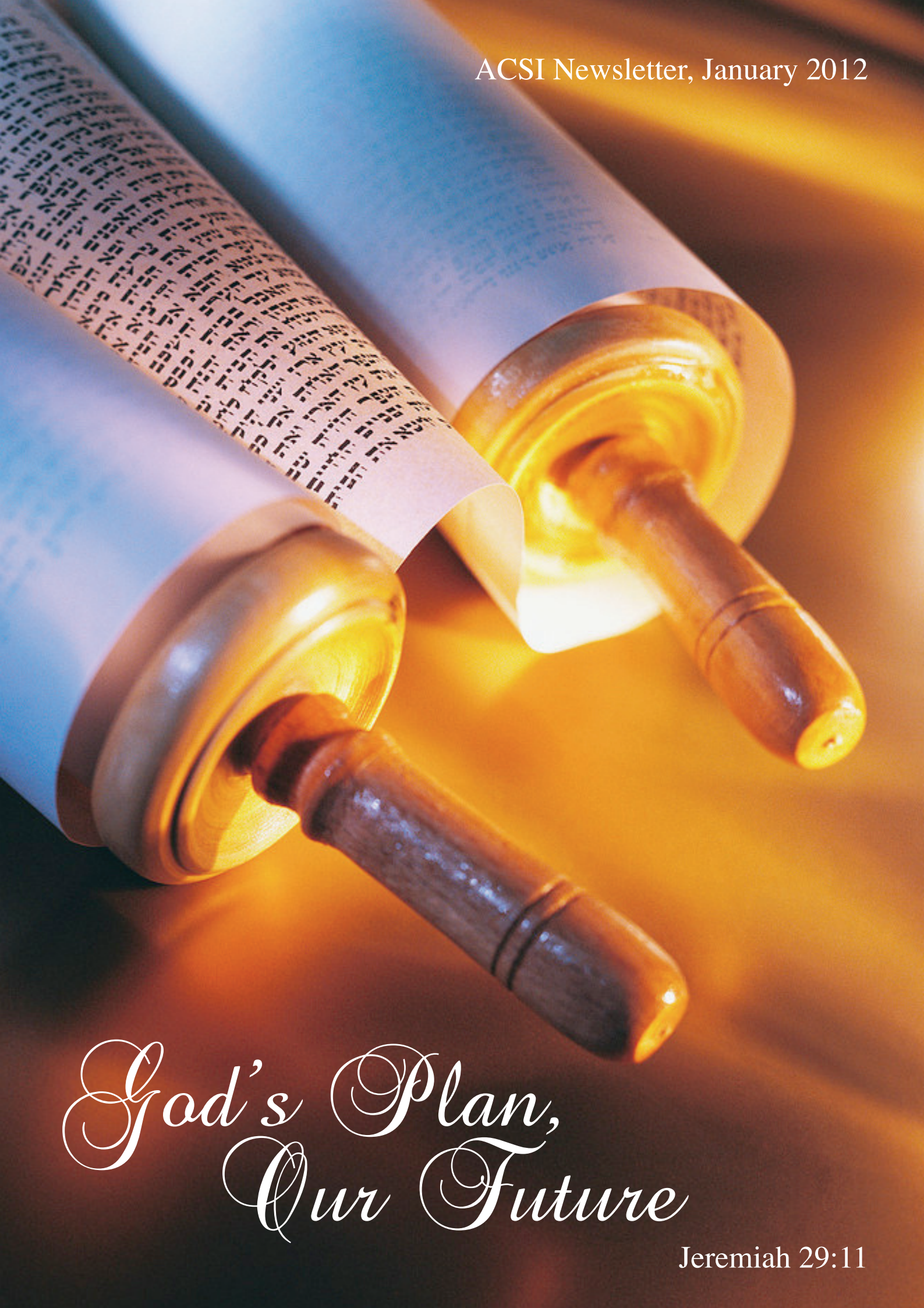


ACSI Newsletter, January 2012



*God's Plan,
Our Future*

Jeremiah 29:11

As we ponder on the theme of 2012, taken from Jeremiah 20:11, it is our prayer that every ACSI school strive to be sure that our plans are aligned with His purposes for 2012.

WORD OF WELCOME

ACSI is particularly excited to welcome to our office our new office Manager, Ms. Mpho Bosman and our new Media and Marketing Manager Ms. Shelley Boshoff. We know that these 2 ladies will add a special dimension to our team and that their commitment to Christian education will be evident in the service they will deliver to our schools

We would also like to congratulate Ms. Cathy Neeleman who has been appointed as principal of Jubilee Christian School in Roodepoort and we extend our best wishes to Ms. Angela de Lange from Kingsway Christian School as she will be leaving the school at the end of this term to pursue other interests.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- Confirmation and/or renewal of ACSI Membership for 2012: forms need to be returned to our office by the 10th school day, which is 31 January. Please sent these to admin_sa@acsi.org
- ACSI Educators Conference in Limpopo will be on Saturday 25 February at Eagle's Nest Christian School in Polokwane. All schools have received information and must please submit names and numbers to ACSI as soon as possible: admin_sa@acsi.org
- Educators Conference in Gauteng will be on 30 and 31 March at Doxa Deo, Pretoria. Cost is R650 per person and registration forms will be sent to you during the course of this week.
- The Grade 7 Leadership Adventure Camp will be held at Konka Camps from 22-24 March. Your school has already received the necessary documentation; please submit registrations to ACSI a.s.a.p.
- Sandy Wubbeling and Hendrik de Kock are available to assist schools with CAPS implementation and information, gladly contact them directly if you need assistance: sandy_wubbeling@acsi.org and hendrik_dekock@acsi.org.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

AMENDED NATIONAL POLICY CONCERNING SUBJECT CHOICES FOR GR 10 – 12

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has announced per Circular S5 of 2011 that national policy has been amended to allow learners to include both Information Technology (IT) and Computer Application Technology (CAT) in their 7 subject package. However, learners who are currently in Grade 11 and 12 will not be allowed to change their subjects to effect such a combination.

POLICY CHANGES ANNOUNCED BY THE CAPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY PRIMARY SCHOOLS THIS YEAR (2012)

It is important to note that the CAPS package comprises **three** documents:

1. *National Policy pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 (2011)*
2. *National Protocol for Assessment Grades R-12*

Amended definition of an immigrant in Gr 10-12

The wording of paragraph 12(1)(a)(ii) in the document *National Senior Certificate: A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)* has been amended as follows:

The current wording:

“having begun his or her schooling at a school in South Africa, has attended school outside South Africa for two or more consecutive years after Grade 6 or its equivalent.”

The new wording:

“having begun his or her schooling at a school in South Africa, has attended school outside South Africa for two or more consecutive years after Grade 3 or its equivalent and before Grade 9 or its equivalent, and has subsequently returned to South Africa.”

Phasing out of external music subjects Gr 10-12

The music subjects that are currently offered by the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, Trinity College of London and UNISA (Grades 6-7) are being phased out as follows:

- Grade 10 in December 2011;
- Grade 11 in December 2012; and
- Grade 12 in December 2013.

This means that there may be no new enrolments in Grade 10 in 2012 for any one of the above-listed external music programmes. Learners in Grade 12 in 2014 may offer one of the mentioned subjects as an eighth subject. However, the results obtained in the subjects will not enable a learner to comply with the 7 subject promotion requirements.

Extension of the Senior Certificate Examination until 2014

The DBE has announced per Circular S2 of 2011 that the Senior Certificate examinations which were to terminate in 2011, will now be continued until 2014 (the National Senior Certificate replaced the Senior Certificate in 2008).

(2011)

3. The *Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS)* for the respective subjects.

The three documents are equally important and must be studied with care. However, it must be kept in mind that the changes as indicated by the documents, in 2012 apply only to Grades R-3. In the case of Grades 4-7 the implementation of the changes is linked to the scheduled phasing in of the CAPSs (Gr 4-6 in 2013 and Gr 7 in 2014).

Example: The new policy determines that the 7-level scale applies to Gr 4-6 as well. However, this change takes effect in 2013 only with the implementation of the CAPSs in Gr 4-6. The same applies in the case of the new promotion mark which is to comprise a year mark and an end of year examination mark (**75:25 in Gr 4-6 (from 2013) and 40:60 in Gr 7 (from 2014)**).

The enquiries also show that there is uncertainty concerning the interpretation of the following policy changes:

The extended teaching time for Gr R-2: The increase from 22,5 hours per week to 23 hours per week implies an additional 6 minute teaching time per day and not 30 minutes per day.

Progression versus promotion: The policy determines that progression from grade to grade remains the norm but also specifies guidelines to determine whether a learner should be promoted to the next grade. The intention is that the process be managed in terms of the guidelines and that the progression directive be used as a concession, applying professional discretion.

Gladly contact Sandy Wubbeling or Hendrik de Kock for information regarding implementation of CAPS in your school.

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

SACE REGISTRATION:

At a recent meeting with Ms. Tsedi Dipholo COO of SACE, she confirmed with ACSI the following regarding SACE registration:

All educators working in South African schools, public and independent, in the GET or FET bands, must be registered with SACE (the South African Council of Educators). It is illegal for any teacher to work without SACE registration.

1. SACE currently has four processes of registration for individual educators:
 - Full registration for those with matric + 3 (NQF level 4) also known as RQV 13;
 - Provisional registration for educators that have academic qualifications but who have not as yet acquired a professional qualification.
 - Conditional registration for scarce skills where schools are unable to find suitably qualified educators.
 - Pre-Accredited Member (PAM) status where educators submit insufficient information to enable SACE to register them appropriately.

Please visit the SACE website for more information about their registration process.

2. Conditional registration is still valid for 1 year only at a specific school.
3. Non South African Citizen's SACE registration will now be applicable until the date of expiry as per their work permit and no longer for a year only.

ADMISSION AGE:

The admission age to an independent school for Grade 1 is age five (5) turning six (6) by 30 June in the year of admission or by the latest, in the year in which the child turns seven.

There are exceptions allowed in the Education Laws Amendment Act of 2002:

An independent school may admit a learner at an age lower than the admission age if:

- (a) it can be shown that exceptional circumstances exist which necessitate the admission of an underage learner because admission would be in his or her best interest, and
- (b) the refusal to admit that learners would be severely detrimental to his or her development.

Some independent schools believe that it is in the best interests of the children to start in Grade 1 in the year in which they turn seven. They, therefore, prefer not to admit learners who are not yet six on entry in January. This is a professional decision taken by the school and is perfectly acceptable in terms of the law regarding the admissions age. Independent schools are not obliged to inform the provincial education department or the district office of their decision in this regard.

LEGAL INFORMATION

Please visit the ACSI website for information on PAIA and the Guidelines and Procedure for dealing with suspected and confirmed cases of Child Abuse. The latter document is from Gauteng but will be of interest and significance to all provinces.

UMALUSI FEEDBACK SESSIONS

Many schools have received invitations from Umalusi to attend feedback sessions. ACSI encourages our schools to attend these meetings because Umalusi wants to give feedback relating to the full accreditation pilot project to independent schools, associations of independent schools, provincial departments of education and other key stakeholders.

NAISA position and advice:

Umalusi has officially consulted NAISA regarding these feedback sessions and all is well. The only little concern that NAISA has raised with Umalusi is that they have called this a consultation with independent schools, instead of calling it feedback process, which is what has caused confusion for a number of independent schools. When principals or attendees from independent schools belonging to associations are consulted on any issue during the feedback sessions they are free to respond. Nonetheless we would like to caution that it would be more prudent for principals or participants that belong to associations to highlight to Umalusi that any consultation should be done through their association (ACSI) and then also through NAISA.

NAISA and Umalusi are on a brink of signing a Consultation / Communications Protocol Agreement, the signing of this document will improve relationships and lead to clarity between these two bodies.

2013 CONFERENCES

During 2013 ACSI will join the South African Leadership Conference, usually held in May, with the International Christian Educators Conference (ICEC) at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya. This will be held over the Easter weekend. We would like to encourage our school leaders to start planning to attend this conference

In August 2013 ACSI SA will host an international Information Technology Conference at HeronBridge College in Johannesburg. Schools that feel that they can contribute to this conference due to technological advances and implementation in their school's teaching and learning practices must please contact annamarie_russell@acsi.org for possible presentation at the conferences. We are also seeking interested parties to become part of the organizing committee.

For any other educational related queries, questions or assistance, please contact the ACSI Office on 011 4520406, Mpho Bosman will direct your call, or visit the website www.acsi.co.za

IMPORTANT ACSI SA DATES FOR 2012:

- **Leadership Conference at Christ Church College, Midrand, Gauteng:** 3,4,5 May
- **Leadership Round Table ii at Christ Church College, Midrand, Gauteng:** Thursday morning 3 May
- **Limpopo Educators' Conference at Eagle's Nest, Polokwane:** 25 February
- **Gauteng and North West Educators' Conference at Doxa Deo East, Pretoria:** 30, 31 March
- **E Cape Educators' Conference at Abbotsford, East London :** 22,23 June
- **KZN Educators' Conference at Heritage Christian School, Pietermaritzburg:** 13, 14 July
- **W Cape Educators' Conference at King's School, Goodwood, Cape Town:** 28,29 September
- **Grade 7 Leadership Adventure Camp:** 22-24 March
- **Grade 10 and 11 Leadership Academy:** 5-7 October (Grade 10 and 11)
- **ACSI Golf Day Wednesday 12 September (t.b.c)**
- **National EE Conference at Jabulane Christian Academy, Hammanskraal:** Friday 13 April
- **Africa Round Table 12 -17 August.** More info available from ACSI Africa judy_marais@acsi.org
- **Herewith also information of the FCE Teachers Conference :**

