

Date:
Friday, 29 January 2021

Primary school **NEWSLETTER**

CURRO
Aurora

Issue no.:
3

MESSAGE FROM MR JC (Executive Head)



***“To reach a port we must set sail –
Sail, not tie at anchor
Sail, not drift.” Franklin D. Roosevelt***

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After a very good start to the 2021 academic year on 13 January we had to deal with various challenges relating to the Covid19 pandemic. The Level 3 restrictions placed on all schools with regard to face to face teaching and learning meant we had to revert to remote learning for the last 10 school days.

As a school we prioritize the safety of learners and staff and compliance with the recommendations and guidelines of the DBE and the NCCC is not negotiable and in the best interest of all.

We also believe that teaching and learning must continue to ensure that learners are given the opportunity to develop skills, grow as individuals and in doing so, reach their age appropriate milestones. Our continued commitment to fostering resilience, perseverance, grit, empathy, and the ability to communicate effectively in various learning environments will undoubtedly help our students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Curro Aurora was well prepared to move teaching and learning back to the MS Teams platform from 20 January 2021. We successfully used MS Teams as a teaching platform during 2020 and this enabled us to effectively continue with online/hybrid teaching.

I would like to thank the IT and teaching staff who dealt with, and supported learners and parents with the password expiry problem we experienced last week. Online security remains a priority and we believe all connectivity issues have now been dealt with. Please note that online (hybrid) teaching will still be available for learners who choose not to attend school from 1 February.

If you need any further device or IT support please contact the Curro Service Desk (servicedesk@curro.co.za) and Jandr  Weideman (jandre.w@curro.co.za - onsite IT technician) to get the support you need.

We look forward to the resumption of face-to-face teaching and learning from **1 February**. The enthusiasm of children collaborating, sharing and participating in class remind us that each child comes to school with filled with hope and anticipation for the year ahead. At Curro Aurora we value the contribution of every teacher and parent to make this a reality for every child placed in our care.

The new school year brings with it the excitement of new beginnings, new experiences and new opportunities to learn and grow. Along with the teachers and staff, we will work hard to continue the Curro Aurora legacy of academic excellence and #bluepride by building strong relationships with parents, students and our school community in general. We will continue to focus on character building initiatives, skills development, the use of data to drive instruction and the consistent and high-quality delivery of the curriculum in a rigorous manner so that we can continue to improve learner achievement.

As Executive Head, it is important to me that everyone who steps through our doors-teachers, students and parents - are motivated, solution driven, positive and excited to be here! This attitude enables us to meet the challenges of academic excellence in a positive, fun, and nurturing environment. My door is open and I welcome your feedback. Please feel free to call or email me to discuss any concerns you might have. I look forward to working with you to help each student at Curro Aurora meet their goals and have a successful school year (jc.e@curro.co.za / 087 087 0355).

We are excited to have our learners return to school and we look forward to all we will achieve by **not anchoring or drifting... but sailing** together in the year ahead!

JC Engelbrecht
Executive Head
Curro Aurora



6. Use color-coding.

Assign colors to each school subject. For example, green folders and notebooks may be for English and blue for math. Use brightly colored pocket folders for items that need to be signed and returned. Suggest that your child use colored pens to help shift from the role of writer to the role of self-checker and editor.

7. Create fun memory aids.

Show your child how to create their own silly sentences, songs, acronyms or cartoons to remember information. (One popular mnemonic, “Never Eat Soggy Waffles,” helps children remember north, east, south and west.) They can use these memory aids for anything from preparing for an exam to recalling their locker combination.

8. Create an organized workspace.

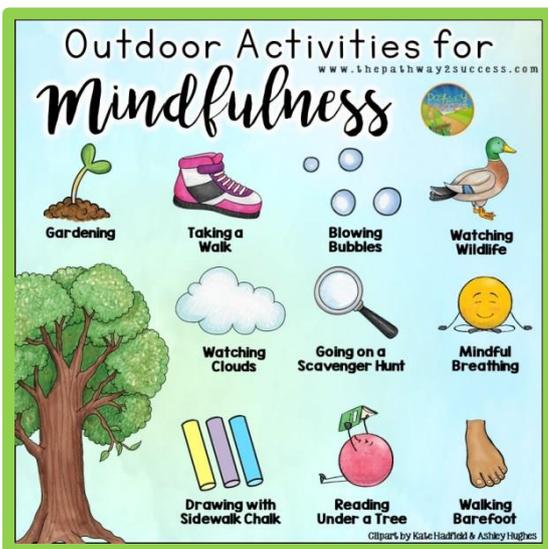
Set aside a space at home where your child can work without interruption. It might work best if this is somewhere near you for times when they need your assistance. Keep school supplies and technology such as calculators, tablets or laptops nearby.

9. Do regular schoolbag audits.

Your child’s schoolbag is a crucial link between home and school—so it’s important to keep it neat. Schedule a time each week for your child to clean out and organize their schoolbag.

10. Help your child think ahead.

Before bedtime, review plans for the next day with your child. This can make them feel more secure. Together you can plan how to handle things if a change comes up in the schedule.



MINDFULNESS

This year we incorporated **mindfulness** into our curriculum with the aim to equip our learners with the necessary skills to regulate their emotions. Whenever there is an opportunity, we engage our learners with some of the suggested **mindfulness** activities. This is certainly something you can enjoy doing with your child at home...



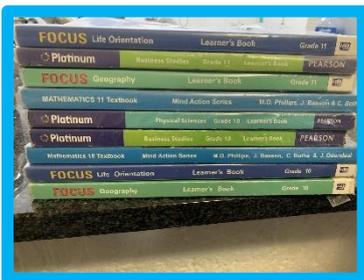
FRIENDSHIP DAY 2021

A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be!

When: Friday, 12 February 2021

What to wear: Red, pink and white

Purchase a gift of the value of no more than R50 for a classmate. Each class will have their own picnic to be enjoyed on the field. More information to follow soon. The SOP will always be applied .



TEXTBOOK COLLECTION

Learners who wish to donate their used/old textbooks to underprivileged learners, must please bring them to the Primary School Office. Donations will be handed over to the Rotary Club of Johannesburg.

PARENT WORKSHOP WEBINARS

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| <p>Grade 1 Reading Workshop</p> <p>(How you can assist your child at home with their reading and an oversight of Phonographix, the program we use at school to teach reading)</p> | <p>Date: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 Where: Live via MS Teams. A link to join will be forwarded. Audience: Grade 1 Parents and Guardians Time: 6pm to 7pm Presenter: Jenny Taylor from read for Africa</p> |
| <p>Grade 4 Math Workshop</p> <p>(Insight on how we teach Mathematics to Grade 4 learners and a toolkit to assist you assisting your child)</p> | <p>Date: Wednesday, 3 February 2021 Where: Live via MS Teams. A link to join will be forwarded. Audience: Grade 4 Parents and Guardians Time: 6pm to 7pm Presenter: The Grade 4 Mathematics' Department</p> |



RETURN TO SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

We look forward to welcoming back to school our Grade 1 to 7 learners on Monday, 1 February 2021. For now, online learning continues to be an option. Please read through the arrangements below and then complete the survey, see link below, indicating whether your child will return to school or continue with online learning.

1. All learners returning to school to **wear civvies till further notice**. This is to allow for the daily washing and disinfection of clothes.
2. All learners returning to school must hand in a completed declaration form to their tutor teacher. **This will be emailed out later today.**
3. **Please screen your child every morning**, referring to the infographic below, and avoid sending them to school should they show any of the symptoms. Remember to inform their tutor teacher should they be kept home.
4. Morning drop off time at school is between **7:00am and 7:40am**. Tutor lessons start promptly at 7:45am.
5. Learners **MUST wear their mask** on arrival at school. The mask must cover the nose and mouth. Learners are requested to keep a spare mask in their school bag.
6. In order to keep the high volume of traffic flowing as well as keeping all learners and staff safe, especially in the morning, **please avoid spending unnecessary time in getting your child out of the car**. The packing of school bags should be done at home.
7. Grade 1 parents are no longer permitted to walk their child to their classroom. There will be staff and prefects available should assistance be required.
8. Learners to have their **comm books readily available in their hand** when arriving at school. The comm book is necessary for the recording of temperature.
9. The changing for PE and sport at school is still not permitted. Learners must wear their full PE kit to school on PE and sport days.
10. Learners are encouraged to carry their own sanitizer on them.
11. **Staggered collection time** at the end of the day for Grade 1 and 2 learners is at 1:15pm, Grade 3 learners at 1:30pm and Grade 4 to 7 learners at 1:45pm.
12. **As a school we are required to keep a record of our learner and staff cohort, as well as individuals self-isolating due to exposure. This is a mandatory procedure. Please inform Mrs le Roux (nelline.g@curro.co.za), Mrs Moodley (arlene.m@curro.co.za) or me (christiaan.m@curro.co.za) in the case of your child testing positive for Covid-19 or if your child has been in direct contact with anyone that has also tested positive.**

Return to school survey link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MXrG0HTVGUOpLktqiwUehcwuVVDRvG BJsh3uuZYB0x1UQU1LNVVOMFNXQzVONVYwMDhCUjNZnkVYNC4u>



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

What you need to know

By staying informed and taking the necessary precautions, you can keep yourself and others safe.

Please check your child for any of these symptoms before school:



High fever
(over 37,5 °C)



Headache



Cough and
sore throat



Shortness of
breath



Muscle pain



Diarrhoea



Loss of taste or smell

Please do not send your child to school if they are displaying any of these symptoms.

Top tips

1. Wear your mask so that it covers your nose and mouth at all times (buffs are not effective and are not a replacement for masks)
2. Perform good hand hygiene
 - Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or make use of alcohol-based (70%+) hand sanitisers
3. When greeting each other:
 - No handshaking, hugging or kissing – rather just wave
4. When coughing or sneezing:
 - Cover with a flexed arm or tissue and wash your hands
5. Avoid crowds and maintain good social distancing – at least 1,5 m
6. Ensure that there is enough fresh air as well as good ventilation in all venues
7. Drink plenty of water and eat nutritious food

Protect yourself and others – be responsible.



GRADE 4 TO 7 CYCLE TEST ARRANGEMENTS FOR TERM 1

Please see the arrangements below for the Grade 4 to 7 Cycle test period:

- Grade 4 to 6 Cycle tests will be written from 8 March 2021 to 12 March 2021 and Grade 7 from 8 March 2021 to 15 March 2021.
- Grade 5 and 7 will write in session 1, 8:00am-9:00am.
- Grade 4 and 6 will write in session 2, 10:00am-11:00am.
- Learners who arrive earlier for their tests and who are remaining in school to study for the next day's test will be supervised in the Cosmic Hall.
- Demarcations for every subject, indicating areas to be studied, will be emailed on Monday, 8 February 2021.
- Study packs for Cycle tests will not be provided.
- Grade 4 to 6 learners will follow their normal timetable from Monday, 15 March 2021.
- Grade 7 learners will follow their normal timetable from Monday, 15 March 2021 after their EMS Cycle test.
- Online learners and learners with concessions will follow the same times as their allocated Grades. More information will be emailed to respective families.
- A MS Forms link will be emailed on Monday, 8 February 2021, to confirm whether you child will be writing their Cycle tests online at home or at school.

Arrival:

- Grade 5 and 7 learners must be settled in their classrooms at 7:45am.
- Grade 4 and 6 learners must be settled in their classrooms at 9:45am.
- The Cycle test session begins promptly at 8:00am and 10:00am respectively.

Collection:

- Learners can be picked up from both Puttick and Taurus gates.
- Should there be drivers from transport companies, they must sign at the screening table to indicate that your child has been picked up.
- If learners are walking home, an email/letter stating this request must be sent to their tutor teacher. We prefer learners to be collected from school for safety purposes.
- Learners not collected after their Cycle test session will be supervised in the Cosmic Hall.

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|---------------------|--|
| Monday, 8 March | English Cycle Test |
| Tuesday, 9 March | Afrikaans and isiZulu Cycle Test |
| Wednesday, 10 March | Social Sciences Cycle Test |
| Thursday 11 March | Mathematics Cycle Test |
| Friday, 12 March | Natural Sciences Cycle Test |
| Monday, 15 March | Economic and Management Cycle Test (Grade 7 only) |

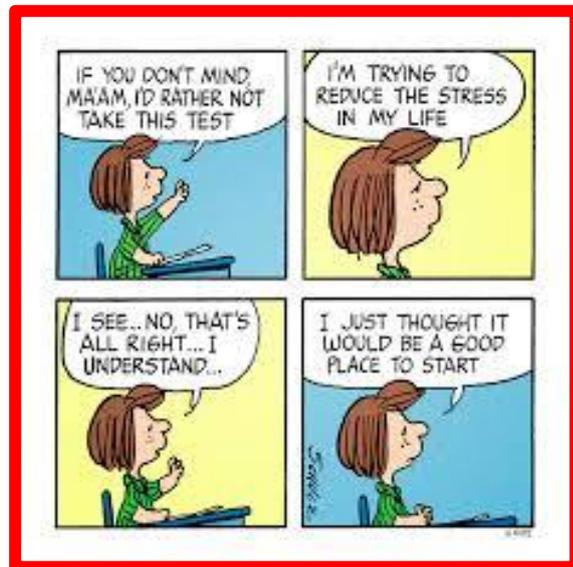
Cycle Test Rules:

Please go through the following rules with your child at home to **avoid unnecessary stress**.

- Learners should arrive to school timeously during the Cycle test week.
- School bags are not necessary. A smaller bag with stationery is sufficient.
- No borrowing of stationery will be permitted during the Cycle test session.
- Learners should ensure that they visit the bathroom before the Cycle test session to avoid distractions.
- No talking will be permitted. Learners must put their hand up if they have a question.
- The following procedure will be followed should a learner be caught speaking or looking at another learner's paper:
 1. A line will be ruled at the end of the last section of work completed by the learner.
 2. The invigilator will indicate what happened and sign the test paper.
 3. The paper will be handed to the subject teacher for further investigation along with the HOD regarding the learner's result.

STATIONERY:

- A clear bag for stationery
- Two working blue pens
- Two HB pencils
- A 30cm ruler
- An eraser
- A sharpener
- Highlighters
- Colour pencils



GRADE 4 TO 7 ACCESS TO E-BOOKS

Learners experiencing any difficulty with accessing e-books that were purchased and not showing on their miEbooks library, kindly email classroom@optimi.co.za for immediate assistance.

1. Go back to the store where you purchased the books.
2. Proceed to the purchase history.
3. It will tell you the list of books purchased.
4. Download the PDF or take a print screen shot of the purchases.
5. Include proof of payment.
6. Email this information to classroom@optimi.co.za stating the problem.

CAS 2021- Curro Arts Superhero – your time to shine! (Mr Gabin, Culture Department)



We realise how important it is in these strange and challenging times, to engage with our world in a meaningful and creative way. During the 2020 CAS project, which happened virtually, we were astounded at the number and quality of entries that we received.

The submissions categories will not be affected in any way and will proceed as per the **rules and dates in the booklet uploaded on every tutor class's MS TEAMS page.** These categories are Post it! (social media), Write it!, Shoot it! (photography), Code it! (game design, virtual character design and worldbuilding) and Film it! (short films and music videos). Please note that in the Shoot it! category, CAS will only accept high-resolution digital photographs – no printed photographs will be adjudicated.

All submission categories will once again be adjudicated virtually. For the performance categories, (Play it!, Sing it!, Move it!, Act it!, Read it! and Make it!), learners, teachers and parents will be able to choose their mode of adjudication. Here are the ground rules for entering in these performance categories for 2021:

1. CAS will only accept individual entries. There will be no group entries in any of the performance categories. The exception to this will be for duos or a trios, where social distancing and other COVID-19 protocols will be adhered to.
2. CAS will stick to the original dates as scheduled for your school or region. What this means is that no work will be accepted and adjudicated after the final date for your region. As a reminder, here are the adjudication dates per region/school: Johannesburg: 12 to 17 May 2021

Please note that your final recorded videos need to be uploaded before the final dates specified above. No work will be accepted after these dates.

3. Learners teachers and parents will have a choice about how they wish to be adjudicated. There are three options:
 - a) **Virtual live adjudication:** Your head of culture will schedule a live MS Teams streaming session with an adjudicator over the days allocated to your school/region. You will perform and receive live mentorship/feedback in this 10-minute session. You will be given a definite date and time and missing this slot will result in your work not being adjudicated on this platform.
 - b) **Recorded adjudication:** You will upload a full video recording of your individual performance to MS Teams or via WeTransfer. (Recommended)
 - c) **Live adjudication:** Schools that historically excel in an area, like dance, fine art or acting, and that have enough entries in those categories, may ask us to bring the mentor adjudicator(s) to the school for live adjudication. This is fully dependent on the COVID-19 status of the country at that time, and Curro Create reserves the right to a final decision concerning the

travelling of any of our mentor-adjudicators. Again, this will only happen within the regional dates as set out above and may only be requested by the school's head of culture, or by the executive head, and not by individual learners. A school may choose to use a mixture of the above processes, depending on the demands of each genre/discipline. There will be space on the entry form to indicate one of the options above as the preferred way of adjudication.

4. On your feedback form, the mentor-adjudicator will indicate the type of adjudication that your certification is based on, i.e. live, recorded or live-streamed.
5. In the Play it!, Sing it!, Move it! and Act it! categories, we will only accept solos, duos and trios.
6. In the Read it! category we will only accept prepared reading (English, Afrikaans or any other official language), so you cannot enter for unprepared reading or spelling in 2021.
7. In the Make it! category, our mentor-adjudicator will let you know the types and formats of the photographs and info she will require from you for virtual adjudication. Many aspects of your school year will again go down new and interesting roads in 2021, so grab these CAS opportunities and let your creativity show us your unique resilience, and your experience of the world in which we find ourselves.

Please note: Due to the unpredictability of the pandemic, Curro Create may change any of the rules set out above as dictated by the demands of the shifting times. We can't wait to see your work!



CHAIRMAN'S AWARD PROGRAM 2021

What is the Chairman's Award about?

- It is an exciting personal challenge for learners at Curro Aurora in grades 4 to 7.
- It is a balanced, non-competitive program of voluntary, leisure and school time activities which encourages:
 - ✓ Personal discovery and growth
 - ✓ Perseverance
 - ✓ Service to the community
 - ✓ Responsibility
 - ✓ Self-confidence
 - ✓ Independence and self-motivation



What does the Chairman's Award consist of?

- It consists of a program of fun and challenging activities.
- The activities are open to all learners, regardless of gender, culture, religion, or mental or physical ability.
- Participants volunteer to complete a minimum of any FOUR of the listed activities during the year.
- The listed activities provide a balanced program which develops a range of existing talents and abilities. They also encourage learners to acquire new skills and experiences.

How can learners join the Program?

- Grade 4 to 7 learners can join the Chairman's Award Program by completing the application form that was emailed out, and handing it to Mrs. Henning, ("Award Leader"). Please see Term Planners for important dates.
- The "Award Leader" will be available if help is needed to complete their portfolios.
- For each activity, learners will need an adult (parent, coach or teacher), who will share their knowledge, supervise and guide them.
- Towards the end of the year, the learners progress is assessed by the Chairman's Award Committee.
- Assessment is based on each individual's improvement, commitment and effort in the activity, rather than on a set of external standards.
- Once all 4 activities have been successfully completed, learners are deemed to have achieved an Award.
- Please make sure that all information needed for assessment is included in the portfolio. No portfolios will be accepted if not completed.
- Please note that this is a learning opportunity for your child and that he/she must be committed to these activities.
- If portfolios are handed in and complete, your child will receive an invite to our Awards Ceremony in Term 4 where he/she will be congratulated on their achievements.
- Due date for Portfolios to be completed and handed in will be communicated throughout the year.



How to Get Children Comfortable Wearing Masks in the Classroom

Involve kids in choosing their mask.

Children's masks come in a variety of designs and patterns. Finding a "fun" fabric with their favorite cartoon character or cute pattern can help children be excited to wear the mask.



Integrate masks into play.

Have a few masks on hand for children to use while playing, or consider making masks for their dolls or stuffed animals. Do a masks fashion show! There are many creative ways to make masks fun. Doing this can help bring face masks into your child's everyday world and make them less scary.

Practice mask wearing at home.

Start with five-minute increments, working up to 30 minutes. Have your child wear their mask while at home and going about their day. Include some fun activities to make the time they are wearing the mask fun. Don't forget to reward them for a job well done!



Be a mask role model.

Wear your own mask during the time your child is wearing theirs. Stay positive about wearing your mask and make sure to always wear it while out in public.

Have you downloaded the MyHUB mobile app?



The mobile app allows you to:

- Receive notifications when an email or SMS is sent to your mobile number or email address
- View all communication related to your child/ren based on the profile you provide
- View up-to-date statements
- Make school fees and event payments online quickly and easily
- View calendar events scheduled for your child/ren

Available on the Google Play Store and iStore.

#Learners2Leaders

www.curro.co.za

CURRO



Mr. Christiaan Maree
Head of Primary School