



FROM MR MAREE’S DESK...

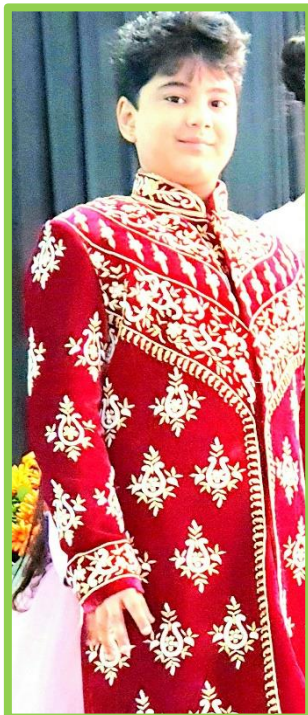
The lock-down has certainly shown during this time of uncertainty and fear for so my children, families and teachers, that we are truly blessed to be part of a community where there is care, love, respect and understanding. Your support and commitment to Curro Aurora is greatly appreciated. Thank you! As educators we are blessed to teach, develop and engage with the most delightful, well-mannered and awesome children. Our online interaction with learners has only been but very positive.

Our plans are in place and ready for school to re-open, welcoming back our Grade 7 learners as part of a staggered approach. We will communicate our plans once we receive confirmation from the Department of Education.



MUHAMMAD ZIA (Curro Aurora Grade 6 Poet)

We are incredibly proud of Muhammad Zia in Grade 6 who wrote to our President, Mr. Ramaphosa, requesting for him to read a poem he composed himself. The poem is called “The Unknown”. Muhammad received confirmation of receipt from Mr. Ramaphosa office. The poem is also published in the IOL and the link is shared on our school’s Facebook page. Congratulations and well done to Muhammad!



THE UNKNOWN

The streets are empty, there are no sounds to be heard,
The World is scared, the Pandemic has occurred.
All we hear, read and speak is COVID,
Oh gosh! This makes me so livid.

Remember to sanitize and wear the proper gear,
Do that, there is Hope to eliminate fear.
Stay safe, Stay home in these scary times,
Make sure to pray for the people with no pennies or dimes.
Care about those in need,
Don't be consumed by greed.

Let our Nation stand together and remain strong,
For only then, will we prosper and live long.
Thank you, to all the selfless hearts who help our people night and day,
You are remarkable, I must say!
Come on World, we can do this together,
United our Nations shall stand forever!

Let us not forget the positives of this Quarantine,
It is healing the World, making it clean and green.
It has taken people from their busy lives,
To STOP and realize, that only with GOD and Prayers can we strive.

COVID, I pray that you go away and
never come back on any day.

Muhammad Zia ©2020



ONLINE LEARNING @ CURRO AURORA

Online learning may be a new experience for most of us but it is here to stay! Coming from a more traditional learning milieu, we must embrace, learn, adapt and make the most of the resources we may encounter in our online teaching and learning journey!

I do believe we need to acknowledge the benefits of an online or blended approach to teaching and learning. Thank you for the great feedback received since we started our online learning program – your support is greatly appreciated!

This said, one of the challenges that all schools face during the current national lockdown is how to replicate the face-to-face interaction and in-person discussions that we are accustomed to and easily provide on campus.



The solution? The online classes we are currently offering use a combination of discussion forums and interactive question-and-answer sessions to give learners the interaction with other learners and teachers. Documents of academic work to be completed are therefore posted on MyHub, via e-mail or WhatsApp groups (where applicable). Teachers are available online to assist should learners have questions or need support. The learners can contact teachers according to the online timetables to assist in managing time.

This approach is followed to limit high data use as far as possible – unfortunately not all our learners have unlimited access to devices, data or are able to follow the same time structure.

Face-to-face discussions between friends and colleagues is something that we all do every day. However, an online academic discussion requires a different set of skills and might not come as naturally when an online learning journey is embarked upon. As an online teacher, you focus on the experiences that would best generate learning from the learner's point of view, rather than just publishing and assessing the information you think they need to know. Each participant in a course can and should be a teacher as well as a learner.

It is therefore imperative that we provide a blended approach with both synchronous and asynchronous classes offered. Teachers interact with learners via MS Teams, ITSI, WhatsApp and e-mail, with the main focus on MS Teams, where teachers have created online classes for all subjects. Online learning is catalysing a pedagogical shift in how we teach and learn. There is a shift away from top-down lecturing and passive learners to a more interactive, collaborative approach in which learners and teachers co-create the learning process. This does call for improved self-discipline from learners as teachers are not able to monitor progress and behaviour to the same degree as in a traditional classroom.



Based on feedback and responses received, we believe our current approach works well for the majority of our learners and parents. Where possible, we continuously amend, improve and do our utmost best to individualise to ensure all learners are on-board. Curro Aurora embraces the use of technology, and therefore we feel confident in the use of technology to bridge the gap in schooling during this lockdown period.



We again invite parents and/or learners to contact subject teachers, Grade Heads or members of the Senior Management Team with any queries or guidance – please share your experience.

PRIMARY SCHOOL:

- Subject teacher (Cell phone / Email / WhatsApp / Teams etc.- subject related questions)
- Phase Head (Grade 1 – 3) - Nelline le Roux (nelline.g@curro.co.za)
- Phase Head (Grade 4 – 7) – Trusha Moodley (arlene.m@curro.co.za)
- School Head – Christiaan Maree (christiaan.m@curro.co.za)

If you are feeling overwhelmed or unsure of what to do, please ask for assistance. You are never alone, and everyone is here to help you make the most of your time at Curro Aurora and become your own success story.

Online learning emphasizes an interactive learning environment, designed to stimulate dialogue between teacher and learners and it is therefore important to realise that teachers will often act as facilitators, organizing activities that engage learners directly rather than relying too heavily on lectures. Although communication is sometimes asynchronous, real-time chat is always available.

And so, we await further announcements regarding education and the planned way forward, not with despair, but with the knowledge that we can and will overcome this obstacle and commit to continue providing quality learning to our Curro Aurora learners.

TIPS FOR USING MS TEAMS.....



1. Make sure you that child know which subjects are scheduled for the day as per their **TIMETABLE**.
2. **EXERCISE** has been moved to the start of the day. Live lessons start at 8:45am for Grade 4 to 7 learners and 9:00am for Grade 1 to 3 learners.
3. **LIVE LESSONS** are at the start of each lesson and will be recorded.
4. Remind your child to **MUTE THEIR MICROPHONE** and to **SWITH OFF THEIR MICROPHONE** at the start of a live lesson.



5. Support teachers by ensuring your child **DOES NOT** join live lessons too early. Please use the scheduled meetings and their timetable to guide their time management.
6. It is advisably for learners to **IMMEDIATELY** start with their activities once the live teaching has finished. This will help them to complete their work in time and avoid getting into unnecessary online chats.
7. **ONLINE BULLYING** will not be tolerated. Unkind messages, videos and images are not allowed. Purposefully excluding or deleting others from lessons is seen as a serious offence. Humiliation of teachers and learners online is unacceptable. Please monitor your child's interaction whilst being online. Encourage your child to directly report to yourself or to their tutor teacher, they have any unpleasant online experience.

ONLINE CONSPIRITO

We had several learners who participated in the online Conspirito adjudication for Afrikaans Public Speaking. Our learners performed exceptionally well, and we congratulate them on their brilliant achievement! Here are their results;

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Amy Crouss | A++ |
| Ewan Liechti | A++ |
| Karla Lotz | A+++ |
| Isabella Plange | A++ |

Yours in education

Mr. Christiaan Maree
Head of Primary School

