

Date: 26 June 2020

Issue no.: 18

**CURRO AURORA and the COVID19 LOCKDOWN** – This week the last group of learners returned to Curro Aurora after the lockdown started on 26 March 2020.

After almost three months most of our learners were able to sit down in class, greet friends at school every second day and experience Curro Aurora **#bluepride** while getting used to the new normal on campus... We are all wearing masks, keeping our distance and washing our hands while singing Happy Birthday! It's a strange new world...

I would like to thank every Curro Aurora teacher who had to adjust, create and reinvent to effectively implement online teaching almost overnight. You are the backbone of our school!

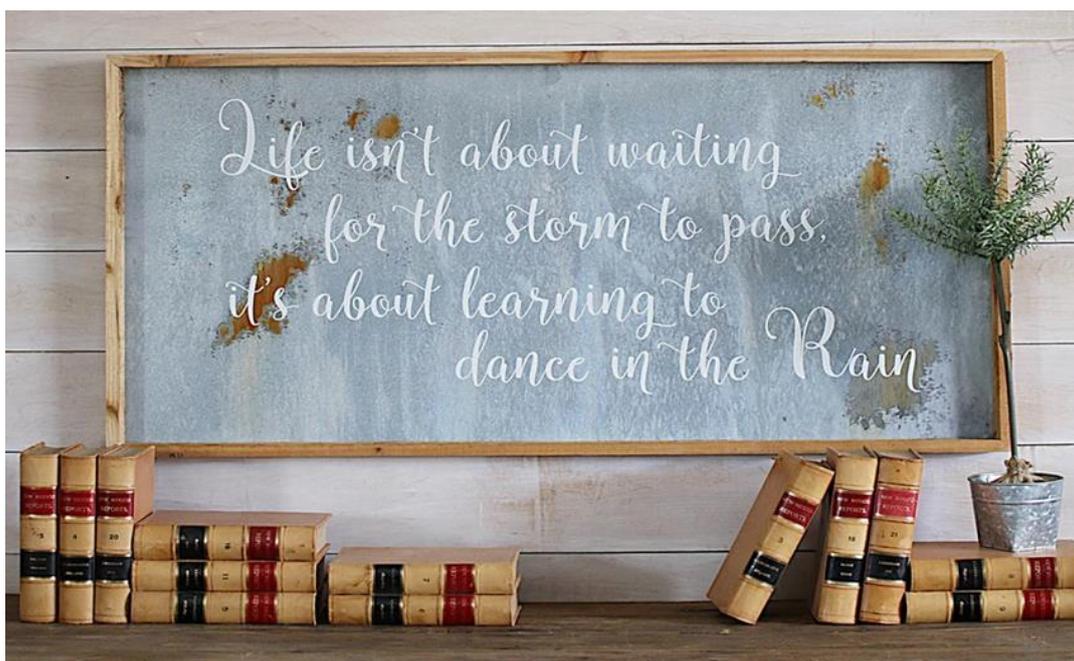
Well done to every learner who had to adjust to an unfamiliar online learning environment, away from friends and the traditional schooling setup. You have achieved so much despite COVID-19 turning our world upside down!

Thank you to every parent who supported, not only their own households under difficult circumstances, but also our teachers and our school as we dealt with the challenges that faced us since the start of the national lockdown. Your words of encouragement, your feedback, your constructive criticism and your prayers during this time contributed to the successful roll-out of our online learning program.

We trust that all our staff and learners will return well rested and ready for Term 3.

**May you all have a good break!**

Mr JC



Dear Parent / Learner

It has been thirteen weeks of physical school closure, online learning, return to school procedures and face-to-face teaching. I continue to be so impressed with the work everyone is doing. With patience and grace, teachers and parents are collaborating to teach and support our learners in a way that is different, challenging, at times frustrating, yet engaging. Families and children are working together to do their very best, given tough times and new expectations. Our support staff have played a most vital role in cleaning and preparing our facilities, sanitising and assisting in our return to school procedures.

To our high school matriculants, we are here to support you and want to reassure you. If you were on track to graduate before COVID-19, you should still be on track to graduate. The Curro Aurora teachers are working together to make recommendations about grading and promotion in this new learning environment. We are exploring creative and safe ways to celebrate you and the hard work you've done to prepare for the end of this year and beyond! There will be more information very soon about this.

Curro Aurora's core business is academia – providing quality education to every learner. Of course, sports, culture and social activities are part of normal schooling, but when we operate under pressure, we must prioritise and make sure that we do everything possible to ensure that education can continue. Abnormal circumstances require abnormal solutions. We thank and congratulate our learners who have adapted so well to the absence of normal social interactions and extra-mural activities – it is not easy to sacrifice doing something we love.

## BLUE PRIDE

We are so proud of our teachers, our parents and our learners. Those teaching and learning online and those who are at home shielding. They are pulling together and supporting one another. The selfless attitude, commitment and teamwork of my colleagues is amazing to witness daily. I am so proud of the way that the whole team has stood together, got on board and did what needed to be done. Without question. Without complaint. I wish to celebrate the fact that teachers, parents and learners have pulled together to create a new learning environment under such very different circumstances.

As we go into this well-deserved break, we hope that the world learns to be kinder and to look after itself better after Covid 19.

I pray that all those we love and cherish stay well and that we all celebrate safely and together as a community when life is back to normal again one day – whatever that new normal may bring.

## STAFF MATTERS

It can be difficult to find the right words to say goodbye to an employee leaving a company. It is near-impossible when that person is our HoD English, Mrs Tracy-Lee Edwards, who is leaving us at the end of June.



Mrs Edwards has been a source of inspiration for staff members and learners alike at Curro Aurora. We thank her for the motivation, knowledge and insight that she has given to all of us. We thank her for being there for us all the time; and we thank her for the time and effort she has spent on us. We wish her endless happiness and love.

Goodbye to a great mentor, amazing teacher, inspiring leader and a pretty awesome person – Mrs Edwards will be missed.

Mrs Edwards' successor, **Ms Robyn Habib**, will be joining the Curro Aurora teaching fraternity from 1 August, which means that we have employed the services of Mrs Teixeira Murray, an experienced English Home Language educator, in the interim. This does mean that, as a temporary measure, English classes will possibly be taken by another teacher for a month which is unfortunate but unavoidable.

Ms Robyn Habib will also be taking over as the Head of English when she joins our team, bringing with her many years of Matric and IEB experience. We look forward to welcoming her to our Curro Aurora family as soon as possible.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

All Curro schools will adhere to the term dates which Executive Heads announced to their respective school communities in the letter to parents dated 26 May 2020 as follows:

Grades R to 12						
Term 2	Days	Term 3	Days	Term 4	Days	Total days
1 April – 31 May	(40)	6 July – 23 Sep	57	28 Sep – 9 Dec	53	129
1 June – 26 June	19					(169)

Please note: Term 2 will therefore close on Friday, 26 June, at 14:25. Schools will open for Term 3 for staff and learners on Monday, 6 July 2020.

The last day of school is scheduled for 9 December at this stage, but some learners will finish a bit earlier, depending on the examination timetable which we will compile as soon as we have a final version of the Grade 12 timetable as it impacts on venue availability.

Our **online schooling will continue** in terms of our commitment that no child is left behind:

- Our goal is to include all our learners and families, and any special provisions necessary will be made to ensure a continuation of learning for all the children under our care;
- We will continue uploading work for those still in lockdown to ensure that no work is missed by the learners during this time;
- We ask all learners to commit to their studies to ensure that they keep up to date with their curriculum and assignments as much as possible until such time as their grades are able to return to the classroom.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Matrics: School uniform is to be worn on Mondays and Fridays, allowing enough time to have the uniform cleaned. Should you (the learner) have PE on a Monday or a Friday, please wear your full school tracksuit with your Blue Pride T-shirt. We ask that learners are dressed neatly (and warmly) for school please.

**As all Grade 8 to 11 learners will only be on campus every other day from the start of next term, learners will be required to wear school uniform.**

**Please also note that normal hair and nail regulations will apply again from the start of the term – let's look neat and tidy, ready for school.**

## **50% CAPACITY MEASURES:**

### **GRADE 10, 11 & 12:**

The group of learners at school will receive the daily teaching face to face, learners not at school due to comorbidities in the family will receive the same teaching via MS Teams,

### **From 6 July (Third Term):**

The group of learners at school will receive the daily teaching face to face, learners not at school will receive the same teaching via MS Teams

- At 50% capacity, our Grade 11 learners will be at school for face-to-face teaching on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9 and continue with online learning on days 2; 4; 6; 8 and 10 and rotate with Grade 10 learners as from 6 July. This will limit the number of bodies on campus for each day.
- Our Grade 10 learners will be at school for face-to-face teaching on days 2; 4; 6; 8 and 10 and continue with online learning on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9 as from 6 July.

- For all learners to be taught by their teachers at school, we will be following our normal timetable, practicing social distancing as far as possible and making use of bigger venues for bigger groups whenever possible.
- The group of learners at school will receive the daily teaching face to face, learners not at school will receive the same teaching via MS Teams, online.

## GRADE 8 & 9

### From 6 July:

- 50% of learners in a tutor class to be at school on any specific day. This will limit the number of bodies on campus for each day.
- Grades 8 and 9 learners will be stationary in one venue and not move classes
- For all learners to be taught by their teachers at school, we will be following a normal two-week cycle whereby each class is split into two groups, Group A and B.
  - **Group A** will have face-to face classes on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9 and online classes on days 2; 4; 6; 8; 10.
  - **Group B** will have face-to-face classes on days 2; 4; 6; 8 and 10 and online classes on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9.
- After each two-week cycle, the groups will swop around.

The syllabus will continue as normal through-out face-to-face and online classes

## SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP

Kindly note that the secondhand shop at Curro Aurora is operational as follows:

### Hours of Business

Mondays:	07h00 – 11h00
Wednesday:	11h00 – 15h00
Friday:	11h00 – 15h00

Only one family unit (parent and/or pupil) will be permitted access to the shop at a time. A system has been put in place for appointments of 15 minutes per visit. Any visits outside of appointments may result in parents having to wait outside the shop until they can be served. Every effort will be made to accommodate all requests.

Should you wish for your child to purchase clothing without you, the parent present, you are requested to send a letter which must include your family code authorising the transaction to be debited to your school fee account.

Strict Covid19 precautions will always be in place. Parents entering the shop must be wearing a mask, sanitise and complete a register upon entering the secondhand shop. No entry will be allowed without a mask.

Please WhatsApp or phone the shop coordinator (Andy Watkins 083 783 3653) for appointments or for any other information you may need regarding the secondhand shop.

## CULTURE

*Mrs Saskia Snyders*

### Curro Create Arts Superhero



Thank you to all the learners who submitted your entries for this year's virtual Curro CAS.

Entries are now closed and we eagerly await the feedback for the individual performance and submission categories.

#BluePride #involved

### Eisteddfod

**National Eisteddfod of South Africa**

The National Eisteddfod of South Africa for 2020 is going ahead with exciting changes and new opportunities.

**ENTRIES ARE OPEN**

**HS CC**  
Curro Aurora High School Culture Council

Closing date for online entries: 31 July 2020

**#Learners2Leaders**

**CURRO**  
Aurora

We need not reiterate that we are living through a lot of change and uncertainties. One thing is certain, and that is that arts and culture have always been able to overcome turbulent times and that the arts are a positive force for our community.

**Therefore, we encourage our talented learners to enter this year's National Eisteddfod Academy. Entries are completed online, and step-by-step instructions have been sent through to all the high school families through MyHub.**

**Entries close: 31 July 2020.**

For more information, do not hesitate to contact Mrs Snyders (Saskia.s@curro.co.za)

#Straight2Camera



2020 will most definitely be remembered as a year where we had to adapt on every level. Curro Create can adapt well and they have done it again! CCNYTF is continuing.

We are extremely excited to share the CCNYTF #Straight2Camera Monologue Festival initiative with you. It is new, it is fresh and it is just what the doctor ordered!

Our Matric class of 2020 has been especially hard hit by Covid-19, and we know that they have lost out on a big part of their final school year. For this reason, we have included an incredible prize for one of the Matrics who will be studying film or theatre post Matric. We trust that this incentive will motivate them to grab this opportunity with enthusiasm and we urge you to encourage them to take part in the #Straight2Camera Monologue Festival.

Specific information regarding this exciting opportunity has been shared via MyHub with all high school families.

Closing date for entries: **31 July 2020**

Entry fee: FREE

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Snyders (Saskia.s@curro.co.za)

.....and ACTION!!

## SPORT

*Mr Adrian Ferreira*

Some sporting codes have resumed and competitive events are being played and some have been televised live. There has been some exciting action to view! Football from the English Premier League is an example of this. Arsenal's Nicolas Pépé's tremendous strike against Brighton, and Wolverhampton Wanderers' Pedro Neto's sublime volley against West Ham are surely contenders for goal of the season! These amazing moments, along with so many others from the various sporting codes, illustrate the talented players on display. The saying goes: "Form is temporary, class is permanent". I suggest that the talented and committed sportsmen and sportswomen are displaying their class, despite the lengthy hiatus of competitive sport.

I encourage all our Curro Aurora sport participants to continue working on their skills and fitness, so that when school sports resume, they are in good form to prove their class!



**Mr Adrian Ferreira looking "hot" in his Liverpool shirt after their win this week!**

## COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS / RETURN TO SCHOOL



Please pay a visit to our website for the latest on Curro during the time of COVID-19.

<https://www.curro.co.za/covid-19/>

Curro Aurora has implemented the necessary safety precautions and procedures as detailed in our Standard Operating Procedures document.

Please take note of our school procedures – please talk your child through it at home so that they feel prepared upon returning to school.

## TEMPERATURE SCREENING / SANITISING:

### • Check point 1: (At the main gate)

- Temperature of learner to be measured when arriving at school whilst still in car – NO physical contact is required.
- Learners to have their own temperature card (provided upon return to school) that must be carried on them.
- **Learner needs to have a pen and the temperature card ready and record the temperature on the card while still seated in the car.**
- A mask must be worn correctly by all occupants in the car.
- ANY Covid-19 symptoms MUST be declared to the staff member taking the temperature.
- If temperature is 37.5° or higher and/or learner is not wearing their mask, then they cannot move to check point 2 and parents will be asked to take the appropriate measures – please comply to these carefully.
- Any symptoms reported immediately

### • Check point 2:

- Sanitise hands.
- Check that temperature has been recorded on temperature card.
- Check correct wearing of face masks.
- Recording of temperature and complete check list of symptoms on control sheet.
- Any symptoms reported immediately.

### • Check point 3: (Pedestrian entrance gate)

- Check that temperature has been recorded on temperature card.
- Check correct wearing of face masks.
- Reminder of social distancing rules applicable.
- Any visitors to the school (including parents) directed to main reception area for screening.
- Any symptoms reported immediately.

### • Check point 4:

- Sanitise hands.
- Tutor class for admin – record temperatures from COVID CARD onto an Excel spreadsheet, in the applicable date column.
- Complete Curro Temperature and Symptoms check sheet.
- Any symptoms reported immediately.
-

## • Check point 5:

- Sanitise hands before entering classroom.
- Lesson times are 45 min – please ensure that all lessons (online and on-campus) are recorded and shared via MS Teams platform.
- Sanitise hands when exiting classroom.
- Any symptoms reported immediately

## Please also note:

- Learners to be collected from the same areas at the end of the school day – sanitise upon leaving the school property.
- Two twenty-minute breaks are in place on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and a thirty-minute break on Wednesdays. During break times, learners are required to practice social distancing and also wash their hands with soap and water.
- It is recommended that learners bring own hand sanitizer to school
- Learners who have Primary School siblings are to collect their siblings from the quad area in front of the Primary School office where they are under supervision and move straight to transport collection point(s) – social distancing is vital.

**WE URGE ALL TEACHERS, PARENTS AND LEARNERS TO ADHERE TO THE SAFETY MEASURES – SOCIAL DISTANCING, THE WEARING OF MASKS AND SANITISING IS NON-NEGOTIABLE.**

## WEARING A MASK TO SCHOOL

*Mrs SJ Olivier*

You have been provided with two masks by the school. You are welcome to wear your own mask. Remember that your cloth mask must have a minimum of two layers. You may not re-use a single use mask.

Always wear your mask correctly! The mask must cover your nose and your mouth and fit snugly over the bridge of your nose and against the sides of your face. 

Before you put your mask on, wash or sanitise your hands properly.

Remember that you will have to be wearing your mask when you arrive at the school gate to have your temperature checked.

Avoid touching your mask while you are wearing it. Make sure your mask fits correctly so that you do not need to adjust it. If you do touch your mask, be sure to sanitise your hands immediately.



When removing your mask, do not touch the front of the mask. Remove it by using the ties around your head or behind your ears.

Wash your mask after every use.

## ONLINE CAREER and SUBJECT CHOICE ASSESSMENTS

Mrs Tina Doukas, our campus-based educational psychologist is offering online Grade 9 subject choice and Grade 10 to 12 career assessments.



**ONLINE**

**Grade 9 Subject Choice and Grade 10 - 12 Career Assessments**

- Online Psychometric Assessments (2 – 3 hours)
  - Testing Aptitude, Personality and Interests
- Full Report and Feedback
- Secure Online Platform
- Medical aid accepted

For Bookings, please contact Tina Doukas (Educational Psychologist)  
 Mind + Me Psychology Practice  
 071 715 2406 / [tina@mindandme.co.za](mailto:tina@mindandme.co.za) / HPCSA Reg. No. 0125130

## COMMUNICATION:

Contact details of the School Management Team and Grade Heads herewith for easy reference:

<b>Receptionist</b>	Cindy Duma	<a href="mailto:Cindy.D3@curro.co.za">Cindy.D3@curro.co.za</a>
<b>Head of High School</b>	Dion Kotze	<a href="mailto:Dion.K@curro.co.za">Dion.K@curro.co.za</a>
<b>FET Phase Head</b>	Sarah-Jane Olivier	<a href="mailto:Sarah-Jane.O01@curro.co.za">Sarah-Jane.O01@curro.co.za</a>
<b>Snr Phase Head</b>	Donne Valkenburg	<a href="mailto:Donne.V1@curro.co.za">Donne.V1@curro.co.za</a>
<b>Head of Sport</b>	Adrian Ferreira	<a href="mailto:Adrian.F@curroholdings.co.za">Adrian.F@curroholdings.co.za</a>
<b>Head of Culture</b>	Saskia Snyders	<a href="mailto:Saskia.S@curro.co.za">Saskia.S@curro.co.za</a>
<b>Grade 12 Heads</b>	Nicole Webb	<a href="mailto:Nicole.W2@curro.co.za">Nicole.W2@curro.co.za</a>
	Maria Chou	<a href="mailto:Maria.C@curro.co.za">Maria.C@curro.co.za</a>
<b>Grade 11 Heads</b>	Judy Beeston	<a href="mailto:Judy.B@curroholdings.co.za">Judy.B@curroholdings.co.za</a>
	Anita Bornman	<a href="mailto:Anita.B@curro.co.za">Anita.B@curro.co.za</a>

Grade 10 Heads	Janine Tobin	Janine.T@curro.co.za
	Wendy Longwitz	Wendy.L2@curro.co.za
Grade 9 Heads	Kelsey Gallon	Kelsey.G2@curro.co.za
	Brendan van Zyl	Brendan.v@curro.co.za
Grade 8 Heads	Kyla Hayter	Kyla.H@curro.co.za
	Warrick Hammond	Warrick.H@curro.co.za

## Hampers of Hope

Each hamper costs R150 and is going to be donated to the Fountainebleau community church. The church helps shelters for the homeless.

**Curro Aurora's Grade 10s are putting together food hampers, but we need all the help we can get!**

How can you help? We would love for you to sponsor a hamper or more!



For more information, please contact:  
janine.t@curro.co.za or wendy.l2@curro.co.za

#Learners2Leaders

[www.curro.co.za](http://www.curro.co.za)

**CURRO**  
Aurora

## WINTER WARMER INITIATIVE



Curro Aurora High School's Culture Council is fully behind the community service winter warmer initiative!

They are inspired to create for the benefit of others. You too can join the Culture Council in supporting this - dare to start creating today and change someone's life for the better!

#currocares #learners2leaders #bluepride

## THOUGHT TO PONDER:

New types of interactions and collaborations are already unfolding. It's a reminder of what's enduring—and that beauty, inspiration, and uplifting each other are universal human needs.

—Cindy Allen

We wish you and your loved ones continued health – please keep safe.

Yours in education,

Dion Kotze  
Head of High School