



FUN Times

NEWS . EVENTS . UPDATES

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Bike FUN!

"All kids need is a little HELP, a little HOPE, and somebody who BELIEVES in THEM"

- MAGIC JOHNSON

WELCOME

Dear friends of Aitsa!

We have been so blessed the last 6 months. It is exciting to see how the dream of creating a second home for children where they feel loved, accepted and stimulated, is really becoming a reality.

In the last 6 months we added 3 more stimulating projects to our afternoon program. Ricus Wessels has started a drumming group which consists of 11 boys and a girl. What a sight to see these little ones beating those drums and getting rid of so many frustrations while enjoying the feeling of success in learning to play an instrument. Oom Japie Jacobs, a local musician from Kylemore, has also joined the Aitsa team and have selected a group of 8 kids to form a brass band. Wow! In the beginning we all had to wear earplugs when the band was practising but slowly they have started to get the feel for these beautiful instruments and a lovely melody can be heard when they are playing.

Another highlight for the children this year has been the start of the Aitsa Cycling Initiative. Headed by Marleen Lourens, an avid mountainbiker herself, joined by the BMT cycle team and Paul Roos Gimnasium boys, Aitsa kids are exposed to the world of cycling on the pump tracks of Kylemore. Watch this space for amazing opportunities opening up for our kids in the world of sport.

My last word is about our chess team, coached by chess master Athon Willenberg. They are going from strength to strength. After 2 years of hard work, 3 Aitsa kids have been chosen for the Cape Winelands Team and one boy Earl Erasmus has been selected for the Western Province Team. I have personally seen how Earl has changed from this unsure, insecure boy to a boy who has confidence in himself and has hope for the future. This is what it is all about at Aitsa! And a story like Earl's story makes all the effort absolutely worthwhile.

Many blessings and thanks for your continuously support. We cannot do any of the above without a team of friends and supporters.

Mariefjie



Aitsa Drumming

Ek is Rico, of eerder *Uncle Rico* soos die kids my noem, en ek het nie te lank gelede die geleentheid gekry om 'n drum klassie te begin vir die Aitsa kids daar in Kylemore.

Ek was eers maar bietjie skepties want ek het nog nooit so klassie aangebied nie en ook geen idee hoe die kids sou reageer met sulke tipe lesse – *my worst nightmare* was 'n klassie vol jong laaities met te veel energie en 'n *chaotic cacophony* van klanke wat nimmer alleen uitken as *proper beats*... maar om eerlik te wees, ek was *pleasantly surprised!* Nommer een deur hoe *ge-organised* hier Aitsa mense die *show run*, nommer twee hoe excited die kids was om te leer "beats kap" soos hulle dit noem, en nommer drie hoe *committed* die kids toe was met die klasse en die *discipline* wat hulle kan manage van begin tot einde.

My hart was spesiaal geroer toe ek hoor by van die *tutors* by Aitsa hoe baie die *kids* dit geniet en hoe hulle



uitsien elke Donderdag as dit 'Beats Kap' dag is!

My droom vir hierdie *epic* groepie drummers, is dat hulle sal beseft dat as hierdie *'whiteboy with no real talent or training'* (*it's true!*) homself kan leer beats kap, dan kan enige van hulle dit leer, en dit selfs beter as ek doen eendag! Al wat mens nodig het is 'n liefde vir beats, vasberadenheid en so bietjie geduld, en as jy jou oë uitvee dan drum jy saam met die bestes.

Ek wil hulle *inspire* om 'n talent te *shape* wat hulle in staat kan stel om in enige *band* te speel, of dit die *local church band* is, die *marching band* of sommer net 'n lekker *rock and roll band*... en wie weet, dalk word dit een van hulle se *full time job*, en hy toer wêreld wyd saam met die nuutse *rock sensation* ...*who knows!*

Maar dis nog *early days*... so vir nou is my *mission* maar *simple: start at the bottom, and enjoy the ride!*

DANCE AND REJOICE!

We started our dance group as we could see the huge potential of our children. We want to make them aware of the many ways in which we can worship the Lord.

To give God a chance you have to surrender yourself in body and spirit. We have 11 children in the group now who have a real passion for dancing for the Lord.

- Theresa Martins (Aitsa Teacher)



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CHESS MATES



It is a privilege to work with Aitsa especially the enthusiasm the kids are showing and their eagerness to learn and perform at their best level of chess.

We have accommodated a few new players the past few weeks to come and master the skill of chess. Hopefully the others will also improve their level of play during the rest of the year. We hope to also have more girls and maybe have a full girls team also by next year.

We have entered them in a few competitions, to uplift their level of play and to explore competition chess.

OUR CHESS ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Boland Colours

One major achievement of Aitsa was that three of the seven we entered in the individuals made the Boland team. They are:

- Earl Erasmus (also our board one player)
- Kelly Swartz
- Robyn Skippers

2. Western Cape Trials

In April these three were then chosen to play in the Western Cape trials to play for Western Cape colours. They did extremely well, unfortunately they didn't make the Western Cape team. The following results were good enough as it was a highly competitive competition.

Results Western Cape Trials

Earl Erasmus ended in 13th position in the Western Cape with a starting rank of 58. He just missed the team with one position.

Robyn and Kelly ended 26th and 28th.

Other Tournaments

On 18th of March they participated in the D section at the Paul Roos Chess Tournament. Aitsa received a bronze medal when Earl Erasmus ended 3rd in the under 10 group.

Aitsa brought home 3 silver medals at the Rhenish tournament held on 13 May. Silver medalists were Earl Erasmus, Sean Patrick and Kelly Swartz in this tournament.

Top Schools

The following team was entered on 3 June 2017:

1. Earl Erasmus
2. Sean - Patrick Isaacs
3. Marquin Michaels
4. Curt Leigh Mars
5. Robyn Skippers
6. Kaylin Ferguson

We had to make last minute changes to the team but they still managed to end in third place. Let's hope they do

well in the next round should they be selected.

Africa Chess Club Open Tournament

Ten Aitsa players were entered on 10 June for this tournament held in Mbekweni. They played in the under 12 age group and their performance was fantastic.

Earl Erasmus ended in second place. Seems like he is upgrading to silver, we hope the gold is on the way soon.

Aitsa had 6 players under the top ten, out of a group of 26 players. Marquin Michaels also ended tied in second place. Great performance Marquin!

We are so very proud of all these wonderful achievements and hope to continue producing excellent results with the Aitsa kids!





Life is like riding a bicycle...to keep the balance, you must keep moving!

Aitsa develop balanced children. With Marietjie Steyn as the driving force behind it, she aims to get people involved with a passion for something specific. As I love cycling, I was immediately willing to get involved.

The Cycling Initiative happens on Friday afternoons at the Kylemore Pump Track. Even the rain can't stop them from this happening – I do believe some parents must have been cursing us for sending them mud-covered kids back home (Who wants to ride around a puddle if you can go through it?!). All our bikes have been donated by the public and is kept in working order by BMT-bike shop in Stellenbosch. This is a tall order as there are flat tires on a weekly basis (due to thorns in the area) and most of the bikes are really old and need constant maintenance.

10 kids at a time get the opportunity to develop their skills. This happens under the guidance of Abongile Busakwe (a 19-year old Grade 11 boy from Kylemore who gets mentored by Chris Norton of BMT) and the Paul Roos Gimnasium boys. CYCLOPS-security firm escorts these helpers safely over Helshoogte Pass to come and assist.

The successful running of this project is solely because of the commitment and free service offered by BMT-shop, Cyclops Securities and the volunteer PRG schoolboys.

We believe that the children don't just get rid of excess energy, but that we might also see some competitive riders coming from this group in the future as a result of this exposure.



In line with our new name, we have a new website and Facebook page!

Please follow us on facebook as Aitsa Aftercare to see what our kids are up to!

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