

2010 awards to Outstanding Members of the Laerskool Menlo Park Science Club.



The Pretoria Centre of ASSA has a friendly working relationship with a Primary School in Pretoria - Laerskool Menlo Park. The school has a Science Club, comprising about 40 children, and the Centre goes to the school about twice a year to give talks, and a viewing evening, for the student members of the Science Club, and for their parents.

As an outreach gesture, the Centre approached the school with a view to giving some sort of sponsorship or a prize to a deserving member of the Science Club. The recipients were to be chosen on criteria suggested by the School. The Centre was given three copies of a book about the oceans by Lerika Cross, and the Committee decided to donate these as prizes. Lerika is the prime mover behind the annual Scopex Exhibition. The books were donations to Scopex, and Lerika made them available to the Pretoria Centre. The Centre Committee decided to give one book per year, plus a book about astronomy to the recipient at the school.

The contact person at the school is Isabel Davis. When Danie Barnardo and Michael Poll went to see Isabel to finalise the arrangements, she indicated that she appreciated the gesture very much and she was very excited about the project.

The following criteria were used to select a candidate for the ASSA prize: The recipient would be chosen from their general performance in science and they should have participated in Science Club activities for at least one year. Additionally the person would have taken part in the School Science Expo and the Gauteng North Science Expo. The recipient would also be assessed on their performance in the Department of Education Astronomy Quiz, and in the Mathematics Olympiad.

In the event, the School identified two deserving candidates. Their respective performances were so close that the School felt that there was no choice other than to select both as winners, so the Centre decided to give one book to each. The winners were Alstaedt Hulme and Christian Kriek. Christian received the book entitled "Ocean", and Alstaedt was awarded a book entitled "Space, a Children's Encyclopaedia".

Although the above criteria were the ones used to decide on prize winners, apart from their obvious excellence in science it can be noted that the two also excelled in other academic areas and sport.

Alstaedt Hulme: obtained the highest marks in English, Mathematics and Technology, and was on the Academic Roll of Honour :- from Grade 4 to Grade 7 he averaged more than 85% every year. He was in the top ten for marks in Afrikaans, Human and Social Sciences, and Economy and Management Sciences. He has

also shown exceptional spelling prowess. He had the highest marks in Grade 7, and was awarded the Honoris Dux. Alstaedt was the Afrikaans Ekspo winner, and the Amesa Maths Olympiad Gold medal winner. He was also was the Vice Head Boy.

Alstaedt was in the athletics "A" team, the Hockey team, and the Rugby First team. He was the Cricket senior bowler of the year, and the tennis Super 12 winner. In all he received 8 trophies.

Christian Kriek: was in the top ten for marks in Natural Sciences and Technology, Afrikaans, English, Human and Social Sciences, and Economy and Management Sciences. He was on the Academic Roll of Honour:- from Grade 4 to Grade 7 he averaged more than 85% every year. He was also an Amesa Maths Olympiad Gold medal winner. He participated in the Bible Quiz, and served on the Student Council.

Christian was the Cricket Senior Batsman of the year, and participated in cricket at National level and was in the Hockey team. He received five trophies.

The Centre is pleased and proud to be able to acknowledge two such outstanding and balanced young learners, and we wish them all the best for the future.