



Upper Primary School

# AMAZING CHRONICLES

Newsletter for the students, parents and staff of Amazing Kids Private School

| AUG/SEPT 2021

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE DESK: HOD PRE-PRIMARY**



### **Greetings Amazing Community!**

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."  
Quote by Nelson Mandela. The current COVID-19 crisis has obliged most education systems to adopt alternatives to face-to-face teaching and learning. Many education systems moved activities online, to allow instruction to continue despite school closures. We thank God that Amazing Kids Private School and Academy Pre-Primary department is equipped in terms of e-learning and online teaching since 2012. It was not easy but we managed to teach our learners through Google meet and google classroom since the pandemic hit the world with help of our parents.

A child is achieving one growth milestone after another and growing by leaps and bounds. The brain of a child is also growing at a very fast pace which is why it becomes essential to lay a strong foundation in the formative years.

The groundwork for good school performance begins early in life, long before children enter formal school. Having said that the early years of a child are for exploring and creativity.

As Pre-Primary Department of Amazing Kids Private School and Academy, we strive to provide an early learner with a multi-disciplinary environment making learning an exciting part of growing up years. This environment ensures that studies, school, and learning are embraced by children early on in life and not feared. The first five years of a child's life are fundamentally important. Early experiences in a child's life play an important role in shaping the brain's architecture and provide a base for brain's functioning throughout life.

Apart from the pedagogic deliverables, we are focused on promoting health and wellbeing of every child. We help them develop good social habits: to learn how to make friends and respect others in a loving atmosphere.

Our main emphasis is on fostering the 'joy of learning', language enrichment through our curriculum letterland and early communication.

Our curriculum is carefully designed by Early Years Education experts and co-curricular exposure is a major area we like to focus on.

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. Education plays an important role in shaping an individual's life. If an early learner is subjected to duress in order to get educated the process will lose its essence. Never forget that education is meant to elevate the mind not burden it. The positive environment in our department ensures that studies, school, and learning are embraced by children early on in life and not feared.

In this journey we seek the support of all stakeholders – especially parents. Parents, being the first teachers, have the potential to play immensely proactive roles. Parents must become role models for their children, as children emulate them. We guide our parents by way of regular interactions, one-on-one and otherwise, and encourage them to stop and listen to their children.

Thank you for embarking on this beautiful journey with us.

*Nelinda le Matengu*

# **SOUL FOOD: CHAPLAIN: ANDREW VAN**

**For the Hungry and Thirsty**

**Matthew 5:6**

**Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**

To be hungry means your are in need of food which your body has confirmed that it needs to continue working.

Likewise is the case with our spiritual walk with God. We need to study the word of God in order to be a believer. We need to search the scriptures for the truth in order to life a life of truth because we serve a God of truth. After all, God's word does indicate that the truth will set us free and it will also prepare and strengthen us in the challenges to come.

If only we could conceive the rich supplies of grace and power awaiting our demand. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled. We must exercise greater faith in calling upon God for all needed blessings.6Testimonies for the Church 5:17. AG 317.2

Meaning that God promises to supply our need of hunger and thirst for righteousness, even though we are sinful beings. What I love about God is that He knows our hearts, and sees our true pain and suffering. He sees our yearning to desire Him and therefore He will provide for us, Jehovah Jireh.

The strength acquired in prayer to God, united with individual effort in training the mind to thoughtfulness and care-taking, prepares the person for daily duties and keeps the spirit in peace under all circumstances, however trying. The temptations to which we are daily exposed make prayer a necessity. In order that we may be kept by the power of God through faith, the desires of the mind should be continually ascending in silent prayer for help, for light, for strength, for knowledge. But thought and prayer cannot take the place of earnest, faithful improvement of the time. Work and prayer are both required in perfecting Christian character. Faith and works go hand in hand. Our actions are the very testimony of our faith.

We must live a twofold life—a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work.... God requires us to be living epistles, known and read of all men. The soul that turns to God for its strength, its support, its power, by daily, earnest prayer, will have noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty, lofty purposes of action, and a continual hungering and thirsting after righteousness of Christ. Everyday will become a day of growth, progress and victory. Christ sees us as more than overcomes in our circumstances.

Let us realize the weakness of humanity, and see where man fails in his self-sufficiency. We shall then be filled with a desire to be just what God desires us to be—pure, noble and sanctified. We shall hunger and thirst after the righteousness of Christ. To be like God will be the one desire of the soul. This is the desire that filled Enoch's heart. And we read that he walked and talked with God. He studied the character of God to a purpose that came from a desire of hunger and thirst. He did not mark out his own course, or set up his own will.... He strove to conform himself to the divine likeness of His maker and Savior.

May God bless us and keep us as we seek Him daily.

God bless

Chaplain



## **Editor's Note**

*To say that I am excited to edit your favourite newsletter would be an understatement of great proportions. The publication of this school magazine ignites pleasure and satisfaction in me to witness the monumental strides gained by AKPS School in the period of its existence.*

*The vision of our management led by our Managing Director and their call to create an environment where every child has a chance to excel and achieve their dream. This has surely and steadily been achieved and we can see glimpses of compassion and empathy in the way our stakeholders have played their part in achieving this goal.*

*The Amazing Chronicles aims at opening a window of opportunity to many people who will know, that as an institution, we are destined for a bright future. The magazine is a vehicle for the students and staff to express their innermost thoughts. It was actually a lovely experience to see these enthusiastic and budding writers voicing their feelings through stories, poems, jokes and articles.*

*I hope this magazine goes on to become the unique proposition of our school to stay in contact with our stakeholders.*

*My thanks are due to the senior leadership of the school for the support they render always, the editorial team, students and teachers who have been of immense help and have brought Amazing Chronicles alive with their immense support and rich contribution; which we now proudly present it for your reading pleasure.*

*To all readers: Parents, pupils, friends and other stakeholders, thank you for your patience. Remember, you never get the chicks by breaking the eggs; they hatch. And where there is life, there is hope.*

**Stay Blessed!**

**Mpafa Braveman**

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# Is Self-Esteem Important?

Cathrine Nyengera - Social Worker

Self-esteem is giving respect and admiration to yourself. If you have high self-esteem it means you give yourself love, value, dignity and respect. It means you believe in your capability and independence to do things on your own. You think your ideas, feelings and opinions have worth. Self-esteem is not only about what you think of yourself, it is also about how you think others view, treat and value you.

Having said that, high self-esteem does not mean you love everything about yourself or think you are perfect. Rather it is a frame of mind that lets and allows you to celebrate your strengths, challenge your weaknesses and feel good about yourself and your life.

Back to our question, does high self-esteem matter? Having high self-esteem is crucial for positive mental health and well-being. High self-esteem matters because it helps you develop coping skills, handle adversity and put the negative into perspective. Instead of feeling hopeless or stuck, if you have high self-esteem you will look for what you can change or improve. You will realise that it's not the end of the world if something goes wrong or maybe you are rejected. High self-esteem boosts overall health. Having high self-esteem is considered to be protective against many mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety.

In the next issue we will talk about how you can boost your self-esteem.



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# 10 Ways to Get Your Kids to Appreciate Good Music

By *Uncle Lucky*

Getting your kids to appreciate good music can start as early as in the womb. Many parents-to-be report excited kicks coming from their tummy when singing to their unborn babies or playing good music. Music can bring great joy and speak to the soul – not only that, it has many benefits that can seriously improve quality of life.

Music increases brain power and memory, gives kids a form of artistic expression, improves creativity, can teach patience and discipline, and can be a wonderful confidence builder. You might want your kids to appreciate classical music or at least The Beatles, but don't berate them for listening to nursery rhymes or songs aimed at kids. This kind of music can be a great stepping stone that eventually leads them to appreciate the music that changed the world.

Below, you'll find 10 ways to get your kids to appreciate good music. Take a look!

## 1. Listen To Music Regularly

It only makes sense that you should listen to music regularly. Don't just listen, though; discuss the song with your kids. Talk about the instruments that were used, what the song means, and anything else you think might peak their interest. If they are old enough, you could even ask them questions to get them thinking about the types of instruments that were used, for example.

## 2. Sing With Your Kids

Singing with your kids can be a great bonding experience. It doesn't matter whether you're singing something from their favourite tots TV show or whether you're singing one of your favourites. Getting your kids involved in singing these songs can help them to understand things like pitch and tone, and simply enjoy a good sing song. This is a great activity for the car or on days when you feel like dancing and singing around the house!

## 3. Show Your Own Passion For Music

When you display your own passion for something, your kids are bound to take notice. Show your own passion for music by singing, playing an instrument, or making music on your computer. Show them, rather than tell them. When you're passionate about something your kids will always be more interested in it. This doesn't necessarily mean they will follow in your footsteps, but they will almost definitely share an appreciation for your passion.

## 4. Play Games That Include Music

There are all kinds of games that include music. Pass the parcel, musical chairs, Limbo, and even computer games can all be used. Your kids will learn to pay attention to the beat, move their bodies to the rhythm, learn about timing, and much more.

## 5. Encourage Your Kids To Play A Musical Instrument

All kids should have a hobby or two that they feel passionate about. Having a hobby while they are young can give them a passion for life. At the very least, it'll show them that there is more to life than school and screens! You could get them guitar lessons or ask them what kind of musical instrument they would be interested in playing. As kids' brains are like sponges, the younger they start, the better. This will teach them patience and discipline, and they will learn how to persevere even when something gets hard.

## 6. Attend Live Performances

Live music performances are a great way to instil a love of music into your kids. Take them to a classical concert if you think they will sit still, or take them to a musician that they really like. Music festivals are also great, but you'll want to be sure that it's family/child friendly before you attend. The atmosphere alone can make your kids more excited about music! Don't neglect to get the appropriate hearing protection for them, though.

## 8. Encourage Your Kids To Learn More About the Songs They Like

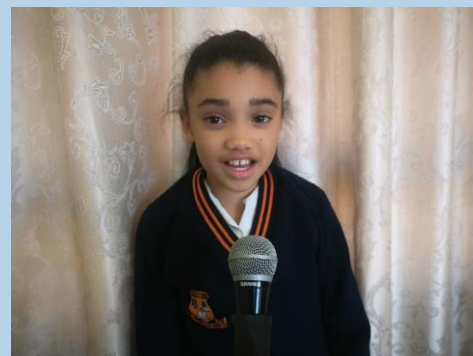
If your kids have a favourite song, encourage them to learn more. Using sites like 'genius' is a great way to learn more about what the song is about, and this can help them to think about the lyrics in more detail. Who knows? They might even want to write their own songs at some stage! The history of certain songs and bands can be really interesting (mentioning The Beatles again here, because, well you know...), and encouraging them to do their own research can help them in numerous ways too.

## 9. Don't Push Too Hard

You want your kids to develop their own love of great music, but you shouldn't push too hard. When you push your kids too hard in anything, they naturally tend to push back and want to do it less. This shouldn't be stressful for them, or like a chore. It should be something that they genuinely enjoy doing and learning about. Go easy on them!

## 10. Encourage Them To Practice As Often As Possible

Whether your child is singing or playing an instrument, encourage them to practice as often as possible. Make sure they know that practice will help them get better, and that not everything should come easily to them. Some kids will want to give up the second something gets hard, but with positive encouragement and realistic expectations, they'll be glad they stuck it out!



# Virtual vs face-to-face learning



Akio Johnson - Gr. 5B

*During the lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our school had to switch from face to face learning to virtual learning. In the following article, we will discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of Virtual and Face to Face learning.*

## Virtual Learning Strengths

Virtual learning has brought all kinds of education to us, and new ways to learn. We have the Neo LMS school portal where we are able to get assignments, classes, and many more. With virtual learning, you can do so much. We have our classes with Google Meet and are able to work on assignments better with chat rooms, and meetings. Projects are easier to present as you don't need to connect the device to the Smartboard or Apple TV. We also save more money on petrol because the kids are at home.

## Virtual Learning Opportunities

The opportunities that come with virtual learning is astounding. There are many different websites to explore and new ways to learn. In Computer/Robotics class, there is a website called Computer Dojo and it helps to train students on how to use computers with fun games and tutorials. In math class there is Mr.Nussbaum with a website with lots of different kinds of math games including speed math, which tests students' multiplication skills with a timer.

Teachers are able to assess their students with revision worksheets and tests via the NEO LMS school portal.

Virtual learning brings new ways to learn.

## Virtual Learning Weaknesses

Even though virtual learning brings many good things to the table, it comes with weaknesses as well. Lots of things can go wrong with virtual learning. During lockdown, most people were using WiFi, during online classes, there has been a lot of network disturbance and some miss out on a lot of things because of this. When the teacher starts recording the meeting, some may accidentally get kicked and the network won't allow them to join. Sometimes people's microphones aren't working and they have to type in the chat box, but at times, the computers starts freezing. There can be problems with the camera because at times, it stops working. When presenting school projects, the meeting starts to freeze. Sometimes you may not see the presentation at all but the presenter thinks otherwise and continues presenting even though no one can see it. So as you can see, virtual learning also has its weaknesses.

## Virtual Learning Threats

There are a lot of things in this world that have a bad side, and Virtual learning is one of them. Virtual learning may bring good things and opportunities, but there are also threats that come along with it. When online, your computer is vulnerable to all kinds of attacks. People can hack you with the clicks of just a few buttons, and they have control over your entire computer. When doing virtual learning, some turn off their cameras and open another window to do other activities. Most play the famous game known as ROBLOX. Lots of people have been playing it while classes go on and the teachers never know what's going on behind the camera. Some just say their camera is off because it ISN'T WORKING. Others just join their classes with their cameras off and leave. A teacher may ask a student a question in class, and since they aren't paying attention, they might say their microphone isn't working, or they type that they can't hear the teacher, or, they leave for a few minutes, come back and say there was a connection difficulty. At times, there can be a data breach, and someone takes your password, so please be careful when dealing with private matters online.



# Vitual vs face-to-face learning

## Face-to-Face Learning Strengths

Face to face learning has much strength, and we understand things better when we aren't behind a computer screen. Face to face learning has allowed us to see our friends again. We are able to do some things better than we did online, and it's easier to communicate with our teachers. Now that we are face to face, we won't be able to play games on our gadgets like we did with cameras off online. We won't be able to leave the class and come back, and we won't be able to say our microphones and cameras aren't working.



Motjaritje Mukuka - Grade 5C

## Face-to-Face Learning Weaknesses

The weaknesses that come with face to face learning is so much information is presented to the students and most of the information will not make into long-term memory because the information is being presented quickly due to many short periods and small attention span.

## Face-to-Face Learning Opportunities

Ever since Covid-19 started, we went online, but now that we are face to face, our school has had the opportunity to go digital, a new era of this school . We have had the chance to do new things and experiment in science, do new social studies projects, and many more. We all stand together during these Covid times, because we are an Amazing Family.

## Face-to-Face Learning Threats

Unfortunately, there are some threats with Face to Face learning. There is an increased risk of contracting Covid-19 and spreading it, which normally rises when people from different households comes together, unfortunately even if they try to keep Covid-19 protocols set by the school.

# Farewell Uncle Elias

Dear Uncle Elias - thank you for being the best Science teacher ever. You inspired in us to have a love for learning and made us feel like we could ask you anything. You always had the patience for our questions and knew just how to explain the answers. You may not have termed it anything, but it meant a lot to us.

We will really miss you and your wonderful teaching skills. Mathematics will no longer be  $1 + 1 = 11$ . Our fond memories of the time in your classroom will last a lifetime. Thank you for your sacrifices and for showing us that a goal without a plan is a mere dream.

Thank you for your time and patience and for treating your position as a privilege rather than a job. You're truly inspiring and I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart. As you leave the school, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours and hope you will keep in touch with us from time to time.





# Sports: Synthetic Football Pitch Inauguration



# Congratulations AKPS!!!!!!

# Upcoming Events

- 07 September.....Prepared Oral Reading out to Learners
- 13 -17 September .....Bible Verse Competition
- 21 - 24 September.....One on One Promotional Consultation
- 23 September.....Internal Conquesta
- 28 - 01 October.....Annual Awards Ceremony
- 01 - 08 October.....Midterm Break
- 18 - 27 October.....Cycle Tests
- 8 - 23 November.....Final Examination Starts