



Alexander Road High School

Private Bag X34377
Newton Park
6055
Gqeberha
South Africa

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

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Dear Alex Family Members

Human Rights Day

With a long weekend looming for many of us, if you are fortunate enough to be travelling, please take care on the roads. They can be a dangerous place, made more hazardous if you are in a rush to get to your destination. For the people who are working tomorrow, we appreciate your service.

Attendance next week

It is vital to note that the term has not ended. We have 130 pupils absent today. I know that there are a few nasty bugs doing the rounds, but I cannot be convinced that an outbreak of flu has struck our children the day before a long weekend. We have a full programme all the way until the end of Thursday next week. It is vital that our children attend school. Please do not make holiday plans that infringe on school time. I know that it is cheaper to fly before the holidays start. When a child misses school, they are responsible for catching up on the missed work and for keeping up with the new work. It is a lot of pressure. Please do not put your children under unnecessary pressure by allowing them to stay home if they are not very sick. Thursday next week is a subject focus day. The time is broken down into two 90-minute sessions, where teachers get to focus on a particular topic and run a controlled assessment. Missing the day means missing an assessment and the consequences thereof.

Fanfare and Flourishes

Please book your tickets for the concert tonight. There will be tickets at the door too. It is going to be a delightful way to start your long weekend.



Summer sport awards, Thursday 27 March at 13H00

We celebrate the achievement of our Summer sportsmen (gender neutral term). The list of names of the award winners is at the end of this newsletter. Please join us as we take the time to appreciate their efforts over the last six months.

Debating and Public Speaking Festival

We are very excited about our Debating and Public Speaking festival starting tomorrow and continuing into the weekend. We will have over two hundred debaters and public speakers from schools all over the Eastern Cape converge on the school to pit their wits and talents against each other in what is becoming a feature on the Provincial calendar. I am very grateful to all the teachers who are willing to give up the weekend in pursuit of a really well-thought-out argument. Perhaps a few prominent world leaders would benefit from visiting our festival and learning how to construct a reasoned argument based on logic and the truth. It might address a few significant political impasses that are all having a devastating impact on people's day-to-day lives in various parts of the world. We wish our Alex teams all the best for the competition.

BELA act implementation

As most of you are aware, the President has signed the Basic Education Laws Amendments Act into law. Our Provincial Head of Department has issued a directive on the implementation of several parts of the Act over the past few weeks. Recently, she has issued a directive declaring all schools alcohol-free zones. It is not hugely impactful on our day-to-day operations, but there were a few parent functions where we sold alcohol or allowed parents to bring alcohol with them to the function. We are now instructed to ensure that we all comply with the directive. This is to inform you of the directive to ensure that we do not have any embarrassing misunderstandings. It was already in the SA Schools Act that schools are smoke free zones, so that has not changed, but now we add alcohol to the list. I am sure that we will still have a great time together even if we do not have alcohol at our events.

Other aspects of the implementation of the new act will be detailed as the instructions are published. We don't expect any dramatic changes related to the new Bill.

There is an effort to create a centralised school admissions system for the province, similar to the system used in Gauteng and more recently in the Western Cape. This effort is not related to the BELA Act. When implemented, it could have an impact on the school. We do not have any clear instructions about the implementation date, but I will keep you informed.

Blood Pressure Study

We have been approached by the HMS department of NMU to support their efforts to collect blood pressure data on children in Africa. The current medical reference data is based on European studies and is used to inform decision makers. We want our data to be in the reference set. They have generated a consent document for each child in the school. Those consent forms will be sent home on Monday. Please don't feel pressured to give consent (no pun intended). If you are willing to let your child participate in the study, they will miss a few minutes of one lesson next term to have their blood pressure, height, weight and waste measurement taken. Please give or decline the consent and return the form to school before Wednesday next week.

Please look after yourself and those you love this week. Enjoy your Human Rights Day tomorrow. Consider the importance of the day in our country's history, take a moment to consider how far we have come, and how far we must still go as a society.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Ridgway', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew Ridgway
Principal

SUMMER SPORTS AWARD WINNERS

Surname	FirstName
Adams	Caiden
Ansley	Kyle
Baboo	Muhammad
Beling	Wade
Bhabha	Nazley
Botha	Tristan
Capoto	Kaylin
Connolley	Caylm
Cunningham	Nakisha
Da Silva	Havannuh
Debe	Esona
Edwards	Haley
Geswind	Mikhail
Graham	Bianca
Graham	Alexander
Gray	Logan
Griffith	Tyler
Groenewald	Leigh-Ora
Hambridge	Matthew
Heynes	Annabelle
Howard	Bailey
Jonas	Rio
Jonck	Aiden
Kayser	Simonique
Kock	Aletheia
Korsten	Ihsaan
Kwange	Sivuyise
Lugogwana	Mwelase
Lugongolo	Khanyisa
Luti	Sibahle
Magaba	Iviwe
Maposa	Bonga
McLachlan	Teagan
Miller	Miguel
Mngomezulu	Bongiwe
Msutwana	Sibahle
Nash	Daniel
Njibana	Thalita
Njibana	Lilitha
Ntanjana	Kungawo

Ntshingana
Paling
Pedersen
Pienaar
Pienaar
Pienaar
Reid
Remy
Sauls
Schwagele
Smith
Terblanche
Thomas
Titus
van der Merwe
Van Rooyen
Welcome
Whitebooi
Whittaker
Young

Chuma
Cassandra
Shiraz
Danielle
Emily
Hannah
Shethar
Gabrielle
Roberto
Jordan
Ethan
Samahra
Ameerudeen
Khyler-Jade
Kayden
Alexa
Ruzé
Rihanna
Kai
Ethan