

DECEMBER 2022



ROYAL SCHOOLS ALBERTON

# BI-ANNUAL REPORT





# ALBERTON NEWS

My Comrades Journey:

When asked for my description of my journey around the Comrades Marathon, I did not doubt that I wanted to share my experiences.

The Comrades race is aptly called The Ultimate Human Race for many runners in South Africa, as well as hundreds of international runners who go beyond themselves to make the start of this iconic race. The race celebrated its 95th edition this year, and we ran on the 28th of August.

The race also inherited its name from the original World War veteran race in which members of the army decided to run this famous route from Durban UP to Pietermaritzburg and subsequently vice versa DOWN from Pietermaritzburg to Durban.

The runners were all meant to be comrades to each other. They ensured that they carried each other through the finish and that no runner was left behind.

I cannot say enough to describe the history of this race, which consists of approximately 90km between the two cities.

There are also numerous conditions and expectations for all runners to be able to qualify to run this race. One of the main ones that every runner will let you know; is that you must be able to run a standard 42km marathon in 4h50 min; however, if you cannot, you will not be allowed to compete. The Comrades also, most importantly, teaches you about principles of ENDURANCE, COMMITMENT, DEDICATION, PREPARATION, and finally, PERSEVERANCE.

My first qualification happened in 2015 when I ran from Durban to Pietermaritzburg in a time of 10h25, and even if I must say so myself, very unexpected and unprepared. I subsequently achieved what is also known as your BACK-TO-BACK medal, when you run two consecutive races of the Comrades Marathon in a much better time of 9h45. After that, I joined an elite running group that could complete the race in under 9 hours and achieved a medal called: Bill Rowan. I produced my best result in 2018. I ran the race in 9 hours and 15 minutes. Unfortunately or fortunately, depending on which side you look at it, I have realized that due to my age possibly, I will probably never be able to run it sub 9 hours without maybe even hurting myself in the long run. I accepted that I comfortably finished the race in under 10hrs and got a medal called Robert Mtshali, the first black runner to finish the race in under 10hrs. This year I completed my 7th race, which came with a shocking, wonderful send-off from all our staff and learners. The surprise blew me away and added to the pressure of meeting their expectations. I am still grateful for that day and the videos. I will keep them for as long as possible!

I finished my 7th race in 9h35 minutes, knowing with all my heart that I tried my best! The future target with my journey in this race will undoubtedly be to run three more races and then earn what they famously call my own Green Number. I will receive my number to keep for perpetuity, meaning forever and as long as I live! Only an elite group of runners who have completed 10 Comrades Marathons achieve this! Once I have achieved that, I guess I will possibly start slowing down or scaling it down for enjoyment. After the race and with all the pain and suffering we endured. We all promised never to participate in another race, but we are there again year after year. I will be there the again next year on the 11th of June 2023 to run another one! Please wish me luck and a kind thank you to all at RSA for the support you have given to me in this regard!

Much Appreciated!

Mr. B. Freitas (RSA School Director)

## Preschool-Fun in the Sun

On the 28th of October, the children of Royal Schools Alberton Preschool showcased their Fun in the Sun by enjoying a day full of bouncing on jumping castles. They enjoyed playing games, such as tug of war, tennis, bowling, water play, sand play, tyre racing, and ring throwing. The learners got to end the day by having their usual hot dog for lunch with a chance to cool off with ice cream. It is exciting to celebrate the sunshine in such a festive manner, and the children loved the quality time they spent with their peers and teachers!

## Prize giving celebrates success of Primary School learner

The annual prize giving of Royal schools Alberton in intersen phase (grade 4 -7) took place on a sunny Friday afternoon on the 28th of October 2022 in the school hall. The principal of the primary school Mrs. Viljoen presided over the arrangements of the prize giving and the gathering of the parents. The hall was prepared in a very formal and graceful manner. The stage was neatly decorated with flowers and a carpet for learners to walk on.

All grade 4s to 7 received a certificate for displaying the values of our school. Many learners received silver for achieving 70% and above in a subject, some received a gold for achieving 80% and above for a subject. Certificates for sports and Eisteddfod were also handed out to deserving learners. There was even a gold certificate for the most improved learner with a book prize. This serves as a motivation to the learners to keep working hard to pass. There was a top 5 award for all the intersen grades including best performance in each subject. It was such a fun event. The highlight was the supportive parents who came to watch their children receive their awards. At the end of the event, the teachers were also shown appreciation as they were given their own certificates for the hard work they put into teaching and nurturing these learners. All the hard work that the teachers and learners put in throughout the year was properly acknowledged.



## Mr Freitas - Comrades

On Thursday, the 25th of August, our school surprised Mr. Freitas, our school director, to wish him luck in his Comrades race on the 28th of August. Mr. Freitas came out of the office to assist with a "made-up crisis". He was surprised by the Primary School students lined up along the pathway heading to the field with beautiful banners and posters encouraging him to achieve his best in the upcoming race. As he walked down the walkway, the song Chariots of Fire was playing from a Bluetooth speaker. Learners cheered and high-fived Mr. Freitas as he walked to the field where the High School students eagerly awaited their chance to encourage and celebrate him. Once Mr. Freitas reached the sports field, the High School learners encouraged him with poetry and cheering. Mr. Freitas has now completed the Comrades six times. He finished the race in 09:33:59 hours, which qualified him to receive The Robert Mtshali Medal. We cannot wait to celebrate more achievements with you throughout the years to come. Congratulations on the achievement. We are proud to have you as our School Director.



## Royal Schools Alberton High school prize giving 2022

At Royal Schools Alberton, we understand the importance of a prize giving ceremony. It was an opportunity to celebrate the hard work, tenacity, and commitment displayed by our young learners throughout this year. The ceremony was opened by Mr. Freitas where he gave a moving speech and words that the class of '22 can take with them as they move further in their next steps in life.

The grade 8 learners were awarded for their hard work for academics, cultural participation and sport participation. The Dux learner for grade 8 is Andani Mukwevho, first runner up is Mbalenhle Mncube, and second runner up is Rethabile Ikeh.



The Grade 9's, were awarded for their hard work in academics, cultural participation and sport participation. The Dux learner for grade 9 is Awakhiwe Mashazi, first runner up is Keatlegile Mashegoana, and second runner up is Molatelo Molepo.

The grade 10's, were honoured for their hard work in academics, cultural participation and sport participation. The Dux learner for grade 10 is Relebogile Timba, first runner up is Dillan Naidoo, and second runner up is Angel Ncube.

The grade 11's, were honoured for their hard work in academics, cultural participation and sport participation. The Dux learner for grade 11 is Siphosethu Hutu, first runner up is Nhlalala Mashele, and second runner up is Somilangaye Fono.

Lastly we celebrated our grade 12's of 2022, where they awarded each other with peer nominated certificates. Ms. Du Plessis gave a motivational speech to encourage the grade 12's. Finally, the learners were honoured for their hard work in academics, cultural participation and sport participation. The Dux learner for grade 12 is Alex Omombo, first runner up is Karabo Sithole, and second runner up is Mbali Moyo

School prize giving ceremonies are a special time at Royal Schools Alberton. It was marvelous to have an opportunity for us to shake so many students by the hand and to say "well done" for all their wonderful achievements. There is great importance in prize distribution and acknowledging the success of our students.



The best way to prepare for tomorrow is to give your all today.

The Grade 7s had their Entrepreneur's Day on August 5, 2022. As the day grew lighter and the stalls were put up, there was a lot of enthusiasm. Despite the unexpected drizzle, the eagerness of the Gr 7s to make money was unaffected. We are happy to announce that no team suffered a loss this year!

Many Grade 7 students left the event with outstanding profits, and they were already making plans on how to spend. We appreciate the Economic Management Sciences department for giving the students the chance to experience running a small business, calculating unit costs, creating a business plan, conducting surveys, designing advertisements and flyers, and many other skills that will be useful to them in the future. All the educators and parents who helped develop tomorrow's business leaders deserve a hearty thank you! The support given by other learners cannot go unnoticed.



## Highlighting the intangible cultural treasures of South Africa

The commemoration of Heritage Day included participation by all students from the entire school on September 23. The day was a blatant example of how diverse South Africa is, as learners showed up in their different traditional regalia, just like a rainbow. The Zulus, Xhosas, Tsongas, to name but a few showcased their colourful traditional attire which brightened up the day.

Learners shared a range of traditional foods. They learnt to accept one another as a result of exchanging various traditional foods. This served as the icing on the cake and promoted unity as it emphasises the respect we ought to accord to one another as people, the spirit of togetherness supports our PIPE values.



## Spring sprung and so did the Royal Schools Alberton family!

Spring adds new life and new beauty to all that is, it unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil.

The 1st of September saw Royal Schools Alberton high school learners celebrating the arrival of spring. It had been a bone-chilling winter season and its departure was long awaited. To welcome spring, the RSA high school dressed in colourful and flamboyant clothing. This was a clear indication that this season brings happiness and joy all around and makes our minds very creative, giving energy to the body to start work full of confidence. As per tradition learners splashed each other with water while having fun in the sun.

'Spring will come and so will happiness. Hold on. Life will get warmer.' Anita Krizzan



## Clash of the teachers!

They say teachers have many talents. This year our Teachers' Potjiekos competition proved just that.

As part of team building amongst staff, they were asked to come up with a team name, a potjie-dish and decorations for their stall. Amongst the most creative team names were the Incr-edibles and Mix Masala. Teams were scored on shopping time, team name, team spirit (which included warcries and dancing), decorations and of course the one with the most weight was the food.

The top 3 dishes were:

- Oxtail and wine potjie with creamed samp
- Curry tripe potjie with rice
- Lamb potjie with vegetables

Congratulations to the winning team "The incr-edibles" who won in all areas. What a nice way to blow off steam and enjoy each other's company around braai stands with laughter.



## Academic Quality Assurance

The Academic Quality Assurance Team was established in January this year to focus on academic quality assurance in all our schools. The main focus of the team is to ensure excellence in the preparation and delivery of lessons in all grades and subjects. This was accomplished by the following projects implemented during the year:

- Subject specialists, with proven track records and results, were identified and appointed to mentor, guide and support subject teachers in specific subjects and grades.
- Common tests and exams, set by these subject specialists, were administered in terms 1 and 2 in specific subjects and grades. This allowed the Academic Quality Assurance Team to identify areas that needed intervention and support in terms of lesson preparation and lesson delivery.
- Systemic tests were administered in Grades 1 to 9 in October in English Home Language, Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology. The higher order cognitive levels of the learners were assessed in these subjects, as well as their ability to “think outside the box.” The results of these tests will be used to identify educators that are in need of support and development in order to teach the learners to apply themselves using the higher order cognitive levels. Workshops and training sessions will be held to support our staff.
- Google Workspace was implemented as an enrichment platform for learners. Training and development was offered to the educators throughout the year, to ensure that this platform is utilised to enrich and to reinforce what was taught in the classroom.
- Intervention and support strategies were offered to the schools in subjects that were not performing at an acceptable standard. Some of these strategies included the introduction of weekend boot camps, afternoon classes, Saturday classes and school holiday classes.

In 2023 our team will be expanded so that the academic standards in our schools can reach greater heights and our learners can excel in their academic performance.



# *Royal Schools Alberton* NEWSLETTER

By Ms VP. Dabula on 02 November 2022

## Clash of the Tribes



---

# Heritage day

Aah!,Dumelang!,Avuxeni!,Molweni!,Hallo!,Lotjhani!,Sanibonani

*Heritage Day is a public holiday celebrated on the 24th of September in South Africa ,this special holiday recognises and celebrates the cultural diversity of the country .In its essence,the day embraces and celebrates the true meaning of why we call ourselves a Rainbow Nation.*

*South Africans mark the day by wearing traditional outfits, eating traditional cuisines , learning about different cultures and spending time with friends and family.*

*Royal Schools Alberton held its annual heritage day celebration on the 23rd of September 2022, learners in their various ethnic groups prepared tribal performances and dishes competing against each other within the school, These amazing tribes include; Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho, Tswana, Swati, Venda, Tsonga and Western culture.it was an amazing day!*



---

*The purpose of the celebration was to educate learners about the day and its meaning. The clash began when learners in their ethnic groups started competing against each other by showcasing different tribal dance performances.*

## *“ZWOZWO NAKELELA”*





---

*All groups were exceptional however there can only be one winner, out of all the wonderful performances that were showcased by learners results were as follows:*

*Position one : isiZulu tribe*

*'BESIDLA NGOLUDALA'*



---

*Position two : Sotho tribe*

*'E NE E LE NTL E MME RE NE RE E E THABELA HAHOLO'*



---

*Position three :isiXhosa ethnic group*

## *'YAYINHLE KE LEMINI'*



*It is imperative to remember our roots irrespective of our past, embracing our true identities and maintaining our origins will guide us in staying true to who we are, hence Royal Schools Alberton took it upon itself to celebrate and honor heritage day.*



## Royals Schools: Maintenance Review 2022

Our Operations and maintenance team had a very busy 2022 to make sure that our schools and facilities are well maintained and upgraded where needed. Below is a short summary of some of the projects that were completed during 2022.

- A new camera system was installed in the Primary School
- 8 x New projectors for classrooms
- New and upgraded waiting Area for learners
- Re-surfacing of all the combi courts
- New shading for learners at the waiting area
- Treatment of roof trusses on all buildings
- 10 x Picnic Benches for playgrounds
- New School furniture bought to the value of +- R100 000