

You can access these previous Newsletters at www.asf.org.za/reports . ECONOMIC SLUMP VS SOCIAL SUFFERING (2011); PUBLIC SCHOOLING – (fast becoming) PUBLIC ENEMY NO #: (2012); CHAOS MUST LEAD TO CONTEMPLATION, TO CONSULTATION AND FINALLY TO ORDER (2013); EXPRESSIONS OF “I AM” AN ASPIRANT STUDENT, A VALUED EMPLOYEE, A RESPECTED CITIZEN, AN EQUAL HUMAN BEING IS EVIDENCED “FAR AND WIDE” (2014); ONE YEAR AND A BIT LATER AND EXPRESSIONS OF “I AM, THIS IS MY VALUE, CAN YOU HEAR ME - DO YOU EVEN SEE ME” CONTINUES. THOSE THAT LOOK ON MUST ASK THEMSELVES: “WHAT ARE THE FILTERS THAT SHAPES MY EXPERIENCE OF THIS DRAMA CALLED LIFE?” (2015); WHAT SAY YE (2016); NOW IS THE TIME (2017); CHANGE AMIDST UNCERTAINTY (2018); WE’RE TRANSITIONING FROM THE “OLD” INTO THE “NEW” (2019); (Note: no newsletter in 2020); COVID-19: THE PAUSE BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW (2021)

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2022

FLEXIBILITY, ADAPTABILITY AND CONTINUED RELEVANCE

From residing in informal housing to occupying the presidential suite; from modest homes to abodes fit for royalty, these past few years we have each come to realise that “no man is an island”. Yet we also intrinsically know that each, irrespective of circumstance, is ultimately responsible for and accountable to self. These are but some of the core values we endeavour to have the learners on the ASF programme inculcate into their being. And, as so demonstrated by the young Gr10 learner below, they most certainly rise to the occasion, Imagine that – Gr10 and already she has secured funding for her post-matric educational journey. To say we are proud of young Ithandile is a complete understatement.

“Greetings, My name is Ithandile Mbovu and I am schooling in Percy Mdala High school in Knysna at the Eden Karoo District, I’m currently doing grade 10 and I’m the recipient of the African Scholars Fund bursary.

I would like to extend my warm gratitude, the money has assisted me a lot. Two weeks ago, I had to go to Joburg for a public speaking competition to represent the Western Cape Province. I used the money for transportation to go to George Airport. And I was successful – the Department of Water and Sanitation awarded me with a bursary that will cover full tuition fees, accommodation, food, stationery allowance and a monthly stipend. I also get to study at the university of my choice in the country.

Below is my report for the third term and the certificate of the bursary award. I thank you for your support and guidance.

*Yours sincerely
 Ithandile Mbovu”*



So too, the Class of 2022 have proven their adaptability, their sense of responsibility, their amazing resiliance and their burning desire to ensure they stay relevant (in skills and knowledge acquired). Bearing in mind that Covid hit as they entered Gr10 (with new subjects to master) and that in the two years that followed there was continued disruption and an unprecedented expectation that they catch up with the curriculum content; the ASF Gr12 cohort achieved remarkable results in their June exams, leaving their Educators and Principals inspired and hopeful for noteworthy end of year exam results.

Every one of the 533 matriculants registered on the ASF programme passed their June exams. There were the ones that struggled and achieved an average of just above 42%, but there were many that surprised and delighted with averages achieved of up to 92%. We wish them all well as they sit for their final exams. The sentiment always shared with our young learners is that if you can look at yourself in the mirror and say : “I have applied myself, I have studied and I have given it my very best effort”, then irrespective of the outcome, know that you have done well; do not compare yourself to another – take pride in having given it your best effort. But, if you look upon yourself in the mirror and you cannot say that – well then, the consequence is yours to bear.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE FUND PAYING IT FORWARD IN SERVICE: 🙏

Both at high school and university level, those who benefit(ed) from being supported by the ASF have taken it upon themselves to welcome newcomers into the ASF Family. At many of our schools new learners are being assisted by those already on the ASF programme to complete their application forms, to understand their new roles as ASF ambassadors and to commit to upholding the set of value we expect them to abide by. There is a growing trend toward establishing a camaraderie that is heartwarming to experience when we visit the schools.

Our current Alumni at UCT tallies 40 2nd – 4th year students, now under the very able custodianship of Dr Tshepo Mosaka (Senior Lecturer in Public Law and an ASF Trustee). The moral and academic support they offer one another can not other than grow their self-esteem, their self-reliance and their confidence. They, too, are committed to welcoming ASF 1st year students and showing them the ropes in this new, unfamiliar and somewhat daunting environment.

So, too, we are working on growing our database of the **ASF Alumni of Yesteryear**. Our learners at high schools and our alumni still studying at university are committed to creating an awareness of the ASF that will bring others that need support and guidance into our ambit. But it is our Alumni of Yesteryear that need to create an awareness of the ASF in their places of work, become donors of the Fund themselves and take pride in driving home support of the organisation amongst their peers and colleagues.

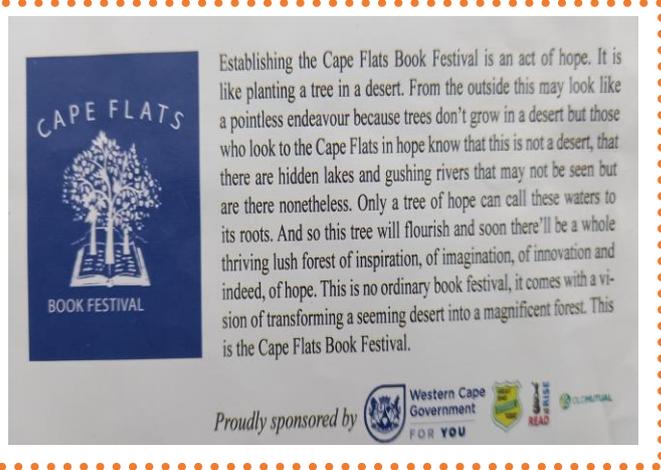


IN ADDITION TO THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARD THE 2227 ASF SUPPORTED LEARNERS, THIS YEAR, THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS, TRUSTS AND SHARED VALUE PARTNERS ENABLED THE ASF TO:

- ✓ Provide 481 Gr9 learners with a Subject Choice Advice Booklet.
- ✓ Provide 441 Gr10 learners with a Career Guidance Workbook.
- ✓ Provide 533 Gr12 learners with a NSFAS Online Application Guide.
- ✓ Present the year-long ASF Computer Literacy Programme (MS Office Suite, Internet & Email) at Manyano High School to 70 matriculants.
- ✓ Engage a full-time Maths Educator at Chris Hani High School.
- ✓ Facilitate the infrastructure to ensure a fully functional computer lab that will serve the entire school community at Hector Peterson High School.
- ✓ Provide 86 selected Gr12 learners with an additional R750 mobile data voucher each (in preparation for their matric exams).
- ✓ Develop, print and distribute an information brochure guiding our Gr12 learners in the use of zero rated online resources (zero rated = no mobile data is required to access online educational resources across all subjects). The brochure will be distributed to ALL the ASF learners as of 2023.
- ✓ Offer 12 Gr12 learners (4 ea from the WCape, ECape and NCape) the opportunity to apply for acceptance into the Pathcare Academy in 2023 (internships – biomedical field).
- ✓ Present a workshop to 90 Gr11 female learners on the use & benefit of Menstrual Cups as opposed to traditional sanitary towels (information, demonstration and supply of product).
- ✓ Enable three staff members to fly up to the Eastern Cape, hire a car and make a long overdue visit to no less than 8 schools located in the deep rural Eastern Cape areas. The full report on the visit may be accessed here: <http://asf.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/EC-School-Visits-June-2022.pdf>.
- ✓ Provide a young Environmental Studies Student the opportunity to redirect a R20k saving on his student fees to personally funding 20 matriculants. Claude's commitment to doing well in his studies resulted in him clinching the Dean's Award, which lead to the reduction in his student fees.

Your loyalty and endorsement of the work of this Fund, the 50+ year track record and the undeniable transformative impact we are able to effect, continue to inspire like-minded donors to join hands in partnership with the ASF. In the last quarter of this year, conversations with **Pepkor** has led to a partnership that will see the collective reach of the two parties cover the full basic education spectrum of learners (Pepkor: ECD and Primary Schools and ASF: High Schools). We look forward to sharing detail of this new partnership with you in the 2022/2023 Annual Report due in April 2023.

In a partnership of another kind, the ASF gifted Read to Rise, an NGO that hosted the Cape Flats Book Festival in Mitchells Plain on 15 and 16 October, with 1000 copies of the Covid-19 book to share with a distinguished line up of Authors and visitors to the event. The event was officially opened by Premier Alan Winde; supported by a host of Exhibitors and 25+ published Authors and Poets who shared their stories / life journeys with visitors to the Book Festival. It was a two day event that truly inspired and is bound to become an annual event of note that cannot other than continue to enjoy the support of it's visitors, exhibitors and Authors both local and those based abroad. The ASF is indeed proud to have been associated with the Event and the remarkable organisation that is Read to Rise <http://www.readtorise.co.za>.



Before we share the June results of our learners, and lest we forget the ongoing domino effect of Covid-19, we felt it pertinent to offer a visual representation of the troubling thoughts flitting through the minds of our young wards as they entered into their 2022 school year.

In going into our 3rd year of Covid-19 uncertainty (2022)

| | 2020 - Yr1 | 2021 - Yr2 | 2022 - Yr3 |
|----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Grade 12 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Grade 11 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Grade 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

🙄 I entered my 2020 school year having just elected my FET phase subjects, but had hardly any schooling. 2021 was a little bit better, but honestly, all we did was play catch up with the curriculum for the 2yrs. Unless I work day and night, how am I ever going to be ready to write my matric exam ?

🙄 The start of my high school was "fun", but then I realized that I hardly got any learning done. And last year I had to choose my FET phase subjects I was so unsure. 2022 is going to actually feel like the proper start of high school and I am going to have to work really hard."

🙄 I am so worried, I don't even know if I made the right subject choices last year. And 2021 was such a disrupted year as well – it was not an easy introduction to the new subjects I chose. Gr11 is the year where we should start preparing for Gr12, but we are still struggling to understand the new work introduced in 2021. I don't even want to think about it all.

JUNE 2022 EXAM RESULTS:

The 2022 end of year learner results will be available in the 2022/2023 Annual Report which we hope to bring to you towards the end of April 2023. Below follows their mid-year results:

The initial **intake for 2022 was 2248 learners**, of which 1 learner dropped out of school and a further 20 moved to different areas, hence changed the school they now attend. This brought the final 2022 intake to 2227 Gr8 – Gr12 learners. 2216/2227 (99%) learners submitted their June reports where the general rule is that adequate performance (avg. pass rate of 50% across all subjects) is necessary for ASF to continue providing support.

This year the ASF sponsored 534 Gr12 learners, of whom one learner dropped out before writing her June exams. 523 (98%) of our bursars achieved the required 50% across all subjects, with a mere 10 bursars achieving a below 50% average. **We wish the 533 ASF sponsored matriculants that will sit for final exams in 2022 every success.** We are very aware that these past few years they have had to contend not only with their own challenges and uncertainties regarding their academic journey, but so too with the added emotional torment of seeing their parents / guardians suffer loss of work & income, struggling not only to put food on the table but finding alternate employ. Much is being asked of our young learners and we can only but wonder **how we best encourage and motivate them to continue to dream** when their lived realities are so nightmarish. Our most sincere wish is that their **resilience and dedication** bear fruit and culminate in their well-earned success.

CLAUDE SCHIPPERS – ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES STUDENT 2022



This young man is a fine exemplar of **dedication and resilience** and it is fitting that he chose to take the R20k saving on his student fees to personally funding 20 matriculants through their 2022 final year at high school. Claude's commitment to doing well in his studies resulted in him clinching the Dean's Award, which lead to the reduction in his student fees (his mentor / sponsor is Ambassador Ruby Marks – a longstanding donor and supporter of the ASF 🙏).

Runelda Frans – Grade 9, Eastern Cape

"In order to show my gratitude, I'm writing you this letter and also to tell you what I've done with the money that arrived to me safely.

I was going through a tough time, because it was almost winter and my school shoes were already broken. Two pairs of socks were the usual for my feet to get a little bit of warmth. It was my greatest joy to get to know that the first payment of the fund has been made. I was really happy and also very relieved.

The next day, after school, I met my mother at the school gate and together we went to town to buy me a new pair of school shoes and also we had to buy me new stationery, a pair of jeans, some underwear and also we paid the lady who braided my hair so neatly the previous day. The money really helped a lot and we were also able to buy some groceries.

Knowing what a little bit of funds can do, it is in my deepest desire to one day follow in the steps of the ASF. I still pray always for the wellbeing of the ASF and hope that you all are still doing great.

*Thank you ASF
Runelda"*

You are very gently reminded that

Donations to the ASF are tax deductible.

Bank: STANDARD BANK

Account Name: AFRICAN SCHOLARS' FUND

Account Number: 071404104

Branch Code: 025009

Swift Code: SBZA ZAJJ (Rondebosch)

May you and your loved ones experience a blessed and safe year, and may we come to know Peace, Joy and Love - for All.

Regards

Eliza James - Director

DO FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw0kCYFo-XgdJW92pMdiDRO/videos>



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