'The table of sharing'. We ask families who are able, to send dry goods and tinned food to school every month in order to stock our larder. When we come across a situation where an Alex family

finds itself in need, we are able to pack up a hamper to send home. This small gesture makes such an incredible difference to the families who have benefitted. If you could just add one item to your monthly shop, it would help us to bless families in need. My deep thanks to the regular donors who faithfully send items every month.

We have had a fantastic response to our call for used cooking oil. Please don't throw used oil down the drain or send it to the municipal landfill. Oil is very polluting in both situations. Thanks to those who have sent oil so far. Please send us your used oil so that we can ensure that it enters the sustainable cycle of being used for biodiesel and cleaning products.

My sincere gratitude to all the families who have met their financial commitments to the school so far this year. Your dedication to this unenviable task is what allows us to do what we need to. If you face challenges with paying fees, please don't ignore the problem. Please contact us to address the situation. We have found that a collaboration is the best way to face these difficulties and generally yields less pain.

Please could you refer to this map (<https://bit.ly/367Ph2n>) to remind yourself how the one-way drop-off system is designed. This is particularly important in the morning when the flow is at its peak. Please do not do a U turn in Alexander Road or park at an angle in the allocated drop-and-go areas. Please stay calm and serene as a precursor to a good day.

Please keep yourself and those you love safe this week.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Ridgway', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Ridgway
Principal