



Date:
24 May 2019

Issue no.
16

CURRO
Aurora

NEWS LETTER

EXCITING NEWS – STEAMD!

Curro Aurora has implemented coding and robotics curricula through integration in Grade 8 and 9 Information Technology and Technology.

The annual Curro Robotics and STEAMD (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics, and Design) event will take place at the end of this term.

This STEAMD event will take place in all four Curro Clusters so that all the Curro schools will have the opportunity to take part. It will take place on **12 June 2019** at Curro Aurora. During the STEAMD event, our learners and educators will have the opportunity to show what they achieved in the different subjects.

We started with Project-Based Learning in 2018, and this is an opportunity for our learners to present their best projects to other Curro Schools, learners, educators, and parents.

We believe that this will provide learners with an understanding of coding and robotics and will develop their skills and competencies to prepare them for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Our curricula are designed to develop learners' ability to:

- Solve problems, think critically, and work collaboratively and creatively;
- Function in a digital and information-driven world;
- Apply digital and ICT skills;
- To transfer these skills to solve everyday problems.

Programme:

| Time | Activity |
|-------------|--|
| 11:00 | Opening |
| 11:00-11:15 | Registration of Robotic Teams |
| 11:00-11:30 | FLLJr Set Up |
| 11:15-11:30 | Introduction to Robotics Competition and Rules |
| 11:30-13:00 | Judging of FFLJr |
| 11:30-15:00 | Presentation and Judging of PBL's Writing and Art Competitions |
| 11:30-16:30 | Displaying of Subject Entries |
| 11:30-13:00 | 1 st Session of Robotics Competition |
| 13:00-13:45 | Light Lunch |
| 13:45-14:45 | Drone Competition |
| 14:00-14:30 | FLLJr Certificate Ceremony |
| 14:00-15:30 | 2 nd Session of Robotics Competition |
| 14:00-15:40 | Science Show Rubiks Cube Dash Gaming Virutal Reality 3D Printing Laser Cutting |
| 15:40-16:00 | Certificate Ceremony |
| 16:20-16:30 | Robotics Finals |

Please visit us on 12 June to see our learners in action.



Communication

I am including the contact details of the School Management Team and Grade Heads herewith as per my previous newsletter for easy reference:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Acting Head | 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 Head | Anita Bornman | Anita.B@curro.co.za |
| Grade 11 Head | Nicole Webb | Nicole.W2@curro.co.za |
| Grade 10 Head | Judy Beeston | Judy.B@curroholdings.co.za |
| Grade 9 Head | Janine Tobin | Janine.T@curro.co.za |
| Grade 8 Heads | Kelsey Gallon & Gerard Appelman | Kelsey.G2@curro.co.za Gerard.A@curroholdings.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.

Exams

Mid-year exams for Grades 8 to 12 started on 20 May. Please consult the exam timetables posted on MyHub to help plan your preparation for these exams.

Stationery must be in a clear plastic container – a see-through plastic file pocket works well. Please ensure that you have your own stationery: extra pen(s), ruler, pencils, protractor, compass and calculator (without lid). No correctional fluid is allowed.

Please be punctual – we cannot grant extra time for late-comers, so plan your morning carefully. You need to be seated at your exam desk 20 minutes prior to the start of an exam. This ensures that you can benefit from a ten-minute reading time before starting to write. For first session exams, learners need to be seated at their desks by 7:40 to facilitate register taking and allow for their reading time to start at 7:50. School uniform and hair and nail regulations are still applicable, and we ask that you present yourself neatly for writing your exams.

A reminder that the mid-year exams form up to 50% of the year mark which is combined with the Final Exams to calculate promotional marks. We are experiencing an increase in absenteeism due to colds and flu. A gentle reminder that should an assessment be missed, a doctor's note is required to avoid a 0% mark.

Preliminary exams for Grade 12 start on 23 August.



Study Tips

Study to understand; not to memorise

Encourage your child to study to understand rather than simply memorising the work. Studying to understand helps them to apply the work correctly in assignments and exams. Encourage your child to read actively – with intent – and to ask themselves questions before, during and after studying:

What do I understand from what I just read?

What is the main idea?

Do I need to reread so that I understand?

What connections can I make to the text and how do I feel about it?

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you have another engagement.

- Unless you work well with others, don't work around others — friends may fight for your attention, or you may start eavesdropping on someone's conversation.
- Unplug, log off, mute and power down. If you are trying to focus on some high school essay writing, checking Facebook, streaming music, AND texting friends – *how much quality study time do you think you're REALLY getting in?*

Think Positively

Don't tell yourself negative things like "I'm not good at this" or "I'm going to fail this exam". Doing so lowers your confidence, and lowered confidence can directly affect your performance. One of the best ways you can counteract negative thoughts is to replace them with positive, actionable ones.

Grade 12 Winter School Programme 1 to 5 July

The Winter School Programme runs from 1 to 5 July at school. Various subjects are involved, including English; Afrikaans; Mathematics; Mathematical Literacy; Economics; Accounting; CAT; IT; History; Geography; Life Sciences; Physical Sciences and Consumer Studies. Matrics who have not yet booked slots for their English CAT Speech and Prepared Reading, must see Mrs Edwards as soon as possible.

This programme forms part of our teaching planning and we would therefore like to see all our Matrics attend. The Winter School is offered at no cost to our learners and they may attend in civvies.

Ways to create the ideal study environment:

- Go somewhere quiet.
- If there are distracting smells (body odor or cookies baking), move to another spot.
- Make sure you are not too cold or hot.
- Don't be so comfortable you could nap, but so uncomfortable you can't concentrate (Find a happy medium!).
- If checking the time is going to make you anxious, try not to have clocks visible, and set an alarm if



UPDATE: Construction at Curro Aurora

- 1) Construction of the High School staff room and the Resources Centre are nearing completion and we expect these facilities to be in full use by the start of term 3.
- 2) Construction of the new parking area, ring road and the hall is ongoing and good progress is being made. We expect these projects to be close to completion by the start of term 3.
- 3) The construction of the new Curro Aurora Learner Support Centre will start on Monday 27 May. This facility will be built next to the Performing Arts Academy (PAA) on the Puttick Road side of the school. These offices will accommodate the learner support team made up of educational psychologists, therapists and counsellors.

Mr JC Engelbrecht
Executive Head



Castle Highlights

Wildlife week

This past week, the Castle children have been exploring wild animals and animal conservation. It was an incredible week of creative thinking, self-expression, critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration. The children were challenged to build giraffes using soft blocks, the start of numerous Mathematical concepts. A variety of approaches to creative arts were explored too.



Wide open spaces

One of the luxuries of the Castle being on such an amazing campus is the wide-open spaces for our little ones to run and explore. The astro turf is a firm favourite, a place to enhance





gross motor skills. Once a week, each teacher is required to take their class on an adventure walk around the campus. We try and encourage personal well-being, increase the children's fitness levels and it allows for spontaneous class discussions.

Primary School Highlights

STAFFING

We warmly welcome Ms. Chelsea Gillespie to our staff team. Ms. Gillespie has been appointed as Aftercare Manager here at our school. She has already proved to be popular amongst children and staff alike. As a school, we are very fortunate to have three subject specialists on our staff team. They are responsible for ensuring the curriculum is well planned and executed. Mrs. De Beer is subject specialist for Grade 4 Afrikaans, Mrs. Ilana Alcock for Grade 5 Afrikaans and Mr. Edwin Astle for Grade 7 Technology. We are saying goodbye to Mrs. Madeline Huyser on Friday and wish her the very best in her new role as Lecturer at the University of the North West.

APT

Raffle books have been distributed to the students for our Annual Fundraising Raffle.

Stand a chance to win 1 of 3 prizes.
Support our APT and buy your raffle ticket now!

Closing date for purchasing tickets:
Monday, 15 July 2019

Draw date:
Saturday, 3 August 2019

You have to be in it to win it!

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There are amazing prizes to be won!

These are not just for the participants in the raffle but also for the pupil who sells the most tickets, the class that sells the most tickets and the first class to return all their books sold. Please support us in our endeavour to sell as many tickets as possible as these funds are set aside for the printing of the Annual Yearbook.

Sadly, the High School is seriously behind the Primary School and Pre-School is selling their raffle tickets. Please know that High School learners are gaining the same benefit from the income of these tickets and therefore it is only fair that they do their fair share in selling their raffle tickets.

We have launched a CIVVIES day initiative to motivate High School learners to participate in this initiative.

Please support them in this.



We will continue with our raffle ticket drive during the third term – another civvies day reward is just around the corner – every learner who sold a total of at least six tickets will be allowed to wear civvies in the next round of rewards.

Our Fun Quiz took place on the 7th of May and was a great success. Well done to 'Don't Mention the War' team who came first, followed by the 'Dottys' and 'The Odd Lot'. Weird and wonderful prizes were handed out and Papachinos kindly sponsored a R500 voucher which was won by the 'Dottys' team. Thank to you all the parents and scholars who came along to join in the fun. Also, a big thank you to the teachers who supervised the movie evening for the younger kids. The money that we made at this event will be channelled back into the school and in this month, the APT has bought shirts for our equestrian riders as well as Curro T-shirts for our teachers.

Please keep the following events in mind. We will send out more details closer to the time.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Women's Day Tea | Saturday, 3 August |
| Golf Day | Friday, 6 September |
| Curro Fun Festival | Saturday, 12 October |

Culture

Mrs Saskia Snyders

The Performing Arts play a hugely significant role in helping our learners to develop their creative skills. Performing Arts form an important part of a broad and liberal education. Performing Arts embrace all subject disciplines as well as social activities, and because of the confidence and communication skills that they equip learners with, children become empowered in whatever career path they decide to follow as they become adults.

Educational theorists are increasingly emphasising the importance of emotional intelligence, developing a creative mind and fostering personalities and imaginations as children make their journey through school, to become happy and well-rounded individuals.

While Performing Arts allow learners to develop creative passions, they simultaneously teach children language and communication skills, helping them to communicate effectively with others with confidence.

Performing Arts are all about self-expression, exploring alternative options and embracing individuality. It's not black and white, or about right or wrong answers, and this allows children to develop self-confidence and belief in themselves. With improved self-confidence and self-belief, comes a natural pathway for children to go on to master many more skills that will equip them for life.

House Plays

We are getting ready for House Play season. If there are any Grade 10 or 11 learners interested in directing a House Play this year, please collect entry forms from Mrs Snyders before the end of term.



Sport

Rugby:

Warriors League Results (Saturday, 18 May):

u/16:

- Pinnacle College Kyalami: won 57-0
- Curro Thatchfield: won 46-10

u/15:

- La Salle College: won 55-0
- Trinityhouse Little Falls '1': lost 15-0

Curro Nationals:

Curro Nationals will take place from Thursday, 13 June to Saturday, 15 June. This event will be hosted by Waterstone College. The tournament includes the various regional 1st team winners. The tournament begins on Thursday afternoon. The Thursday exams won't be affected because they will finish by 13:00, allowing the students time to play in the afternoon. We are aware that some students are writing on Friday and we will try to accommodate by starting their exams earlier (seated by 7:00), so that they don't miss too much of the tournament.

The following Curro Aurora 1st teams will be participating:

- Netball
- Rugby
- Boys' hockey
- Boys soccer
- Girls soccer

Please note:

- **We are in the process of arranging practices for these teams. We will be communicating directly with the parents involved to establish a reasonable practice schedule, given that the students are preparing for their exams.**
- **Logistical arrangements regarding the tournament will be communicated in due course.**

Soccer:

There will be pre-season soccer practices on Friday, 31 May and Friday, 7 June. We encourage all students to attend, though the practices are not compulsory. The senior (Grades 10-12) practices are in light of Curro Nationals preparation.

Practice times (not compulsory):

- Grade 8 and 9: 10:30 to 12:00
- Grade 10-12: 11:30 to 13:00



Golf

Kieron van Wyk, along with three other players, represented Team Golf RSA at the ATI Ciputrar Golfpreneur Junior World at the Damai Indah Golf & Country Club in Jakarta, Indonesia from Tuesday, 21 May to Thursday, 23 May. Kieron competed in the Boys Class A Division (15-18 age group) where he finished in tied 2nd place.



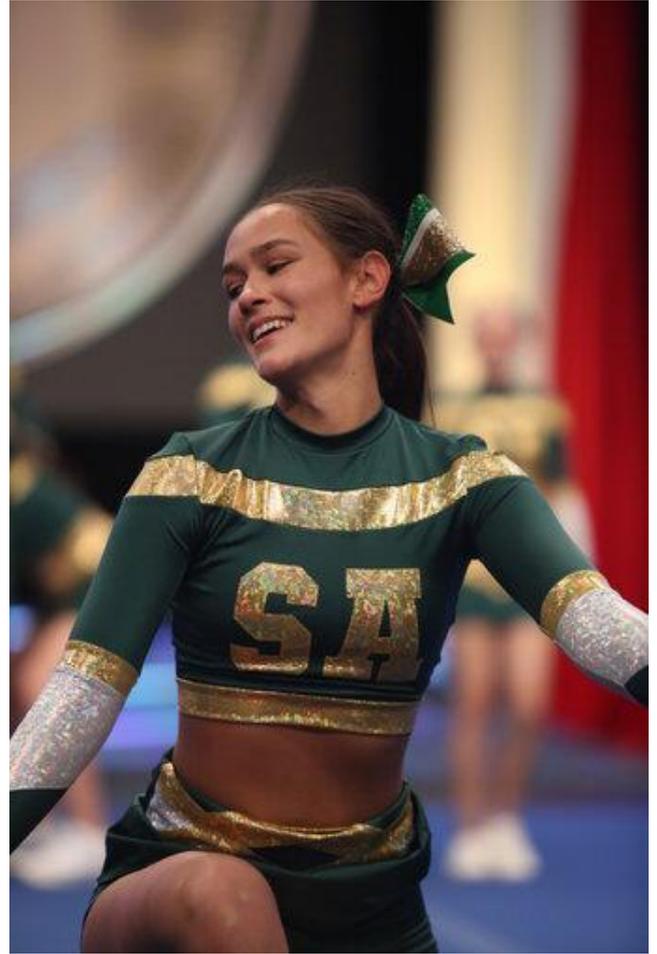
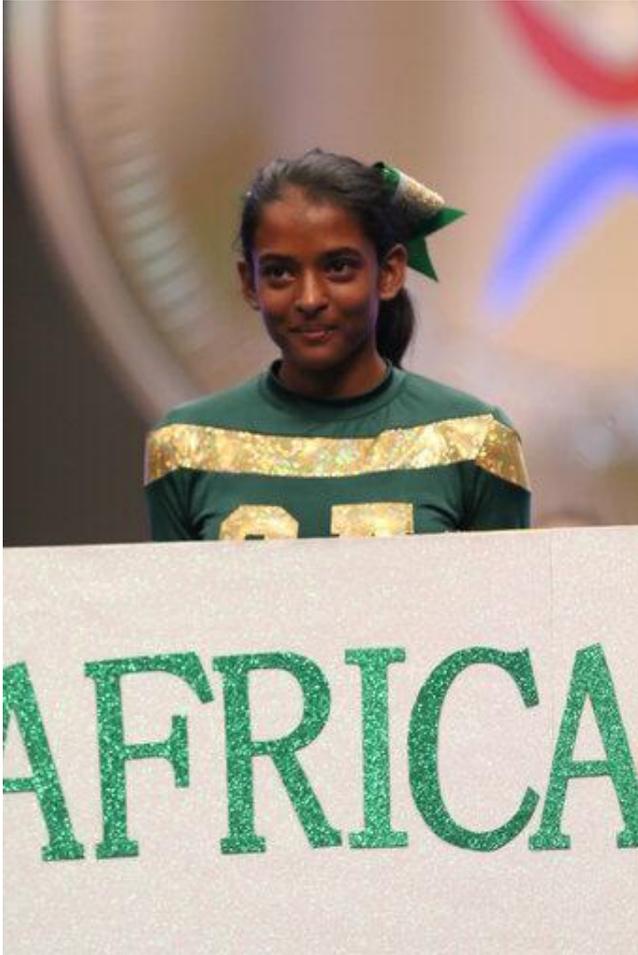
Cheerleading

During April and May, two significant achievements happened for Curro Aurora Blues. Firstly, the International Cheer Unions Worlds, held at ESPN in Florida, USA. Five Curro Aurora Blues Cheerleaders found themselves between 3000 Cheerleaders from all over the World, proudly wearing the Protea. They competed in the Junior Co-ed Advanced and All Girl Elite divisions.

Sonali Bhugwandeem, Nicole Krause, Shizel Thomson and Megan Vermeulen members of the Co-ed Advanced division, placed 6th overall. Ushmitha Bhugwandeem and Nicole Krause members of the All Girl Elite division placed 11th overall.

The Junior Co-ed made history by being the first South African team to compete at Worlds for South Africa. Nicole Krause was also the first Cheerleader to be selected as a cross-over athlete to compete in both the Junior Co-ed and All Girl teams.

Curro Aurora Blues second achievement was at Provincials held this past weekend in which Curro Aurora Blue Lightning, our Group Stunts team; and our All Girl team, Curro Aurora Blue Ice, placed second in their respective divisions. We are looking forward to a successful Nationals to be held in East London on the 22nd June.



Sports uniform

Learners are reminded to adhere to our dress code for sports, not only for matches, but for practices too – the school “PT kit” or practice uniform as communicated by the various coaches must be worn for all practices please.

Supporter’s Card

Term 3 will see the implementation of a supporter’s card for all our learners. We look forward to seeing our learners actively involved in supporting various sporting and cultural events.

Slipper Day

Thank you to all who participated!





Upcoming Events

Teddy Bear Cross-country Run



In partnership with Hot 91.9FM, we are hosting a teddy bear cross-country run.

Bring your water bottle, sunblock, spirit and most importantly, a teddy! All donated teddies will be handed to underprivileged kids in and around our community.

Date: Monday, 10 June 2019

Starting time: 09:00

Venue: Curro Aurora, Galaxy Field

Entry fee: Donate a teddy (used or new)

Dress code for learners: House T-shirt, PE shorts, school caps and takkies



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Visitors' Evening

Come and find out what we are all about.

Date:

Tuesday, 9 July 2019

Times:

Please book a time slot:

17:30 – 18:00 or

19:00 – 20:00

Venue:

Taurus Road, Sundowner

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Thought to ponder:

*“If you are working on something that you really care about, you don’t have to be pushed.
The vision pulls you.” – Steve Jobs*

Yours in education,

Dion Kotze
Acting Head, High School.