



AMAZING GRACE  
PRIVATE SCHOOL

# PARENTS NEWSLETTER

Amazing Grace Private School is a unique and devoted education community that gives every child a rich learning experience to ignite their potential.

## THERE ARE MIRACLES COMING TO AMAZING GRACE

Amazing Grace will be in its new building on Wednesday, 30th November, 2016!



Due to new lease arrangements, we are fast-forwarding our move to the new school site at 359 Pretoria Avenue, Ferndale, Randburg. That is just 500 metres away!

We will start moving with the children's excited help on Tuesday, 29th November, then on Wednesday, 30th November, please be sure to drop off your children at the new school.

Our new building is bigger and better, greener and fresher, safer and more spacious. Your children will love it! You will appreciate it! And we just can't wait to be there!

## OPEN DAY

You are invited to our OPEN DAY on **Saturday, 3rd December, 2016** at the new building  
**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

On the 3rd December, Amazing Grace Private School will hold an open day at our new premises, 359 Pretoria Avenue, and we would like our learners, parents and staff to invite potential future parents of AGPS to visit the school on the day. We will showcase all our current and future offerings. We warmly invite all our current parents, and particularly invite those parents who have agreed to be Parent Ambassadors to please come join us as co-hosts.



# Text Books & Reading Options

No child should be without books. No learner should be without a textbook.

Following the parent meeting and subsequent discussions with teachers, the new textbook policy at Amazing Grace is as follows:

## For Secondary School Learners

Two choices are available to learners and their families. You can either purchase a tablet then download free textbooks or obtain them electronically from the school, OR you can buy hardcopy textbooks.

Should you go the hardcopy textbook route, the sets required for next year will be sent home as a list via your children.

Should you go the tablet route, stores like PEP, Ackermans, and many others offer good deals, some under R1000. Then electronic textbooks can be obtained for free either at the school or online at such websites as these:

[www.bookboon.com](http://www.bookboon.com)

[www.siyavula.com](http://www.siyavula.com)

[www.nongnu.org/fhsst/2\\_project.html](http://www.nongnu.org/fhsst/2_project.html),

and many more.

## For Primary School Learners

Textbooks will be hard copies, actual books. Whilst we do not want to leave our younger learners behind technologically, we think tablet options for them run a higher risk of damage. The sets required for next year will be sent home as a list via your children.



No matter which option you choose, we want you to be aware of the amazing resources provided by two companies:

## Vodacom e-School

In partnership with the Department of Basic Education, Vodacom e-School for grades 4 – 12 is a free service to anyone with a Vodacom sim card, making data free. All you need to do is register, and it works from a smart phone, a tablet or a desktop computer. You can also access it if you have other sim cards but then it is no longer free data access. Vodacom e-School has actual video lessons, homework assistance, tests, and progress reports: <http://www.vodacom.co.za/vodacom/services/vodacom-e-school>

## Worldreader

This marvellous organisation gives all ages of readers free access to almost 46,000 books in 43 languages! It works on any internet-enabled phone, from a simple feature phone to the latest smartphone. Best of all, books can be downloaded then read later! Many of these books are fiction so our lower primary school learners will enjoy reading all the great stories from all over the world, and there are also some text books which secondary school learners can then also use as well.

<http://www.worldreader.org/what-we-do/worldreader-mobile/>



**DESIGN** squad®

Global

## at Amazing Grace School

The first club of Design Squad Global started in October 2016. Brought to us by our parent company Enko Education, Design Squad Global is an after-school club run all over the world that does hands-on engineering, science and technology activities for young children. The members of the club must be 10 to 13 year olds from grades 4 to 6.

It has been a lot of fun for the young learners participating. Introduction letters to the partner club in Ohio, USA were sent and replies Ohio received. The club was supposed to have had only 8 to 12 members but the interest was so high, that we allowed it to grow to 19! Many thanks to Mr Kofi Mensah who has been a passionate co-leader and run these larger numbers, and to Ms Prudence Chihwayi who has given valuable support.

So far, the club members have made a pop up ball launcher, an assistance device which is a hand extender. They followed the engineering invention principles of identifying the problem they wanted to solve or make easier, designed on paper what they wanted to make, then went ahead and made it and unmade it until it was able to address what they wanted it to improve. We are so proud that our young learners understand invention and innovation and how it is usually achieved! Next step? Patents!

Two of the learners have composed a song for the club and we hope to be able to sing the song and record it for our partners in the United States before the end of this session. Mr Samuel Kofi Mensah, had this to say about the Design Squad Global club at our school: « Design Squad Global has been fantastic and interesting for us and our club members. It helps the learners to know how to solve problems using a scientific approach. It has also ignited the creative spirits in each of them to a higher height. The learners enjoy being with the club and brain storming with a group to solve daily problems that surround us and to lead them to achieve their life goals. »

Here are some of the things the learners say about the club:

*«It is nice. I have never had a chance to create things to help people, Design Squad Global has given me that opportunity. At home I do not have the materials to make things. I enjoy working in groups because other people may see a mistake that you do not see.»*

Ethan

*« It is very nice! It can also help you with your studies such as natural science. It helps us think. It teaches us how to make things that make life better for people when they use them. It helps us to be more creative. I am now more interested in engineering than before. »*

Salma



*«It is fun and I enjoy brainstorming the solution for the task. »*

Lyndall

*« I am glad I am of the Design Squad Global club. From now it is going to change my life. My dream has always been to be an engineer. Design Squad Global is showing me, at this age already, how I can become an engineer and I am sure I will be successful in my dream and my parents will be very happy. »*

Mathias

We are left with two more activities and should finish the six week programme before the end of the year. One thing that is clear is that there is a lot of interest from the learners even the younger ones want to be part of the club.

## Sign Up for 2017 Extra-Curricular Activities

At the parents meeting of Saturday, 15th October, 2016, we had a taste of the enriched extra-curricular experiences that will be offered to our learners in the new school year – and more activities have been added to the list. Every activity is open to all learners! Please hurry and pay the service providers directly, the deposits so you can save a space! The fees range from R850 to R950 a term and only direct deposits to them are accepted, except for the primary school sports programme which is priced significantly lower.

We want 2017 to be a year that our learners are exposed to a variety of options at the school and we look forward to our parents embracing these initiatives.



Sign up forms are available at the school and information about the offers can be obtained directly from each entity:

### **Drama & Theatre with Segosametsi-a-Afrika**

For enquiries, call 082 756 8459 OR 082 701 4591 or email [tumi.maretele@gmail.com](mailto:tumi.maretele@gmail.com) and [sheronmekoa@gmail.com](mailto:sheronmekoa@gmail.com)

### **Instruments & Music with Khwela Music & Arts**

For enquiries, call 079 482 2051 or email [kgomotso@iksconsulting.co.za](mailto:kgomotso@iksconsulting.co.za)

### **Sports – Secondary School ONLY – with Community Self Upliftment**

For enquiries, call 076 592 7523 or email [modi.marishane@live.com](mailto:modi.marishane@live.com)

### **Sports – Primary ONLY – with Deputy Ziggy Mutangwa:**

For enquiries, ask for the Deputy at the school or email him at [deputy@amazinggraceschool.co.za](mailto:deputy@amazinggraceschool.co.za)

## Our warming stories

Grade 12 examinations for 2016 started on the 26th of October and will end on the 28th of November. Our matric learners will have had a very intensive six weeks and we cheer our Grade 12 learners as they do their best.

The exams have run smoothly thus far. I would like to thank the Deputy Principal, Mr Mutangwa, for taking full control of the running of these examinations and all the teachers and the external invigilators for playing a big supportive role.

We thank the parents for giving support and dealing with all the stress that usually goes with exam time and also express gratitude to the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) for logistics guidance and assistance.

### Heart-warming announcement

We would like to congratulate Mr and Mrs Newman Osafo for the gift of a baby boy born on the 12th November, 2016. We wish him well and wish him and Mrs Osafo good health and lots of joy.

### **Amazing Grace Private School**

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