



# Alexander Road High School

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Dear Alex Family Members

## **Fire and Wind**

After a violent assault on all of us by the atmosphere yesterday, I hope all the parts of your home are still attached. It is the windy city but we got a real blasting yesterday. Our ongoing dry spell most certainly did not help with a few fires kicking off again. Most of us were back in the dark ages without electricity and water over night. I suppose it is very frustrating but it helps us not to take these things for granted.

With our first full week this year now under our belts, things are starting to get back into the routine of school. A big thanks to all the parents and guardians who made it to our 3 parent meetings this week. It was good to share some of the important information pertaining to each specific grade. A reminder to Grade 11 parents about our meeting planned for the 29<sup>th</sup> of January at 17H00 and to Grade 9 parents for the 9<sup>th</sup> of February.

## **Congratulations**

We hosted the Eastern Cape Youth Orchestra Foundation's Summer Course at the end of last year. The following Alexans participated and were awarded certificates of achievement: Jenna Goss, Sibabalwe Kula, Siyambulela Mtshingila, Eric De Necker, Esihle Gxoyiya and, Kamogretswe Seseng. We are very proud of all of them.

## **Locker Purchases**

A reminder that the locker draws were done this week and that purchases will take place on Tuesday next week. If your child was allocated a locker and you would like them to have one. Please check which size they were allocated and send the correct amount and a lock with them to school on Tuesday. A reminder of the prices:

Extra Large – R240, Large R180, Medium R120, Small R100. If your child was not allocated a locker but you would like them to have one. Please also send them to school on Tuesday with the money and a lock. There are always lockers left over and they can be allocated and paid for on the same day.

## **Societies Day**

On Wednesday next week we will be hosting our annual Societies Day. Everyone will get the chance to visit the displays put up by the various societies

that are available at Alex. I would love you to encourage your child to get involved in one of the societies. Missing out on this aspect of Alex life is missing a great deal. There is so much to be experienced and learned. The extra-curricular programme at Alex is probably part of the reason that you sent them to us in the first place. Please don't let them opt out because it is easier.

### **RCL Voting**

On Friday next week, Alexans in Grade 9 to 12 will vote in their classes for two class representatives. These class reps then vote among each other to elect the Representative Council of Learners. Three members of the RCL will be part of the SGB. As you know the SGB is responsible for governance of the school. This process is democracy in action. Please discuss the election with your child. If they are nominated. Please ask them to consider accepting the nomination. Representing your class is an important responsibility and fills a vital role of ensuring that the voice of the student body is heard at the highest level of control in the school.

### **Girls Waterpolo Tournament**

Next weekend we are hosting our annual Waterpolo Tournament for Girls. This is the longest running Girls Waterpolo Tournament in South Africa. We host schools from all over the province. We are very excited to have the privilege welcoming them to Alex. Please pop in on Friday or Saturday next week to be part of the excitement.

### **Lost Property**

We are sitting on a huge pile of lost property, most of it brand new items, with no names on them. This is very frustrating considering how much these items cost to purchase. There is a chance that lost items are reported as stolen at home in order to absolve the person who lost it of blame. We will be putting the items out on display next week in order to try to repatriate some of them with their owners. Please could you all put names into your child's clothes and sports kit. I know that it is a bit of a pain to do but it is one of those actions that could save the replacement cost of the item.

### **Morning Traffic Blues**

Every year I make the same appeal to everyone to be considerate and courteous when using the road outside the school at peak traffic times. My appeals only occasionally have an impact. That does not stop me from trying again this year. We operate a drop and go system on both sides of the road in the mornings. Please ignore the angle parking markers and pull off the road in a parallel manner, drop off your child and then re-join the flow in the same direction.

**Please do not try to make a U-turn. Please do not stop in the lane.** These two actions have a significant negative impact on the flow of traffic, leading to a lot of frayed nerves.

We all have places to be in the mornings. We all want to start our days off on a positive note. If we take care to observe these guidelines, we will allow everyone to have a serene morning and potentially a pleasant day.

**Medical Conditions**

If your child has any medical condition that requires a specific intervention when it is triggered, please could you be sure to let us know. If we are informed about the best treatment, it will help our intervention to be as effective as possible.

**Debit orders**

If you have a debit order for the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, please take note that we will execute it on Monday. Please make sure you have enough to cover this month's payment in your account on Monday.

Please look after yourself and those you love this week.

Fond regards



Matthew Ridgway  
Principal