

Date: 4 September 2020

Issue no.: 26

Dear Parent / Learner

I wanted to start this week's newsletter with a "SPRING" theme and went to my old friend GOOGLE to assist. I was rather surprised to find that though we celebrate "Spring Day" on 1 September traditionally, spring in the Southern Hemisphere is from 22 September to 21 December! For years I have been rather upset that the first day of spring (1 September) was also the coldest for me always. Now I know why: I missed the boat, the plot, the memo and the last bit of winter!



All that said, September and the promise of Spring does bring about a change in mood.

As Ernest Hemingway once wrote, "When spring came, even the false spring, there were no problems except where to be happiest." Aside from being a master of words, Hemingway also has the benefit of being right about the season's effect: Spring fever is probably real. If you've noticed a little extra something in your step because of the weather, it's no coincidence. Warmer days have a direct influence on your mood and behaviour.

A 2004 University of Michigan study found that people who spent at least 30 minutes outside in pleasant weather — either by taking a trip to warmer climates in the winter months or by taking advantage of a newly warm spring day in the park — had happier moods. And in corroborating research, a 2014 UM study found that being outside could lead to a better mindset and reduced stress. While warmer weather doesn't make a *sizable* difference in outlook, research supports the idea that good weather has a positive psychological impact on the overall population.

Sunshine releases endorphins and the external change in the environment from dormant to living can initiate positive memories and hope for a new beginning internally. What better way to spend the warmer days in Spring than exercising outside in the sunshine? "Spring fever" seems to be an actual phenomenon, and many people indulge in it through a more active lifestyle. Exercise can lead to a boost in endorphins (the same feel-good chemical that may come from warmer weather).

Whether you spend the year waiting for the peach blossom buds or experience anxiety with the approaching seasonal change, plan to care for yourself and those you love by raising your awareness to the emotional impact of spring. Start by thinking about your own reactions to the seasons and then come up with things to do that increase your health.

The original University of Michigan researchers mentioned earlier also noted that positive attitudes seemed to wilt in particularly sweltering weather, so make sure you make use of the mood enhancing weather of Spring this year – we all need it now more than ever!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

All Curro schools will adhere to the term dates which Executive Heads announced recently:

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	5 Oct – 9 Dec	50	126
1 June – 26 June (BLENDED APPROACH)	19	(BLENDED APPROACH)				(166)

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 blue pride T-shirt. We ask that learners are dressed neatly (and warmly) for school please. Grade 11s wear uniform on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and civvies on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Grade 8 to 10 learners will only be on campus every other day, therefore learners are required to wear school uniform.

Please also note that **normal hair and nail regulations** still apply– let's look neat and tidy, ready for school.

FROM THE "IT / CAT" DESK / LAPTOP

Mr Gerard Appelman and Dr Gary Bieden



Welcome to the wonderful world of computers and smart devices, after all where would we be without them today? Nowhere, or simply put, up the creek without a paddle.

Information Technology (IT) and Computer Applications Technology (CAT) are two of the most important subjects that your children are doing or should be doing at school today. Besides the great fun we have programming the actors to do our bidding in the Grade 8 Alice classes or the Grade 9 Greenfoot classes, we also learn what goes on inside the computer and we know that when you are sitting at dinner and a query

comes up about computers, the first person you go to is your child who is doing IT and CAT, and, of course, they have the answers and the solutions for you.

What is it that we do in IT and CAT?

In Grade 8 Information Technology, we look at basic Java programming using a program called Alice 3 and in Grade 9 Information Technology, we move on to more advanced Java programming using a program called Greenfoot. We also work through Microsoft Office Applications such as Word, Excel and Access as well as web page design. This is so that a learner will get a flavour of what will be covered in the FET Curriculum for IT and CAT in Grades 10 - 12

What is Java?

Have you ever wanted to build a video game or make an animated movie? Are you interested in making your own smartphone application? Many of today's video games, movies, and smartphone applications are created using the Java Programming language.



What is Alice 3?

Alice 3 is an integrated development environment that helps you quickly and easily learn the basics of computer programming using characters that interact in a virtual 3D world. The best part about Alice 3 is that you learn to program without even realising it, and it's fun! Using Alice, you simply drag-and-drop objects from a gallery into a virtual world, and then link together programming statements that animate the objects in a fun and engaging way.





What is Greenfoot?

Greenfoot is a software tool designed to let beginners get experience with object-oriented programming. It supports development of graphical applications in the Java Programming Language. You create 'actors' which live in 'worlds' to build games, simulations, and other graphical programs. Greenfoot is visual and interactive.

What do our learners say?

Computers and their technology affect each one of us. So, the demand for people with considerable ICT knowledge is ever growing.

The main reason that I find CAT interesting is the knowledge that I gain in a large number and variety of software. I have already used many applications, and I am able to use this software extensively.

The software that I have been practising includes Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, MS Access and html. I understand that a lot of these applications are used in businesses today.



I also enjoy looking at how ICT is applied in businesses. This is also part of the IT course - it teaches you how businesses apply ICT and how it affects their company.

My enthusiasm for both computers and businesses has led me to want to pursue a degree that involves the theme's Business and Information Systems. I hope this degree will aid me in a conceivable career in the information technology sector.

I chose IT as a subject because computers are the future and I enjoy working with computers and creating basic programs. I chose IT because computers will lead the way of the future. They are the biggest news today and will be for years to come. Computers can be found almost anywhere around the world. They have become widespread and interface with almost every aspect of life. With this, a comprehensive demand for Computer specialists will exist. I will be able to assist in helping to meet the needs of the people developing software programs that can be used by various industries.

I enjoy working with computers and writing basic computer programs. Upon taking IT, I became very excited about learning the basic computer language of Java. I began writing small programs on my computer. My best program was a cash register program that calculated the amount owed and the necessary change that needed to be given back.

Career Path



Although IT has an equal weighting to all other subjects, the entrance requirements of various faculties at universities differ. Some individual faculties impose their own additional requirements, e.g. IT is required to study certain courses at certain Universities or learners are required to attend a bridging course and enter the mainstream thereafter.

The level of education, skills and training is usually high, partly because the universities build on what is taught at school. IT encompasses many degrees in faculties such as Computer Science, Information Systems, Engineering and Business Sciences.

CAT is complementary to all subjects in the FET band. CAT develops basic to advanced end-user computer skills in a variety of different fields, e.g. Computer Science, Education, Information Systems, Economics, Engineering, Technology, Tourism and Business Sciences.

This ensures that learners can enter different career paths in many fields or apply these and related skills to create employment for themselves and for others.



SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Curro Aurora offers safe school transportation to our families in the mornings and afternoons while adhering to strict Covid-19 protocols. The transport facility is offered to learners from Grade 3 - 12.

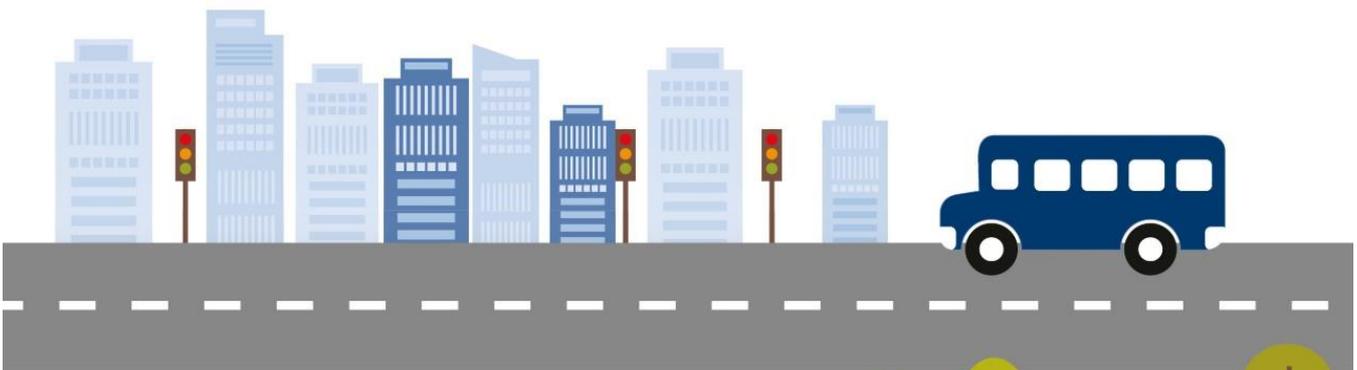
- * Sanitising upon entering the vehicle
- * Social distancing measures in place
- * Wearing of masks is compulsory

Enquire now with josie.m@curro.co.za.



Did you know?

Curro Aurora offers a **bus service** that covers various routes:



Randpark | Jackal Creek Golf Estate | Blandford
Radiokop | Olivedale | Strubens Valley | Bellairs
Fourways | Wilgeheuwel | Northriding | Honeydew
Sundowner

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LOADSHEDDING

Should you / the school be affected by load shedding, lessons will be made available via MS Teams for access by the learners when possible. We monitor attendance and logging into classes and downloading of material and recordings by using the INSIGHT app.

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

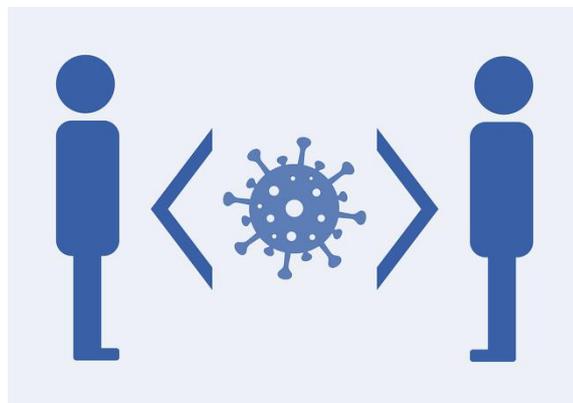
50%

•At 50% capacity our Grade 10 learners will be at school for face-to-face teaching and continue with online learning on alternate days. However, while our Matric group is isolated in the Galaxy Hall writing Prelim exams, the Grade 11 learners will be at school every day as from Monday 31 August to Wednesday, 23 September. Grade 11s are to wear their school uniforms on Mondays; Wednesdays and Fridays.

- 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

- 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 when Group B will have online classes on alternate days and vice versa.
- 50% of learners in a tutor class to be at school on any specific day. This limits the number of bodies on campus for each day.
- Grades 8 and 9 learners are moving classes 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 light 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.



CULTURE

Mrs Saskia Snyders

CURRO AURORA HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

The High School Choir, under the guidance of Mr Johan Bester and the management of Miss Kayla Hayter, have worked non-stop during the past 5 months.

With frequent, weekly rehearsals, video conferences and individual recordings, the choir is working hard to maintain their standard and to treat our school community with a vocal surprise to welcome the last quarter of this year.



To Mr Bester, Miss Hayter and each and every choir member – your perseverance will pay off and may you continue to inspire so many of us.

NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD ACADEMY (NEA)



For any learner who wanted to enter, but missed the deadline, please take note of the message from the NEA:

“Closing date for ONLINE entries has been EXTENDED until **6 September 2020**.”

The National Eisteddfod of South Africa is calling for entries! Closing date for LIVE & VIRTUAL entries has been EXTENDED to 6 September 2020 (standard fees still apply!). LIVE and VIRTUAL participation is currently planned for late September and/or October.”

Please make sure that you follow the entry instruction shared via MyHub on the 2nd of June 2020. If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Snyders at Saskia.s@curro.co.za.

SPORT

Mr Adrian Ferreira



Estelle Trovato is an Afrikaans educator and manages netball at the High School. I interviewed her and got her insight and thoughts on training and fitness, as well as her accomplishments.

What level have you played and represented at?

I played for Southern Transvaal, now Gauteng, and represented my province at National Netball Tournaments from Grade 6, right through High School, University and as a senior player. I was chosen for the SA Schools team in Grade 11 and 12, but unfortunately, we never played against any other countries. I was also given the opportunity to coach

numerous provincial school teams in various age groups, where I worked with exceptional players from schools all over Gauteng.

What level are you qualified to umpire?

The highest qualification I obtained as a youngster, was a Senior B+ grading while at university. Later on, I received an USSASA C+ grading. One gradually moved from a District grading, to a Provincial grading to an USSASA grading.

You played several sports. Tell us about some of your achievements.

Athletics was my other passion and I represented the province in hurdles and high jump. At school, I was the Victrix Ludorum from Grade 1 – Grade 12. I would have loved to pursue my Tennis and Dancing further, but there were just not enough hours in the day.

What are some of your highlights as a coach or manager at Curro Aurora?

Winning matches is always a highlight, but is not everything. Seeing how competent, passionate coaches develop our players' skills and confidence, always fills me with hope for all involved.

Why would you recommend netball as an extra-mural?

Netball is a sport that has multiple physical and mental benefits for players.

Physical benefits: improves hand-eye co-ordination, builds up muscle strength and stamina, develops the body's cardiovascular system, improves the body's flexibility and nimbleness, improves upper body strength by working key arm muscles, develops depth perception and increases reaction time.

Mental benefits: making and spending time with friends, teamwork skills, help players to deal with adversity through experiencing losing matches or injuries, problem-solving and decision-making skills and it pushes you to improve skills.

How does fitness contribute to a player's success?

Success in netball is highly dependent on physical fitness characteristics including strength, power, speed and agility. Netball has become fast-paced and skilled and for players to perform consistently, players need to display a high level of aerobic fitness. Unfit players can experience a lack of concentration and temporary loss of skills which is detrimental to the team and game.

2020 INTER-CURRO VIRTUAL GOLF CHALLENGE HOSTED BY CURRO AURORA

Curro Aurora is hosting the Inter-Curro Virtual Golf Challenge currently taking place until 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. Participants play three rounds on any course of their choice, and submit their points scores as individuals and/or as part of the team. There are 15 High School teams participating.

The first round of three is completed and the 'A' team of Kieron van Wyk, Kim Turgut, Kael Strydom and Stefano Marchetti are leading. The 'B' team of Brent Barendsen, Arnoux van der Merwe, Berk Turgut and Tae'yn Plaatjies are lying in 5th place. Kieron is joint leader in the individual standings. There are 2 rounds left to play.

The first of Cobra/Puma Central Gauteng Golf Union Series started at Ruimsig Country Club on Sunday, 30 August 2020. Stefano Marchetti is congratulated on finishing in tie-6 place with a score of 73.

FITNESS FRIDAY:

Mr Craig Hourquebie's weekly fitness sessions will be taking a new dimension. We look forward to see what he has planned for us!

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 netball and pertains to the 2019 INF Netball World Cup in England:

- Who won the final?
- In what position did South African finish?
- Who was the Player of the Tournament?
- The England netball coach has a brother, who coached the England women's football team at the FIFA Women's World Cup in the same year. Can you name the two coaches?
- Who appeared in her sixth World Cup, the most by any player in the history of the World Cup?

Good luck and no googling!

Previous weeks tennis answers:

1. Which four major tournaments make up the Grand Slam?
 - Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open
2. Is the modern era of tennis, which 2 players have each won the men's singles title 5 times consecutively at Wimbledon?
 - Björn Borg from Sweden (1976-80) and Roger Federer from Switzerland (2003-07)
3. Who is the only singles player to have won a Grand Slam and Olympic gold in the same year?
 - Steffi Graf (Germany) achieved this in 1988
4. Who is the last South African to win a singles Grand Slam tournament?
 - Johann Kriek won the Australian Open in 1981 & 82
5. Who were the brothers who won the men's doubles at the 2012 Olympics in London, and which sisters won the women's doubles in the same Olympics?
 - Twins Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan (USA), and Venus and Serena Williams (USA)

EQUESTRIAN

Mrs Janine Tobin

“Never get between a lady and her horse!” Never was this expression more valid than during the Covid outbreak.

Equestrian riders (Megan Ras - Grade 6 and Rae-kyndra Ragoobee - Grade 10) may not be competing in the SANESA arena, but that didn't stop them from taking advantage of the warmer spring weather by enjoying some practice sessions and participating in Graded Showjumping.



The grading took place at the MAMPRO Kyalami Park Club Graded Show on Sunday, 30 August 2020. Rae-kyndra, riding Capital Crusader, competed in the Adult/Junior 80cm events and achieved two 2nd places. Megan, riding Tyson G, competed in the PR 80cm events and finished in 11th and 14th place respectively.

They continue to train hard and maintain their skills, so that they are ready to compete again when the competitions resume. Keep up the hard work, ladies!



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.

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.

Please remember to inform the school of any comorbidities within your family – this must be done by contacting each child's respective Grade Head or Phase Head.

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
	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

WE ARE OPEN

CURRO AURORA

AFTERCARE

A home away from home

ENROL
NOW



From 2,5 years to Grade 7 | Open until 17:30
All safety measures in place during the
COVID-19 pandemic.

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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.

DEBIT ORDER DRIVE

“Parents/Guardians, Curro has embarked on a debit order drive making it convenient & hassle free. Should you wish to move to a debit order payment method, please refer to the flyer below for more information.”



The flyer features a dark blue background with a network of white lines and dots. At the top left is a green circle with a hand icon pointing to a signal icon. To its right, the text reads "Select the DEBIT-ORDER option". Below this, the text "There are so many benefits" is followed by five colorful circles, each containing an icon and text: "Hassle-free" (thumbs up), "Convenient" (checkmark), "Better budget-planning" (calculator), "Reduces bank fees" (hand holding a coin), and "Better school account management" (stack of coins).

Select the DEBIT-ORDER option

There are so many benefits

- Hassle-free
- Convenient
- Better budget-planning
- Reduces bank fees
- Better school account management

SWITCH TODAY. ASK US HOW!
Contact Angela Schoeman at angela.s1@curro.co.za.

#Learners2Leaders

www.curro.co.za

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087 087 0355

SPRING SERVICE INITIATIVE

Curro Aurora Whole School Initiative in Support of New Hope Animal Shelter.

Please donate any duplicate or unwanted Checkers Little Garden collectables that you may have. Drop-off from the 1- 23 September 2020 with Josie at Main Reception.

Your Support is Priceless!

Spring Service Initiative

Support for New Hope Animal Shelter

Drop-off dates: 1 to 23 September 2020 | **Drop-off point:** Josie at reception



We encourage the entire school to participate.

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ALTERNATE SCHOOL CONTACT NUMBERS

Parents/ Guardians, kindly note that if you are experiencing a problem reaching our school switchboard line, please use the alternate numbers below:



Admin Reception Josie	082 233 7500
Admin Finance/ Enrolments	067 356 2969
Castle Office Rowena	067 396 1583
Primary School Office Anneline	067 396 3713
High School Office Cindy	067 396 1572

THOUGHT TO PONDER:



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

Yours in education,

Dion Kotze
Head of High School