



ALMA NEWS

**ALMA SCHOOL
NPO 001-427**

**News Letter Nr. 3
20 February 2014**



As part of Alma School's Sport Development plan, SADGA (South African Disabled Golf Association), is giving golf lessons at the school on a weekly basis. SADGA, in conjunction with Ottobock, donated a Para Golfer to the school to be used by our disabled children who plays golf.

Unfortunately our children were not able to fully enjoy the benefits of the Para Golfer. The Para Golfer is a very specialized wheelchair and very difficult for children to operate. We discussed this matter with SADGA and we decided to donate this very special motorized golf wheelchair to Mathys Roets, who loved to play golf up until his accident that left him paralyzed.



On the 5th of February this year, Mathys Roets visited Alma School to receive the Para Golfer. During the hand over, some of our Alma Learners and Mr Bondesio, together with Eugene Vorster (SADGA), Bernard Visser (SADGA golf coach) and Steven Baard (Ottobock Managing Director) were present.



Mathys was overwhelmed and immediately tried the Para Golfer out. He then started planning on how to make the Para Golfer also available to other people with disabilities and giving them the opportunity to enjoy the game of golf.

Wheelchair pushers of the week



Obakeng Senabe
Group 16



Rebaone Kgaswe
Group 18



Morné White
Group 10



Dylon Heyne-Stoltz
Group 10

Important dates

- * 25 FEBRUARY 2014 - INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS
- * 1 MARCH 2014 - ALMA FESTIVAL

Alma Sport

All the sports at Alma is in full swing again and the interest in the different sports is growing. The children are eager to practice and not even the hot weather can keep them away!

- * Teachers Elna & Wilmie are the **NETBALL** coaches and practice takes place on **MONDAYS** during school hours. Tekkies is not compulsory, but we do recommend that you send tekkies to school on Mondays for practice.
- * **SOCCER** has also started and there is a large group of boys interested again this year. The soccer practice also takes place on **MONDAYS** during school hours and teacher Corinne is still our Soccer Stars coach.
- * The **GOLF** started with a big swing with the handing over of the Para Golfer to Mathys Roets. Bernard has 2 separate classes on **TUESDAYS**.
- * Sensei Dirk is busy with the **KARATE** coaching. Please remember the registration form and R75 affiliation fee for 2014. Karate practice is on **THURSDAYS** during school hours.

Toddler Phase

A New Teacher for Group 2

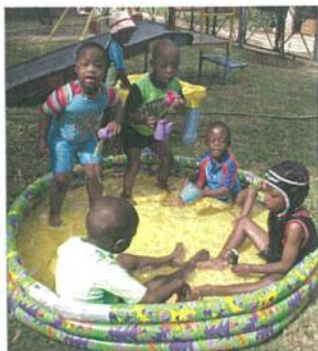
We want to welcome teacher Liz (Elizabeth Ramadikela) to the Toddler Phase! She is a young, energetic and enthusiastic teacher who already bonded with her class.

Welcome teacher Liz, may you be very happy here with us!



Valentine's fun!

The Toddler Phase decided to have some water sports on Friday the 14th of February. It was lots of fun with children laughing and water splashing everywhere! Each learner also received an ice cream, just in case the water was not enough to cool them down in this heat!



School-to-Work



Look at these giant pumpkins!!

These pumpkins came from Group 18's very own vegetable garden and were planted from the famous "Giant Dill" seeds. These giant pumpkins are being used to enter into competitions and can weigh up to 680kg. We hope that with our green fingers, we will also be able to enter our pumpkins into a competition one day!

** There is still 1 of these giant pumpkins available and it will be auctioned off at the Alma Festival.



The Therapy Box

Visual perceptual skills form the base of all learning. You can help your child by working on these skills: Over the course of a few newsletters, we will give you activity ideas to practice 7 of the most important visual perceptual skills.

1. Figure Ground

Games/Activities to play:

- Busy posters and puzzles;
- Pick up sticks (sorting them);
- Painting by numbers/colours/shapes;
- Board games (Snakes & ladders, Ludo).

A child with figure ground problems may have difficulty with:

- Concentrating on what is important only;
- Finding specific places or pictures;
- Keeping place when reading, completing a worksheet or copying from the board.

Activities to help develop Figure Ground:

- Setting the table - finding items in the drawer or cupboard.
- Selecting different pencils from a box.
- Activity books e.g. word searches or spot the difference.
- Sorting activities e.g. pasta / buttons/ beads / blocks of different sizes, colour or textures.
- Computer and cellphone games requiring sorting or matching.

Pencil and Paper Activities:

- Find the hidden object in a picture e.g. Where's Wally?
- Circle the same word in a paragraph (e.g. "was" in a magazine or newspaper text)
- Find certain punctuation marks e.g. Full stop
- Find words beginning with a specific letter e.g. "T", ending with "ing" or containing "ou".

2. Discrimination

Games/Activities:

- Snap (Card game)
- Making pipe cleaners into 3D shapes
- Lego or construction toys
- Playing with dominoes

A child with visual discrimination problems may have difficulty with:

- Matching tasks e.g. numbers, letters, shapes, symbols, words;
- Recognizing differences between shapes, size, colour, letters, words, numbers and objects;
- Reversals or inversions when writing numbers and letters.

Activities to help:

Letter on my back

Write an alphabet letter with your finger on the child's back between their shoulder blades. The child will feel the shape of the letter and must write it down.

Letter Search/ Scoring the News

Choose a specific letter or number that the child must find in a magazine (in as many different sizes or styles as possible) or ask them to e.g circle all the "e's"/ words such as "the"/1st or last word in every sentence.

Egg Carton Sort

Give the child an assortment of objects e.g. buttons; paper clips; beads, screws. Ask him to sort them into different egg carton sections.

Personnel Birthdays

- Elna Griesel — 23 February (Therapist)
- Teacher Adri Nel — 24 February (Group 17)
- Lizzie Mashava — 3 March (Class Assistant—Group 15)
- Gerhard Brits — 7 March (Internal worker)
- Teacher Elna de Vos — 7 March (Group 14)

ALMA TEA GARDEN AND SHOP
FRIDAYS FROM 09H30 TOT 11H30



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR TEA GARDEN AT THE SCHOOL. TASTY TREATS ARE PREPARED AND SERVED BY OUR LEARNERS.

WE PREFER THAT YOU BOOK BEFOREHAND

SECOND HAND SCHOOL T-SHIRTS WANTED!

Please consider donating your child's school shirts that he/she has out grown to the school's clothes bank. All shirts that are still in a good condition, even though the colour may have faded, are welcome and appreciated. Kindly send these shirts directly to the office.

Thank you!

***** Save A Child *****

One of the parents from the Toddler Phase introduced us to an institution with the name "Save A Child". They distribute diapers, wheelchairs e.g. to disabled children. You can contact them on one of the following numbers or e-mail address for more information.

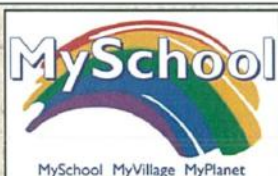
Contact number: 011 953 1302 / 072 345 9661 / 078 441 7403

E-mail: boet@saveachild.co.za

Please remember to use your card!

Each transaction is to Alma School's advantage!

If you do not have a My School or Makro card that is connected to Alma School, please contact the office for application forms.



SAFETY BELTS IN THE BUSES

Some of the safety belts in the Alma school buses need to be replaced. Should we buy directly from Mercedes, a safety belt will cost +/- R1 600.00 each and we need to replace 27 safety belts.

Should any person/company be able to donate money toward this specific project or be able to sponsor one of these safety belts, please contact Mr Bondesio.

Alternatively we would like to know of any other companies where we can purchase SABS approved safety belts for the school buses. Please contact the office in this regard.

Wilem is our newest member to the school's maintenance team. Welcome here at Alma School! May you be very happy with us!!



BANKING DETAILS:

**Alma School
Standard Bank**

Gezina (01-48-45-00)

Account number: 41 105 057 5

NB! Ref: Your child's NAME & SURNAME

Tel: (012) 335 0252

Fax: (012) 335 2658

E-mail : admin@almaschool.co.za

P. O. Box 24005,

Gezina, 0031