

Date: 31 July 2020

Issue no.: 21

CURRO AURORA and COVID19 – A word from our Executive Head

Dear Parents and Guardians

Up to now the 2020 academic year has been particularly challenging as we charter our way through COVID19 lockdown, new online teaching models, screening protocols, a rising infection rate and the challenges posed by the changing economic landscape.

At Curro Aurora our aim is to provide a safe and calm environment for all our students and staff. We are very proud of our community and the way we have quickly adjusted to the restrictions and requirements. One example is the way our learners have coped with being dropped off, screened and picked up at the various entry points.

I'd like to personally thank our parent body for the thoughtful and supportive way they are responding to the Government requirements. I would also like to thank our school community for the support and care they are showing towards our staff who have been working very hard to successfully implement our hybrid teaching model.

During this unprecedented time, we want to make sure that you remain well-informed and that you understand our efforts to support our learners. Please take time to read newsletters, emails and messages - good communication is key to the successful completion of the 2020 academic year while respecting the social distancing guidelines established during this pandemic.

As a school we are following all the required hygiene, cleaning and social distancing practises and will continue to do so.

As we continue into an unknown future, I am reminded that we are not alone in our efforts to deal with and manage this pandemic. Let us remember His words:

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand". Isaiah 41:10

Please stay safe and take care of those around you.

Mr JC Engelbrecht
Executive Head

From the School Head - Mr Kotze

Keeping children focused and motivated to continue studying, while also providing them with enough productive activities to keep them occupied in down-time is no easy task.



However, some might see this additional family time as an opportunity to teach children life skills they don't learn in school and only get to grips with as an adult. In typical "silver lining seeking fashion", I wondered what we may present as lessons our kids could learn from COVID-19. Aside from the obvious washing of hands, personal hygiene and protecting oneself and loved ones through social distancing, I realised that we may be faced with opportunities here that may never present themselves ever again.

Remember that your child may have different reactions to stress, so be patient and understanding. Encourage your child to ask questions and express their feelings with you. Start by inviting your child to talk about any issues they may have.

Now is indeed the time to cultivate curiosity and encourage research skills and to provide children with the "ultimate training ground," giving them an early start to learning life skills for when they no longer live at home. Restrictions are now in place around the world, limiting our movement and our social interactions, but not the power of our most astounding gift: our minds. Given how much time children may be forced to spend occupying themselves inside, now is the ideal time to teach them about online safety and the perils that social media platforms bring with them. Establish rules together about how, when and where the internet can be used.

We need to teach our children how to use their digital skills more altruistically, to connect with the wider community during self-isolation, or even entrepreneurially. Even though most teenagers now know how to do HTML or how to build a website, it's vital that they are taught to use their skills in a positive way to demonstrate that they're great digital citizens.

Establishing a routine and structure is equally important for children and young people, but you may notice your children need some level of flexibility. This is why we follow our normal school timetable, but also record our lessons for access later. Switch up your activities. If your child is seeming restless and agitated when trying to follow their online learning programme, engage with them and make the topics of their learning part of your conversation.

Try and stay as attuned to their needs as possible – together, we will get through this!

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 (ONLINE ONLY)	(40)	6 July – 23 Sep	57	28 Sep – 9 Dec	53	129
1 June – 26 June (BLENDED APPROACH)	19	(BLENDED APPROACH)				(169)

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

Please note that until further notice, all grades will be wearing civvies to school, as per the information send out by Mr Englebrecht.

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 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

- 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 have started moving classes again to limit academic time lost as teachers had to move to new venue, do sanitizing procedures for the class and then log on to the school network again and then access MS Teams to allow for hybrid teaching before classes could start. In lieu of this, we ask that learners please bring own sanitizing wipes or spray for their own desks as they move about. Though teachers do sanitise as far as possible between lessons, and the cleaning staff sanitise at breaks and after school, it is only prudent that learners take on the responsibility of looking after their own health too – the educational value of this cannot be over-emphasized.
- 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.

Should you / the school be affected by load shedding, lessons will be made available via MS Teams for access by the learners when possible.

CULTURE

Mrs Saskia Snyders

ATKV-DIGIPRAAT



Jada Reddy (Grade 9) participated in this year's ATKV-Digipraat virtual platform.

Under the guidance of Mrs Helen Steyn, Jada entered the additional language category and was awarded an A for her speech.

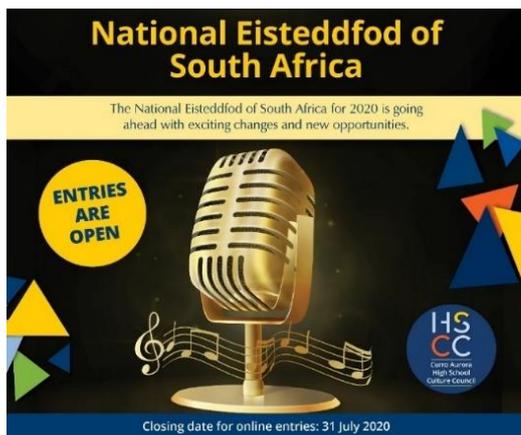
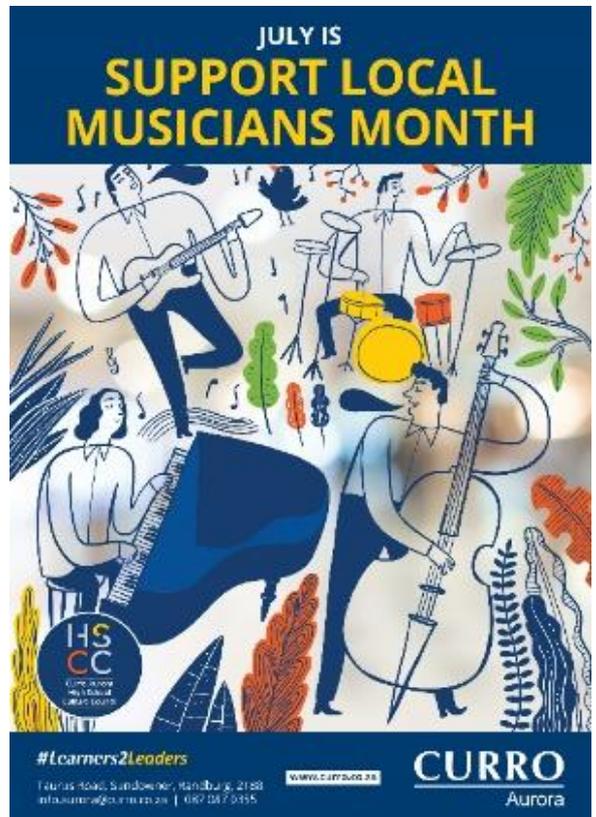
We are incredibly proud of your achievement, Jada. Congratulations!

TERM 3 HIGH SCHOOL CULTURE COUNCIL DRIVE #support_local

The High School Culture Council's initiative: #support_local is well on its way. It is a wonderful opportunity and honour for the culture council to chat to artists from all walks of life.

As written in an advert for Tribuo Fund: "Artists breathe air into our inner lungs / Say what we cannot say / Show us what we could never see / Move and make our hearts pound / They hear our secrets and make music from it / ... / Art teaches us to know ourselves / Draws us together / Makes us whole / Collects our memories / BUT NOW OUR ARTISTS NEED US"

August will be dedicated to Film and Theatre Makers. We look forward to chatting to our own talented learners and to people in the industry. If anyone is interested in joining this initiative, please feel free to contact Mrs Snyders.



EISTEDDFOD

This is the last call for entries.
Entries close: **31 July 2020.**

For more information, please contact Mrs Snyders (Saskia.s@curro.co.za).

#STRAIGHT2CAMERA



Curro Create National Youth Theatre Festival 2020

CURRO CREATE NATIONAL Youth Theatre Festival 2020

#Straight2Camera

#Straight2Camera
Monologue Festival

FREE ENTRY!
Grades 4 to 12
Don't miss out.

Check out the awesome categories:

- The YoungStars (Grades 4 to 7)**
 - Comedy or drama
- The Rising Stars (Grades 8 to 10) and The Stars (Grades 11 and 12)**
 - Film monologue
 - Theatre monologue
 - Poetry/Prose monologue
 - Shakespeare monologue

Matrics, if you're studying drama or film next year, you are in line to **win a R50 000 bursary!**

Speak to your head of culture for details. If you do not have a Head of Culture, or if you need more information about entering for this festival, please email us at marguerite.d@curro.co.za.

CURRO

#Learners2Leaders
www.curro.co.za

CURRO CREATE

Entry fee: FREE

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

For wonderful advice and excellent professional tips, please watch the web series which is loaded on the Curro Create YouTube channel.

There are six full series of masterclasses (41 episodes in total) available on Curro Create's YouTube Channel:

- David Viviers - Category: The Stars (Grades 11 and 12). Contemporary Monologue : A Life, by Nick Payne
- Sanda Shandu - Category: The Rising Stars (Grades 8 - 10). Modern Classic Monologue: Cory Maxson, from Fences, by August Wilson
- Devonecia Swartz - Category: The Rising Stars (Grades 8 - 10) - The Shakespearean monologue: Iago's Act 2 monologue, from Othello
- Milan Murray - Category: The Stars (Grades 11 and 12) - An Afrikaans monologue - Hester, from Huishou, by Philip Rademeyer
- Paul and Joshua du Toit: The YoungStars (Grades 4 - 7) - A primary school contemporary monologue - Monster, from Gasp, Farrah and Monster, by José Cruz González, from the anthology The Bully Plays.
- Indalo Bennet - Category: The Rising Stars (Grades 8 - 10) - An isiXhosa monologue: A girl's prayer from Modjadji, in Absentia, Dramaturge: Mandla Mbothwe

.....and ACTION!!

JOU GROOT TALENT

Here is another opportunity for those of you who would like to stay creative and share your talents.

GROOTfm 90.5 en die **GROOTontbyt** bied aan:



Another online platform has been created by GROOTfm in which you can record your performance and submit it online and stand a chance to win wonderful prizes, develop your craft and gain exposure.

The categories include: Poetry, Prose, Public Speaking, Prepared and Unprepared Reading, Singing, and Instrumentals.

Entry fees are R120 per entry.

Entries close on the 21st of August 2020.

If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Snyders at Saskia.s@curro.co.za

SPORT

Mr Adrian Ferreira

2020 INTER-CURRO VIRTUAL GOLF CHALLENGE HOSTED BY CURRO AURORA

Curro Aurora is excited to host the Inter-Curro Virtual Golf Challenge from Friday, 7 August to Sunday, 27 September 2020.

The purpose of this challenge is to provide an opportunity for Curro golfers to participate with, and compete against, the boys and girls from the other schools in the Curro family.

Curro Aurora will be entering teams from the High and Primary Schools.



CATEGORIES:

- High school team (Grade 8 – Grade 12)
- Primary school team (Grade 1 – Grade 7)
- High school individual (Grade 8 – Grade 12)
- Primary school individual (Grade 4 – Grade 7)
- Primary school individual (Grade 1 – Grade 3)
- Staff competition

There will be three rounds of 18 holes each.

Round 1:

Played from Friday, 7 August to Sunday, 23 August. First round's scores to be submitted by Wednesday, 26 August at 12:00.

Round 2:

Played from Monday, 24 August to Sunday 13 September. Second round's scores to be submitted by Wednesday, 16 August at 12:00.

Round 3:

Played from Monday, 14 September to Sunday, 27 September. Third and final round's scores to be submitted by Wednesday, 30 September at 12:00.

If your child is interested in taking up golf as a sport, please contact:

- Mr Adrian Ferreira (Adrian.F@curro.co.za or 0870870355)
- Mr Jonathan Wernich (Jono.W@curro.co.za or 0870870355)

FITNESS FRIDAY:

At a time when going out of the house without an emergency is a strict no, many of us are worried about our fitness. Besides, staying at home often leads to overeating and the extra calories do not get burn off easily. Fitness experts and gym instructors told us that anyone can stay fit if they spend 10 to 15 minutes exercising every day. The kind of exercise, for which we don't even have to leave the house. Mr Hourquebie's fitness sessions can be most beneficial to those who participate. All are encouraged to engage in these exercises!



We can stay fit and healthy without risking Covid-19 exposure.

INTER-CURRO CHESS ONLINE TOURNAMENT

We are extremely excited about the new Inter-Curro chess online tournament that will take place on Saturday, 22 August 2020. This is a wonderful event where learners from all Curro schools can get together online and play against each other in the spirit of great sportsmanship. If you would like to participate in this tournament, please follow the steps below.

Step 1:

Learners need to make sure that they are registered on the www.lichess.org website.

Step 2:

Join one of the teams on www.lichess.org depending on your age.

Primary schools: <https://lichess.org/team/curro-sport-chess-primary-schools>

High schools: <https://lichess.org/team/curro-sport-chess-high-schools>

Step 3:

Complete and submit the following forms document so that we can get to know you and accept you on the team.

Link to the form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MXrG0HTVGUOpLktqiwUehRJotwxdnXdKrhIRNxOX3udUNkExUzYyMzVMR1dCSTdFUjNDUVRVTzNSVC4u>

Step 4:

You are done! You will now be accepted on the team.

Step 5:

We will send all relevant info about the tournament to your Head of Sport as well as Chess Teacher. All info will also be available on the Curro Sport Facebook page and Instagram soon. All learners need to join the teams by 12 August 2020 please.

If you have any questions, please ask Mrs Lashanta Reddy (lashanta.r@curro.co.za). For technical assistance, please Whatsapp Kenneth Willenberg on 084 262 4113.

WEEKLY TRIVIA:

We will be asking 5 sports-themed questions each week. The answers will be revealed in next week's newsletter.

This week's theme is soccer:

1. Which Bafana Bafana captain also captained Leeds United?
2. How did Kaizer Chiefs get their name?
3. Who was the first player to be sent off in a FA Cup Final?
4. The Liverpool anthem song, "You'll Never Walk Alone", was originally composed for which Musical Show?
5. Which South African footballer holds the record for the most appearances for South Africa?

Good luck and no googling!

"Drop the Doritos!"

Paul Harbor (grade 8 learner)

Tick...Tock...Tick...Tock...

Yes, I suppose this is the sound we are all TOO familiar with by now. The sound of time ticking by while we were holed up in our houses! Thanks to the power of the internet and wireless connection, I did not lose it COMPLETELY, but that's more than I can say for the countless individuals who have heard the sound of silence.

With Lockdown having prevented our freedom of movement, many of us quite simply, turned into vegetables, (and if my NETFLIX 'watch again' list says anything, it says I am not innocent of that either!) But with the new term already starting and back-breaking call of assignments already having started, I sense it might be time to put down the bag of Doritos and pick up the schoolbag that's probably still hiding in the closet.

Term 3 is here, and as much as we want to stay in our comfort bubble, it is time we get back to the grind. (it is either that or parents pop the bubble for you. So, I would go with the former.)

COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS



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.

WE URGE ALL TEACHERS, PARENTS AND LEARNERS TO ADHERE TO THE SAFETY MEASURES – SOCIAL DISTANCING, THE WEARING OF MASKS AND SANITISING IS NON-NEGOTIABLE. LEARNERS MUST ALSO PLEASE BRING PERSONAL SANITISER / WIPES TO SCHOOL TO ADD ANOTHER MEASURE FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION.

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.



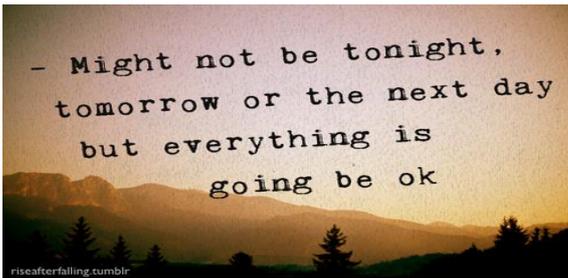
'From the desks of the Life Orientation Department ...'

Mrs Elisabeth Nicholson



From the Life Orientation Department

As Life Orientation teachers, we usually start off the year with the topic of goal setting. I am sure we can all agree that 2020 put a hold on a lot of goals we had set out for this year. A lot of changes had to be made and, at times, it feels as if we are just going with the flow.



We would like to encourage parents and learners that it is
OK!
OK to feel uncertain about the future.
Ok to feel unsure about yourself.
Ok to feel a sense of anxiety at times.

You will be OK; we all will be OK!

little
things to
remember

1. Practice gratefulness.
2. Adopt a positivity routine.
3. Slow down.
4. Invite humour and laughter.
5. Have faith.

I'm not talking about religious faith, although if you are a religious person and can draw from your belief systems, you most definitely should! I'm talking about having faith in humanity; in science; in technology; in our health care heroes; in collaboration; in the good in people; in our resilience; in our perseverance; in our ability to overcome even the most outrageous of obstacles to grow and evolve; in our future; in our constant and mutual commitment to improve ourselves and our communities; in our kindness; in our empathy; in our desire to provide a good life for ourselves and our loved ones; in never giving up until we find the right, permanent solution to bring this virus to heel. In life after Corona and everything we will have learned after all of this is done. Believe in yourself and your endless capacity to love. <https://thriveglobal.com/stories/10-things-you-can-do-to-stay-positive-during-covid-19/>

what is mindfulness?



mindfulness is our ability to pay attention to the present moment, with curiosity & without judgment

mindfulness can be cultivated through a formal practice, like meditation...

...and we can bring mindful attention to our daily activities

the benefits of mindfulness include:

- increased empathy and compassion 
- + improved immune functioning
- increased happiness and optimism 
- improved sleep 
- greater focus and concentration 
- reduced stress and anxiety 

mindfulness is a practice you can begin today!
BrilliantMindfulness.com

7 Things Mindful People Do Differently

1

Approach everyday things with curiosity —and savor them

Forgive their mistakes—big or small

2

3

Show gratitude for good moments—and grace for bad ones

Practice compassion and nurture connections

4

5

Make peace with imperfection—inside and out

Embrace vulnerability by trusting others—and themselves

6

7

Accept—and appreciate—that things come and go

List compiled by Elisha Goldstein, Ph.D., psychologist, author of *The Now Effect*

COMMUNICATION:

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

Receptionist	Cindy Duma	Cindy.D3@curro.co.za
Head of High School	Dion Kotze	Dion.K@curro.co.za
FET Phase Head	Sarah-Jane Olivier	Sarah-Jane.O01@curro.co.za
Snr Phase Head	Donne Valkenburg	Donne.V1@curro.co.za
Head of Sport	Adrian Ferreira	Adrian.F@curroholdings.co.za
Head of Culture	Saskia Snyders	Saskia.S@curro.co.za
Grade 12 Heads	Nicole Webb	Nicole.W2@curro.co.za
	Maria Chou	Maria.C@curro.co.za
Grade 11 Heads	Judy Beeston	Judy.B@curroholdings.co.za
	Anita Bornman	Anita.B@curro.co.za
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
	Loutjie de Wet	Loutjie.D@curro.co.za
Grade 8 Heads	Kyla Hayter	Kyla.H@curro.co.za
	Warrick Hammond	Warrick.H@curro.co.za

*Mrs Loutjie de Wet will be taking over from Mr van Zyl as Grade Head as from the end of the month.

SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP

Curro Aurora parents, please be advised that the Secondhand Uniform Shop has relocated to where the GRIT Lounge used to be at main reception.

The shop will continue to operate on an appointment basis during the following hours.

Monday 07h00 - 11h00
 Wednesday 11h00 - 15h00
 Friday 11h00 - 15h00

Please contact the shop coordinator, Andy Watkins 0837833653, to make an appointment or call Andy should you have any queries regarding the process.

THOUGHT TO PONDER:

*"Don't let what you
 can't do stop you
 from doing what you
 can do"*

- John Wooden

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

Yours in education,

Dion Kotze
 Head of High School