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Curriculum GET Minute: DCG 00013/2019

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors, Heads: Curriculum Support, Circuit Managers, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, GET Coordinators, Subject Advisers and Principals of all ordinary and independent schools with Grade 7 classes

Subject: AstroQuiz 2019 — Grade 7 learners

1. The AstroQuiz is a science competition for Grade 7 learners that is based on astronomy-related themes and linked to the "Earth and Beyond" section of the Natural Sciences curriculum.
2. The AstroQuiz is a project funded by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) and run provincially by the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO). This project is aimed at:
 - encouraging an interest in science in primary schools;
 - improving classroom practice;
 - creating awareness and insight into basic astronomy, science and mathematics; and
 - fostering an interest in career opportunities in astronomy and other sciences.
3. The AstroQuiz has been successfully implemented in the province since 2006 and interest in this competition has grown phenomenally. This competition is only done in English on provincial and national levels.
4. Since 2015, the Western Cape AstroQuiz competition is an online competition. Learners may use their cellphones to participate. However, schools without an online facility will be given an opportunity to write a paper-based quiz.
5. To enter the AstroQuiz, schools must identify teams of four learners from Grade 7 to represent the school.
6. The first two rounds of the provincial AstroQuiz will be held at schools under the supervision of the teachers in charge. Schools are encouraged to enter with as many teams as possible.

7. There will be a trial round for learners to practise the quiz online. Schools compete by answering a set of 30 questions in each round. All schools will answer the same questions. The teams are given a fixed 60 seconds per question. Teams may discuss answers quietly amongst themselves. Only one team per school may participate in the second round. Participating learners may not take any resource material into the quiz venue.
8. Provincial Rounds 3 and 4 will be held on the same day at the SAAO in Observatory, Cape Town. For the first time this year, each district will be represented by five schools at this event. Hence, we encourage as many schools as possible to make use of this opportunity. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) will be responsible for the transport claims of the teachers transporting the teams to the provincial Rounds 3 and 4. The teachers will receive the WCED claim forms at the SAAO. The SAAO will be responsible for transporting the team that will represent the province at the national finals of the event.
9. The 2019 dates for the AstroQuiz are as follows:

ROUND	DATE	VENUE
1	24 July 2019	School level
2	7 August 2019	School level
3 & 4	29 August 2019	SAAO in Observatory, Cape Town
National finals	23–26 September 2019	Gauteng

10. The resource pack for the AstroQuiz and the past question papers can be downloaded from the SAAO AstroQuiz website at www.astroquiz.saaq.ac.za. If a school needs a hard copy of the AstroQuiz booklet, they can request it by sending an email with the name of the school and postal address to help@astroquiz.saaq.ac.za.
11. The WCED advises that all schools use the AstroQuiz resource pack and the past question papers to give learners experience in writing the quiz. This should be an open-book activity for groups of four learners each, with each group working as a team.
12. Interested schools must register for the quiz directly with the SAAO via the AstroQuiz website at <http://astroquiz.saaq.ac.za>. Registrations open from April 2019.
13. All communication from the SAAO will be received via email and/or SMS. Teachers may choose their preferred means of communication when registering and are invited to join the AstroQuiz mailing list at <http://astroquiz.saaq.ac.za/join-the-mailing-list/> to stay informed about the quiz.
14. The WCED encourages all schools with Grade 7 learners to participate in the 2019 AstroQuiz.

15. For any further questions or clarity about the competition, kindly contact the SAAO directly or visit their website for more information:

Tel: 021 460 9369/093 467 1131 (Ms Buzani Khumalo)

021 460 9319 (Ms Thembela Mantungwa)

021 460 9328 (Dr Christian Hettlage)

Fax: 086 554 1330

Email: help@astroquiz.saa.ac.za

Website: <http://astroquiz.saa.ac.za>

16. Principals are requested to bring this minute to the attention of all Grade 7 Natural Sciences teachers.

SIGNED: PAD BEETS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2019-04-09