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21 February 2025

Dear Alex Family Members

Enjoy the Silence

I hope that you all enjoyed the respite last week, with no newsletter from my desk, you had one less email to catch up on. I spent my weekend replying to emails from parents to whom I had to send an email, telling them that their child's application for Grade 8 in 2026 has been placed on a waiting list. I thought it might be useful to explain to everyone a little more about the process, as most of you did not get an email like that from me on your way into Alex.

You may have friends or relatives who have such an email from me and they may be frustrated or angry. Please tell them to simply reply to that email. I will respond, even if it takes more than 24 hours. We have just topped 1000 applications for grade 8 next year. We still have just under 5 weeks to go before the applications close. I have made just over 200 offers to applicants at the top of the waiting list. I will be making more offers in March, once I have heard back from everyone who has received an offer.

The admissions policy is our guiding document. I adhere strictly to that policy in order to avoid any subjective decision making. If you still know of anyone who would like to apply for Grade 8 at Alex in 2026, please encourage them to get the application started.

It is a very anxiety causing time for any parent of a Grade 7 in this City. We treat every application with dignity and compassion. It is well understood in the admissions committee the impact that being put on the waiting list has on the child. We do not take that decision lightly. We are also faced with offering only 20% of applicants a place every year, which we know is hard on families.

Waterpolo tour

We wish our Girls' and Boys' Waterpolo teams safe travels and the best of luck as they compete in Johannesburg and Grahamstown respectively, this weekend.

Early departures

If you need to fetch your child early from school and you know about it before hand. Please send the information to the register teacher. That way we can be ready when you arrive and eliminate admin delays in getting you both to the appointment. There might be times when your child is not well and needs to be fetched during the school day. If they contact you before our reception office does, please remind them

that the reception office needs to be notified of their departure. They also need to be booked out of class. If we only find out that you are at school to fetch them when you arrive, there could be quite a delay in finding them and getting them signed out. Please help us in this regard.

Congratulations

We are very proud of Mija Kliment who was picked for the Mpumalanga Ladies Indoor Hockey team competing this weekend and next week in the Interprovincial Tournament. We wish her all the best. Our province did not field a team so that is why she is representing the Mpumalanga team.

Boipelo Batin participated in the Eastern Cape WUKF karate league event in Grahamstown on the 15th of February 2025, she came 3rd place in Kubudo Short Weapons 11-17 years, all ranks. We are very proud of her.

SGB office bearers

You may remember that at the end of last year both our Chairman, Ms Tracey Harris and our Deputy Chairman Mr Raymond Oliver left the SGB. We held by-elections on the 4th of February and Mr Neil Campher and Ms Mandy Frank were elected by the parent body. We held our first SGB meeting of the year this week and the following people were elected as office bearers: Mr Grant Meyer was elected as chairman, vacating the Treasurer role, Ms Nafeesa Baboo was elected as the Deputy Chairman and Ms Mandy Frank was elected as the Treasurer. The secretary position remains occupied by Ms Janine Long. My sincere thanks to everyone who stepped up and accepted nominations for election. Thank you to the parents who arrived to vote. A very big thank you to the members of the SGB who give up their time willingly to serve this community. We would not be able to function without the sacrifice of these selfless people.

Please remember our table of sharing and the used cooking oil initiative.

Please look after yourself and those you love this week.

Regards,



Matthew Ridgway
Principal