



Alexander Road High School

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South Africa

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Dear Alex Family Members

A long weekend and a week to go

Term 1 is all but over. We can look back with some satisfaction that we have made it over the hurdles and through the hoops ready for a mini break over this long weekend and for a bit more of a break from next Friday.

We wish our senior boys' and girls' hockey teams all the best and safe travels as they headed for East London early this morning. They will be working extremely hard while the rest of us pause for a breath to sustain us to the end of the term.

We celebrate Human Rights Day on Monday. It is not just a day off, but it carries a great deal of significance for all of us. We remember the events at Sharpeville and in Cape Town on 21 March 1960. 'The year of the pass', when a peaceful stand was taken against the oppression of the 'dompass.' Protesters were fired upon by the police. Sixty-nine people died, the world's attention was drawn to the details of the South African political situation and the pressure started from outside the country for a change. The events of 21 March 1960 must never be forgotten. It was a terrible day for our country, yet it was the beginning of the end of that era. If you are lighting a fire to enjoy the day with family and friends, please take a moment to contemplate how very different our country would be now if were not for those people who were willing to take a stand against injustice, especially when it cost them so much.

We wish Maya Geyers, Zara Brown, and Luke Vencencie all the best as they compete in the National Lifesaving championships starting on Sunday. Amy Liebenberg left yesterday for the 2022 National Breed show of the German Shepherd Dog Federation in Pretoria over the weekend. We wish Amy and her hound Eska all the best as they compete. Luniko and Mwelase Lugogwana will be swimming in the National championships until Sunday. We wish them every success in their competition.

Congratulation to the following Mathletes for their achievements in the first round of the Inter-schools' Maths Relay League:

2nd: John Emery; Rylan Johns; James van Zyl

3rd :Jodie Kate Phillips; Chanelle Prince; Kamva Maramba.

Congratulations to the following Maths Olympiad participants on making it through to the second round of the South African Maths Olympiad
Junior: K Syce

Senior: Mitchelle Chininga; John Emery; Rylan Johns; Buchule Mlinganiso; Keenan Smith; Kiara Assam; Skye Banks; Jordan Lindoor; Ayabulela Mgijima; Ruth Schnetler; Liyema Kinzela; Chanelle Prince; Daniel Putzier; Aqhama Qoma; Seth Whitfield; Mohammed Kaka; Buhle Dayimani

Special mention needs to be made of Skye Banks in Grade 11 who achieved the highest mark from the school – 85%, and of Seth Whitfield, John Emery and Jordan Lindoor who came tie in second place.

My apologies for the fake news last week when I said that the Sports Awards Assembly was in January. Clearly, I was having a senior moment. Thanks to the parents and guardians who were able to join us yesterday. It was a lovely occasion. Our guest speaker was Delaine Mentoer, Olympic and National Water polo Coach. She delivered an inspiring speech. If you would like to see the assembly and her message, please follow this link:

<https://youtu.be/lVxfVh5Qwz8>

On the topic of inspiring speeches, we held our annual best speakers' competition on Wednesday evening. What a wonderful celebration of the spoken word. My congratulations to the winners in each category

For all those pupils who received awards at the academic and sports awards assembly, we have just been notified that the blazer braiding has gone up. It will now cost R30 for the braid and the tailor is now charging R120 per blazer to sew it on. This can be arranged through the school shop, or you can source your own tailor. Please be very sure about the quality of the workmanship before using an outsider.

If you are aware of anyone who is keen to apply to Alex for a place in Grade 8 next year, please encourage them to get their application in. The window will close during the holidays. We have over 1100 applications for next year and two weeks to go. It would be incredibly sad to have to exclude a member of our family because they missed the application window.

A reminder that we do not have an academic day on Friday next week. Our final assembly for the term will be at 08H00 on <https://youtu.be/FCG9ii-X13o>. Once the assembly is over, we will send out the reports.

We have made a few significant changes to our calendar and activity list for this year. Please discard your current version of the document and replace it with Version 3 from here:

<https://bit.ly/3Jrl6SE>

Most Alex drivers have chosen not to do a U-turn in Alexander Road during peak traffic times, and I am grateful to you all. There are still one or two who insist on doing it and I plead with you not to. I have also noted the practice of stopping in the traffic lane to wait for your child. This practice is almost worse than the U-turn because one or two people sit for several minutes blocking the entire flow in one direction. Please be considerate and find a parking space. There is lots of space in King Edward Street; there is often much room in Essenhight Street and Van der Vyver Street. Your child does not have to be fetched right outside the gate. They are all competent perambulators and can easily find you slightly further away.

CodeABot is a coding and robotics centre where you can learn a variety of mechanical, electronic, coding and robotics principles, starting with simple machines and working your way up to coding with Python.

CodeABot is offering four students the opportunity to win a scholarship for the first year of the Coding and Robotics Bundle.

The Coding and Robotics Bundle is a course for learners who are starting out with robotics and coding as their main area of interest and are ready to make a long-term commitment. The course is a walk-through of all the CodeABot courses over a period of three to four years.

This will become the place for people to journey together through coding and robotics, forming friendships that will extend into teams for competitions and events.

The course will run once per week for the year (excluding public holidays and government school holidays) beginning in April 2022, and learners must be able to commit to the programme for the entire year.

Classes will run once per week. You can select one of the following days:

Tuesday from 17h30 – 18h30 for 12-year-olds and up

Saturday from 10h30 – 11h30 for 12-years-olds and up

Submit your details on the CodeABot website www.codeabot.co.za under the Get Involved tab by Thursday, 24 March 2022, and tell us, in 50 words or fewer, why you want to change the world using coding and robotics.

Please keep yourself and those you love safe this week. Remember how important it is to have some quality time with your children.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Ridgway
Principal