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1

**CURRO**  
Aurora

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent

My warmest greetings to the Curro Aurora school community in this first newsletter of our 2020 academic year. A special hearty welcome to our cohort of new learners and parents.

To all our new and returning learners: welcome, and welcome back. We are looking forward to celebrating all your successes this year. Congratulations to all our learners who excelled in various extra-mural activities over the past December holiday – we are immensely proud of you all.

I am deeply honoured and incredibly excited to have the opportunity to serve this great school. Working together, I believe teachers, parents and learners will make Curro Aurora even better this year. We're planning a number of formal and informal opportunities for us to share time and ideas -- please look for information and invitations coming soon.

The energy and excitement in our buildings today has a primary source: our outstanding learners. Collectively, our learners are bright, mission-driven people who have come to Curro Aurora wanting to change the world for the better.

#### **Staff news:**

Miss Michelle Gumede got married to Mr Thuthukani Dlamini and Mr Brendan van Zyl to Miss Amoré Blignaut.

Mr Gerard Appelman got engaged to Miss Renske Conradie and Miss Kyla Hayter got engaged to Mr Andrew Talbot.

Congratulations – we wish our young couples a long and happy life together!

#### **New staff:**

Mr Craig Hourquebie has joined our English department and Mrs Elisabeth Nicholson has been appointed as Head of Life Orientation.

#### **Staff leaving:**

Our long-time colleague and friend, the legendary Mrs Belinda Pretorius will be leaving us to join her family in the UK during this term.

Mrs Rialda Jansen van Rensburg will also leave us at the end of the term to take up the position of Head of Afrikaans at King David Victory Park.

Both these ladies will be dearly missed. The timetable has been planned to minimise disruption as far as possible and replacement teachers will be appointed as soon as possible.

#### **Communication:**

Contact details of the School Management Team and Grade Heads herewith for easy reference:



Receptionist	Cindy Duma	Cindy.D3@curro.co.za
Head of High School	Dion Kotze	Dion.K@curro.co.za
FET Phase Head	Sarah-Jane Olivier	Sarah-Jane.O01@curro.co.za
Snr Phase Head	Donne Valkenburg	Donne.V1@curro.co.za
Head of Sport	Adrian Ferreira	Adrian.F@curroholdings.co.za
Head of Culture	Saskia Snyders	Saskia.S@curro.co.za
Grade 12 Heads	Nicole Webb	Nicole.W2@curro.co.za
	Maria Chou	Maria.C@curro.co.za
Grade 11 Heads	Judy Beeston	Judy.B@curroholdings.co.za
	Anita Bornman	Anita.B@curro.co.za
Grade 10 Heads	Janine Tobin	Janine.T@curro.co.za
	Wendy Longwitz	Wendy.L2@curro.co.za
Grade 9 Heads	Kelsey Gallon	Kelsey.G2@curro.co.za
	Brendan van Zyl	Brendan.v@curro.co.za
Grade 8 Heads	Kyla Hayter	Kyla.H@curro.co.za
	Warrick Hammond	Warrick.H@curro.co.za

Please note that e-mails cannot always be read or answered immediately as all members of the School Management Team and Grade Heads have a teaching responsibility too. We do try our best to answer as quickly as possible.

## ENRICHMENT TOUR: EUROPE JUNE 2020

We are super excited about our Enrichment Tour leaving for Europe on 13 June!

We met with the travel agency and were able to include ROME, FLORENCE and VENICE in our 2020 tour. We will still spend 9 land days on tour and were able to include a number of exciting excursions!



WE HAVE ONLY **7 SPACES** STILL AVAILABLE FOR THIS TOUR!



Contact Mr Kotze or Mrs Bornman for more information on this. amazing experience!



**TOP**  
ACHIEVERS

#Learners2Leaders

## Curro Aurora congratulates the world's future leaders

### The Class of 2019

100% pass rate | 92% bachelor's degree pass rate



**Stian Thomson**  
7 distinctions



**Bontle Watson**  
6 distinctions



**Kaylee Daniels**  
6 distinctions



**Sarah Dike**  
5 distinctions



**Zarishe Nel**  
5 distinctions



**Nicholas Kruger**  
5 distinctions



**Una Terzic**  
4 distinctions



**Mohammed Khan**  
4 distinctions



**Reon Hillebrand**  
4 distinctions



**Caitlyn Pimenta**  
3 distinctions



**Kyra Broomberg**  
3 distinctions



**Rae-Juan Still**  
3 distinctions



**Ada Wiggett**  
3 distinctions



**Amber Meikle**  
3 distinctions

'Congratulations to the Curro Aurora Class of 2019 – you once again made us extremely proud! Today, we at Curro Aurora not only celebrate the outstanding achievements of our 2019 matrics, we also celebrate the future of our country led by these future leaders. At Curro Aurora we believe that a child-centred approach is the key to quality education. We have a dedicated and hardworking education team which thrives on change, diversity and progress. Their expertise, support and encouragement of all the learners over many years are reflected in our 2019 matric results. The team at Curro Aurora will continue to provide modern teaching and learning practice, to the highest standard in a healthy, secure and inspiring learning environment.'

Mr JC Engelbrecht – Executive Head

'Each year we proudly look back at what our matrics have achieved and how far they have all come. We want to congratulate all our wonderful young people in achieving another great milestone. I have been incredibly impressed with all our learners this past academic year. They have all progressed so much, educationally and socially. I am proud of each and every one of them. The most special component of Curro Aurora is therefore the Curro Aurora learner. We can definitely celebrate our motto of "carpe diem" as we celebrate our 100% pass rate, our increased bachelor's degree pass rate and our higher distinctions-per-candidate ratio.'

Mr Dion Kotze – Head of High School



## SPORT

*Mr Adrian Ferreira*

The following learners are congratulated on their achievements during the holidays.

### Softball:

The following learners represented JSA (Johannesburg Softball Association) at the Inter-Regional Schools Tournament at Camp Discovery.

u/19:

- **Courtney Arthur & Megan Winterbach**
- Team finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place

u/15:

- **Rebecca Arthur & Kamilah Hank**
- Team finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place

u/13:

- **Zoe Colrat & Ameerah Hank**
- Team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place



### Indoor Hockey:



**Cade van Wyk** represented the Gauteng Gryphons u/18B team at the PSI Nationals in Cape Town.

The team finished in 8<sup>th</sup> out of 18 teams in Pool A in the u/18B section.

### Equestrian:

**Rae-kyndra Ragoobee** competed in the SA Youth Championship. The SA Youth Championships is a competition event at national level. Participants are junior riders up to age 18yrs from all provinces.

Riders ride their events over 3 days and then the Championship Final is on the 4th day (last Friday).

Rae-kyndra placed 1st on each of the 3 days qualifying up to the Final. In the Championship Finals, she won Victor Ludorum for event: Showjumping 70s.





## Golf:

**Kieron van Wyk** achieved the following:

- He represented Central Gauteng Golf Union at the Junior Inter-Provincial Championship at Oubai Golf Club where they finished 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- He qualified and played in the South African Open at Randpark Golf Club. This is a professional event co-sanctioned by the Sunshine and European Tours.



We are very proud of their wonderful achievements, congratulations!

## CULTURE

The Culture Department is extremely excited to start 2020. We have a range of activities, performances, workshops, outings and development programs scheduled for what promises to be an incredible year.

### Choir

All Grade 8, 9 and 11 learners have been screened for the High School choir and the learners have been complimented on their talent and potential.

The learners who have been identified by our choir master, Mr Bester, to attend the formal auditions have been indicated on the culture notice board outside class N5. These learners, as well as any Grade 10 and 12 learner who would like to attend a formal audition, must please complete the audition rosters.

These formal auditions will be held on Monday, 20 January, and Wednesday, 22 January. We look forward to hearing all of your beautiful voices again.

### FEDA

We are already preparing for this year's annual Festival of Excellence in Dramatic Arts (FEDA). Auditions for the two plays will take place in N5 on Thursday, 23 January (14:45 – 15:45), and Friday, 24 January (14:30 – 15:30). All learners are encouraged to join the auditions. Please sign up for the auditions outside N5.

## SCHOOL COUNSELOR

School counselors help learners overcome behavioural problems, improve their time management and organisational skills, establish academic goals, resolve interpersonal problems with other learners, or work through personal problems. Learners who need support are encouraged to speak to their Grade Heads who will refer them to the counselor if need be. Learners may also approach the school counselor, Mrs Bentel, directly if they need assistance.

Sessions with a school counselor are treated as highly confidential. We ask that parents respect this and not demand details of cases that our counselor handles.



## SANTA'S SHOEBOX GRADE 9 EVENT, 2019



At the end of last year, the Grade 9 group had their Santa Shoebox Day and they volunteered to assist Thandanani. Curro learners donated money towards filling boxes with educational equipment, hygiene products, yummy treats and toys.

Curro learners then volunteered to play soccer with the kids from Thandanani and spent the morning ensuring that a good time was had by all. Our learners got to know the visitors very well, who thoroughly enjoyed some refreshments and their gift boxes, after an energetic day of fun and laughter with our amazing learners.



## MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD

The South African Mathematics Olympiad is the largest Olympiad in South Africa and we would like to encourage our learners to participate.

It is voluntary and open to all Grade 8 and 9 learners and any Mathematics learners in Grades 10 to 12.

The first round is written on 12 March 2020.

The entry fee is R20 and payable to the learner's Mathematics Teacher.

Learners who attain 50% or higher in the first round qualify for the second round, which is written on the 14th May.

It is well known that mathematics competitions generate a lot of enthusiasm and curiosity for the subject.

Every participant in the SAMO papers will be challenged by at least one problem and hence his or her problem solving skills will improve. Problem solving skills can be further improved by carefully working through the solutions of these rounds.





Creative problem-solving skills are very necessary and very marketable in today's technically oriented market place. This market place is now global and South Africa needs to be very competitive. Hence, we need expert problem solvers. Practice in problem solving will help to train our future leaders in technological development.

## BOOK SALE DAY

Our young book sellers showed off their entrepreneurial skills during our book sales day. You could see our budding negotiators do their very best to procure quality textbooks and notes at a fair price.

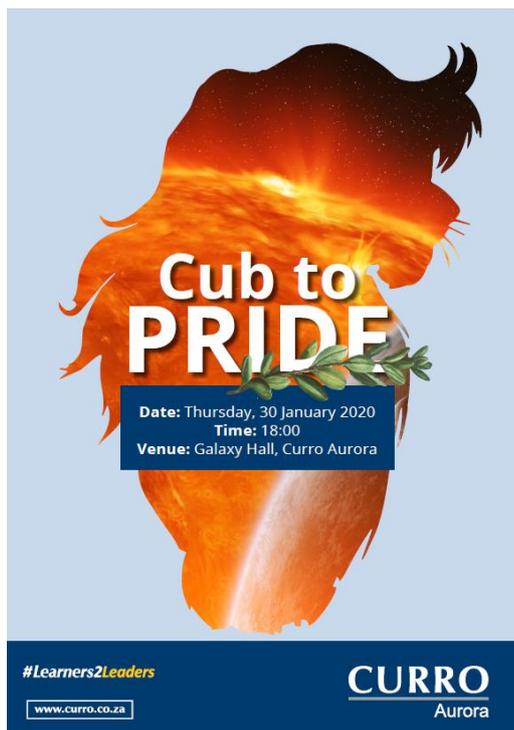


## GRADE 8 ORIENTATION

Our Grade 8s started high school full of enthusiasm and eager to get involved. They have been busy in their Orientation week and seem to love high school! As they end their first week of school, we can see them settling in and are eager to see how they will begin to grow as a group and forge their own legacy.

Participation at their school-based camp has been amazing with all our learners getting stuck in and enjoying themselves whilst doing the three-legged soccer, the obstacle course, tug-of-war and the water pistols too. We look forward to sharing 2020 with our new cubs.

## The Grade 8 Orientation Concert: Cub to Pride



*If you can dream it; you can do it! – Disney*

We are incredibly excited to watch our cubs take to the stage. Do not miss out on this entertaining evening.

Date: 30 January 2020  
Time: 18:00  
Venue: Galaxy Hall, Curro Aurora

Let's welcome our cubs into our pride.

*A special mention must go to Maesela Katlego Sekoele who is the creative mastermind behind our beautiful poster.*



## THOUGHT TO PONDER:



I wish you all the very best for an amazing new year!

Yours in education,

Dion Kotze  
Head of High School