

Date: 12 February 2021

Issue no.: 5

### Dear Parents, Guardians & Learners

As many of us were gearing up and helping our kids choose Valentine's Day cards or gifts for a classroom exchange last year, we had probably just started hearing about COVID-19. Almost a year later, we have realised that we are far more resourceful and resilient than we ever imagined.

In 2020, friends and family learned how to celebrate birthdays during the coronavirus, conduct drive-by baby showers, and even attend socially distanced weddings and funerals whilst still adhering to the COVID19 regulations and guidelines on gatherings.

♥ **HAPPY**  
*Valentine's*  
**DAY** ♥

**And now, for Valentine's Day 2021 (or Friendship Day as we like to call it...), we find ourselves wondering how kids can celebrate the day while ensuring social distancing and avoiding contact or while online with virtual classmates. As the second wave is raging through our country, it is more important now than ever before to explain to kids that they cannot hang out together in person and that being apart does not mean you cannot have fun together.**

It is important to emphasise the **friendship** aspect of Valentine's Day over love and talk to them about being kind and generous toward their friends, family, and the wider community. The **Curro Love Cause** (see the posters at the end of this newsletter) is one such avenue.

Believe it or not, there are many ways to say 'I love you' on Valentine's Day without associating the day with sweets.

- Make heart-shaped sandwiches. Put that heart-shaped cookie cutter to use, but instead of cutting cookies, cut out a heart-shaped sandwich for your child's lunch box.
- Write a poem to your child. Be sure to sign and date it, and this will be a perfect keepsake.
- Sing a love song. Pick out a song about love and sing it with your child in the car.
- Make a heart frame. Insert a picture of you and your child.
- Take a special walk together. Call it your "love walk" and take the opportunity to talk about the things you love, like nature or each other.
- Go red for the day. Wearing red not only tells the world you are honouring the day of love with your wardrobe selection, but the bright colour will boost your spirits and confidence.

**However you wish to celebrate the day, we wish you a happy and HEALTHY Valentine's Day!**

# Recycling Plant

**Dear Parents/Guardians**

We would like to extend the use of our recycling plant to our Curro Aurora families.



Kindly only use the Puttick Road entrance to the recycling plant.

We only accept paper, plastic, glass and cans!

#Learners2Leaders

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

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**ENROL  
NOW**

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# OPEN DAY

From 2,5 years to Grade 12

**Date:** 27 February 2021

**Time:** 08:00 – 14:00

**Venue:** Curro Aurora (Taurus Road entrance)

Limited visitors allowed on campus.  
**Bookings essential:** [mags.t@curro.co.za](mailto:mags.t@curro.co.za)

**High school scholarship applications for 2022 now open.**

**Closing date:** 27 February 2021

**#Learners2Leaders**

## ACADEMIC ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**50%**

(subject to change)

### Grade 10,11 and 12 (FET Phase):

To limit numbers on campus and ensure that more bigger venues are available for teaching, we will continue with reduced capacity measures in **Grades 10 and 11**:

- **Grade 11** learners are to be at school for face-to-face teaching on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9 and continue with online hybrid learning on days 2; 4; 6; 8 and 10 and rotate with Grade 10 learners. This will limit the number of bodies on campus for each day.
- **Grade 10** learners are to be at school for face-to-face teaching on days 2; 4; 6; 8 and 10 and continue with online hybrid learning on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9. This will limit the number of bodies on campus for each day.
- After each two-week cycle, the attendance days will swap. Please refer to the Assessment Planner for a quick reference to online and in-person days.
- 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.

**ONLINE and On-CAMPUS LEARNERS NEED TO BE IN TUTOR CLASS BY 07:45 PLEASE – LEARNERS WHO ARE LATE FOR TUTOR CLASS WILL BE MARKED AS ABSENT AND WILL BE RECORDED AS SUCH ON END-OF-TERM REPORTS.**

**50%**

### Grade 8 and 9 (Senior Phase):

- 50% of Senior Phase learners in a tutor class will therefore be at school on any specific day. This limits the number of bodies and allow for the increased social distancing required on campus for each day.
- 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**.  
Schedule from Monday 8 February:
  - 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.
  - 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.
- After a two-week cycle, the groups will swop – Grade Heads will keep learners informed and cycle rotation schedules have been posted on Teams grade groups – for learners to reference.

## SCHOOL CAMPUS PROCEDURES:

- The wearing of cloth masks is compulsory. The wearing of screens will only be permitted if worn with a mask.
- The sanitising of hands remains a priority. Sanitiser is provided by the school, but we also encourage learners to carry their own.
- Social distancing must always be adhered to. Staff will be on duty to enforce this rule. In classes where laboratory desks are in use, dividers will be used to ensure social distancing. At this stage, spectators will not be permitted to observe extra-murals.
- Movement on the campus will be minimised as far as possible.
- We kindly ask that learners attend school wearing PE kit on sport and PE days as per teacher instructions.



All COVID19 safety protocols that have been instituted will still be in effect. **We need parents' support to emphasise the importance of adhering to safety regulations.** Though teachers do follow the sanitising protocol between lessons, and the cleaning staff sanitise classrooms 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-emphasised.

Learners are also encouraged to bring their own sanitising wipes or spray to use as they move about.

Learners with comorbidities in the family who are not at school will continue to receive the same teaching via MS Teams. Please notify your Grade Head of any comorbidities within the family, necessitating online learning. **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.
- Should you / the school be affected by load shedding, lesson recordings or learning material will be made available via MS Teams for access by the learners when possible.

Please note that teachers are available for assistance on various platforms, including Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, e-mail, ITSI and MyHub. We are using this multi-platform approach as we realise that our parents and learners have different access capabilities, restricted by the availability of devices or data. **Please note that Microsoft Teams is our preferred platform for communication with learners.**

**We invite parents and/or learners to contact subject teachers, Grade Heads or members of the Senior Management Team with any queries or guidance – you are more than welcome.**

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.

### **GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS**

1.	Learners must take responsibility for their academics by attending all online lessons, completed tasks and assessments by due dates given, and communicating timeously with their teachers should they experience any difficulties. Remaining up-to-date with work is essential.
2.	Online learners need to be ready to start classes at their regular school time each day for the whole day – classes will follow the current timetable. Tutor lessons will be used to communicate grade-specific information.
3.	Learners who do not have access or who have limited access to internet/laptops must please inform their respective Grade Heads.
4.	Specific arrangements in terms of extra-mural activities to be communicated.
5.	Attendance at all classes is mandatory.
6.	Laptops and cell phones are to be fully charged each morning, ready for the day's classes. If learners experience difficulty during the day, admin and IT staff can be contacted for assistance or contact: servicedesk@curro.co.za or 087 285 1699.
7.	Learners who are struggling must contact their teachers or Grade Heads via Teams.
8.	Learners must ensure that all learning material is available to ensure continuity of learning.

## CULTURE

### Curro CAS 2021



Calling all creatives! Grab this opportunity.

It is the last few days for you to enter for Curro CAS. If you have not joined the Curro CAS team yet, please do so by using the following code:

**8z38uuy**

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Snyders at [Saskia.s@curro.co.za](mailto:Saskia.s@curro.co.za).

### Curro Create – Professional Opportunities for our learners

Curro Create is a wonderful platform which only uses expert industry professionals and mentorship to create tangible opportunities for our learners. It is through this professional network that our learners can grow, develop, acquire valuable skills and gain experience.

One of the expert mentors is Nicola Hanekom who is a multi- award-winning actress, writer and director. She studied drama at the University of Cape Town and began her career as Soekie in Reza de Wet's 'Diepe Grond'. Since then Nicola has performed in many memorable roles on stage,



television and film including as Ingrid Jonker in 'Altyd Jonker', Jana in 'Hard Copy' season 4, as Beatrice in 'Faan se Trein' and Johanna, in 'Dis ek, Anna'. As a theatre writer and director, Nicola, has garnered over thirty awards including 11 Fiesta Awards, 20 Kanna Awards, 2 ATKV Woordveertjies, a Fleur du Cap award, an Amsterdam Fringe award and most notably the Eugene Marais prize for her collection of plays 'Die pad byster'. She has written and directed three short films, 'Play Dead', 'Trippie' and 'Unspoken' and wrote

the thirteen-part Kyknet television series 'Dwaalster'. Her first feature film 'Cut-Out Girls' was nominated for a SAFTA award in 2019. Over the last 10 years, Nicola has been working as an Acting Coach with Act Cape-Town Film Acting Academy.

Nicola was a mentor-adjudicator for **Curro Create's #Straight2Camera Monologue Festival** of 2020. It was there that she noticed Liam Bosman, Curro Aurora Grade 11 learner in 2020. Liam Bosman was placed 2nd in the National competition. Liam's performance in the Monologue Festival lingered in Nicola's mind and she wanted to audition him for a role in a movie she was writing at the time.

Liam attended the audition and was cast in Nicola's new teen thriller, 'Nagvrees'.



Nicola had the following to say about Liam: 'I had the great privilege to be a mentor-adjudicator for **Curro Create's #Straight2Camera Monologue Festival**. It was a pleasure to witness the talent of the young actors and it was during this competition that I spotted Liam Bosman.

His acting during the festival stayed with me and the idea started to brew to audition him for a film I was busy planning. A few months later and Liam just finished the filming for the

role, Basjan, in my teen thriller, "Nagvrees"! It was wonderful to work with him on set. He was professional and wonderful to work with.'

Curro Aurora wishes Liam all the best on his new journey in pursuing film and the arts as his vocation.

Break a leg!

### **Rebecca Arthur**



Rebecca has always loved music and singing. She started vocal training at a very young age, but it was only when she came to Curro Aurora and was introduced to the Swallow 15 music school, that her confidence built up enough to compete on stage.

Over the years, she has been invited to perform at local and charity events, as well as competed in competitions, including local talent shows and bigger events such as Talent Africa and the SA Championships of Performing Arts (SACOPA). At SACOPA in 2019, she won various medals including bronze, silver and two golds in self-accompanied, vocal and duet performances. At this competition, she also qualified to represent South Africa in Los Angeles in 2020 (Which for obvious reasons, did not materialise).

Rebecca is passionate about all genres of music and also plays the piano, guitar and ukulele. She has written and composed her own songs, which are available on various music platforms. In the last year, she has written, as well as self-produced three more songs.

Rebecca has competed in Kids with Talent SA each year, since it was first established in 2016. In this competition, musicians of all musical categories (piano, guitar, vocal, self-accompanied, drums, as well as open) all compete across these categories for the title of grand champion. When she first competed in 2016, at the age of 11, she won the vocals category in her age group. She decided then already, that she would one day win the overall title at KWTSA. Even after not placing at all one year, she kept returning, kept working hard and putting in many hours of

practicing and commitment and in December last year, she beat 16, 17 and 18 year olds, taking away the title of Senior Grand Champion 2020.

She is a determined and headstrong young lady who doesn't give up easily, has set her sights high and aims to be heard along the way.

## **SPORT - Good news!**

*Mr Adrian Ferreira*

### **Extra-mural sports programme:**



We will be resuming some sports code activities from Monday, 15 February. Based on the current guidelines some sports are allowed skills-based training with no sharing of equipment. Other sports can only do fitness and conditioning. This is a great opportunity for learners to participate and we look forward to these sessions! No matches are allowed at this stage. Mr Hourquebie and Ms Webb's fitness and conditioning sessions will continue and learners who participate in Athletics should attend.

### **Please note the following arrangements and protocols to be adhered to:**

- Learners must attend sport sessions in the Curro PE kit. They are allowed to change after school.
- Learners who not at school on the day of a session, due to platooning, are allowed to attend practice.
- Learners must submit the Covid-19 declaration form to the relevant sport teacher before they can participate. This form has been sent via MyHub.
- Learners to meet at the allocated bag area 10 minutes before the scheduled start.
- Learners must be collected immediately after their activity is finished.
- School bags must be taken with learners to the allocated area and placed within the allocated bag zone.
- Bags must be placed 1,5 metres apart.
- No child will be allowed back into class to collect their belongings as classrooms get fogged in the afternoons.
- Each teacher will have the following: Sanitiser bottle, signage on safety guidelines, screening forms and thermometer.
- All learners attending must be screened by the allocated teacher.
- A social distance of 1,5 metres must always be applied.
- Specific safety protocols will be applied at the respective codes.
- Learners must bring their own water bottles. No sharing of water bottles will be allowed. Masks must be worn to the screening station. Once screened, masks can be removed while doing exercises with the permission of the teacher, provided that the 1,5 metre social distancing is applied.

### **Curro Chess Online League Tournament:**

We are extremely excited about the Curro Chess online tournaments taking place on the following dates:

- 1st league tournament: **27 February 2021**
- 2nd league tournament: **29 May 2021**

This wonderful event gives all learners from all Curro schools an opportunity to compete against each other online. Anyone may enter using the following steps.

STEP 1: Learners need to go to [www.chesshub.org.za](http://www.chesshub.org.za) to make a booking for the event.

STEP 2: You will receive a booking confirmation email a short while after completing registration. This email will take the child or parent to the Lichess platform to ensure they have joined the team and they can then sign up for their age group. Learners need to make sure that they are registered on the [www.lichess.org](http://www.lichess.org) website. Many of our learners have already done this last year, so they should already be registered. (Please enter correct age group!)

Curro Sport will send all relevant information regarding the tournament to you (on the Teams platform) and on the Lichess teams forum.

### **All learners need to sign up before Tuesday, 23 February 2021 at 17:00**

If you have any questions, please email [mercia.a01@curro.co.za](mailto:mercia.a01@curro.co.za) or for technical support please contact Kenneth Willenberg (WhatsApp: 064 362 1817).

Please also confirm your entry and participation (name and tutor class) to [adrian.f@curro.co.za](mailto:adrian.f@curro.co.za).

### **Golf:**

**Kim Turgut** is congratulated on finishing in 6th place at the Gauteng North Golf Union Junior Girls Championship at Waterkloof Golf Club on Sunday, 31 January.

### **High School Sports Programme**

- This programme is subject to change depending on changing sport protocols
- Swimming sessions will be included ASAP
- Cheerleading will resume on Friday, 19 February

Sport	Teacher in charge	Days and Times	Practice/ Fitness & Conditioning
<b>Fitness and Conditioning/ Athletics:</b> February & March	Ms N Webb & Mr C Hourquebie	Monday & Thursday: 14:45-15:30	Fitness & Conditioning
<b>Cheerleading:</b> February & March	Mr S Krause	Monday & Friday: 15:00-16:30	Fitness & Conditioning
<b>Cricket:</b> February	Mr H van Rooyen	Monday & Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Practice No sharing of equipment
<b>Boys' &amp; Girls' Hockey:</b> February & March	Mrs N van Biljon	Monday & Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Practice No sharing of equipment
<b>Netball:</b> February & March	Ms I Strydom	Monday & Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Fitness & Conditioning
<b>Rugby:</b> February & March	Mr W Hammond	Monday & Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Fitness & Conditioning
<b>Softball:</b> February	Ms D Lobo	Monday & Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Fitness & Conditioning
<b>Street Dance</b> February & March	Ms M Chou	Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Practice
<b>Boys' and Girls' Tennis:</b> February & March	Mr A Neethling & Mrs J Tobin	Monday & Wednesday: 15:00-16:00	Practice No sharing of equipment

**We encourage all learners to participate in sports or fitness and conditioning. It's important to get moving when we spend so much time learning online!**

### **Afrikaans Eerste Addisionele Taal Olimpiade**

*Mrs Elma Bezuidenhout*



Our Grade 10,11 and 12 learners did us proud in the 2020 Olympiad. During this difficult time, our seniors truly excelled in the Afrikaans Olympiad.

We would like to congratulate **Aiden Schutte** who ended up in the top 100 in the country! Five of our learners obtained a B-symbol and two of our learners obtained an A-symbol. Curro Aurora entered a respectable number of 14 seniors all together.

Well done and congratulations to everyone involved.

## 2021 National English Olympiad – Change of Examination Date

*Mrs Sharon Weber*

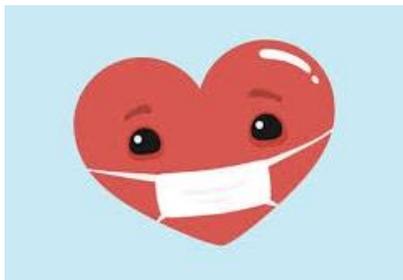


Because of recent changes to school term dates, the date of the English Olympiad examination must likewise be changed to ensure that teachers still have sufficient time to brief their candidates and to allow candidates to prepare themselves through group discussion and self-study.

Following consultation with educators, **Tuesday, 16 March 2021** has been identified as the most appropriate day for the examination. This is fourteen days later than the original examination date. (Note: The length of the examination will be three hours, and the starting time will be communicated in due course).

## WEARING A MASK TO SCHOOL

*Mrs SJ Olivier*



A mask **MUST** be worn at all times. 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 must wear your mask when you arrive at the school gate to have your temperature checked and recorded.

Avoid touching your mask while you are wearing it.

Make sure your mask fits correctly so that you do not need to adjust it.

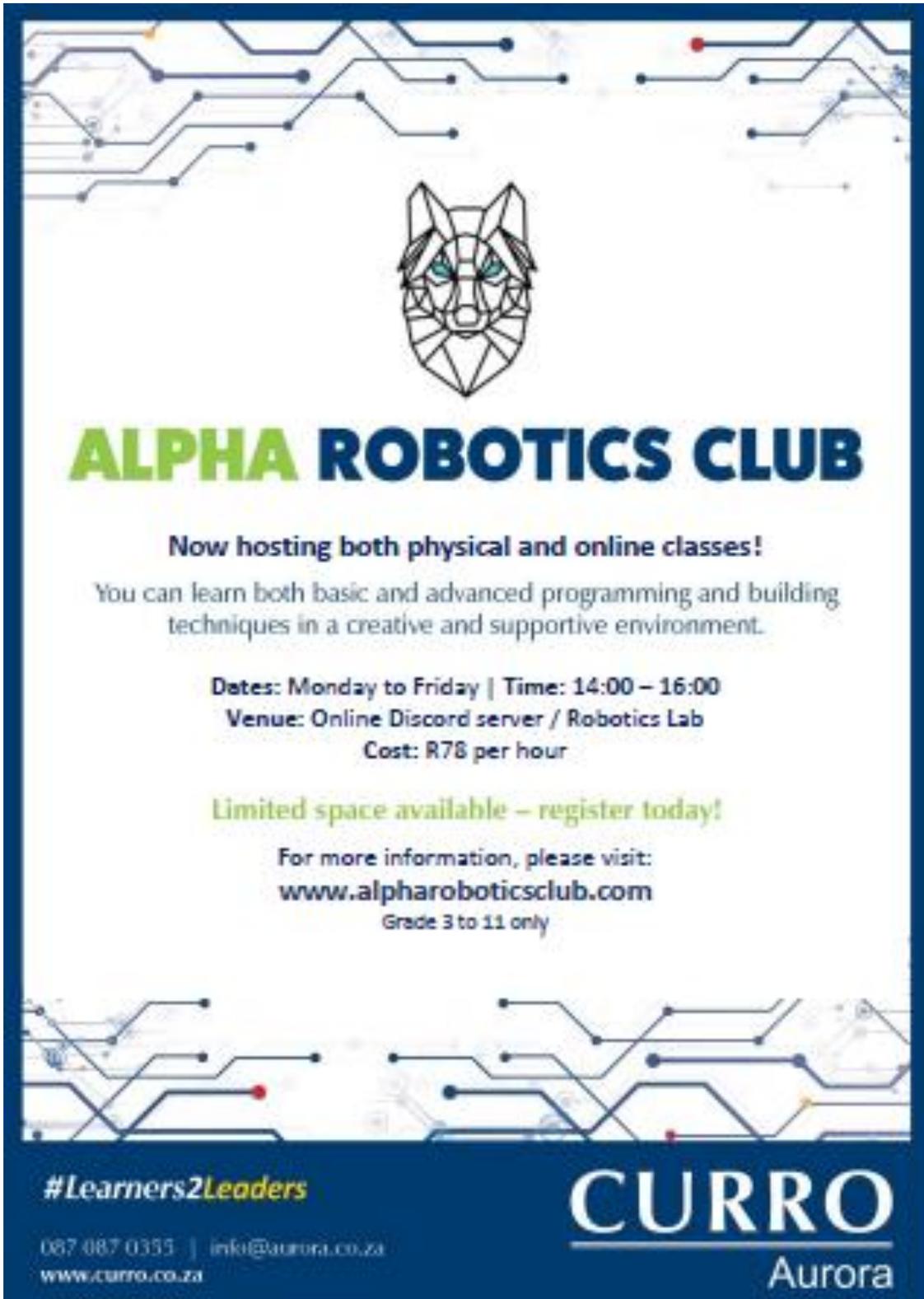
If you do touch your mask, be sure to sanitise your hands immediately.

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.

**ROBOTICS CLUB**



**ALPHA ROBOTICS CLUB**

**Now hosting both physical and online classes!**

You can learn both basic and advanced programming and building techniques in a creative and supportive environment.

**Dates:** Monday to Friday | **Time:** 14:00 – 16:00  
**Venue:** Online Discord server / Robotics Lab  
**Cost:** R78 per hour

**Limited space available – register today!**

For more information, please visit:  
[www.alpharoboticsclub.com](http://www.alpharoboticsclub.com)  
Grade 3 to 11 only

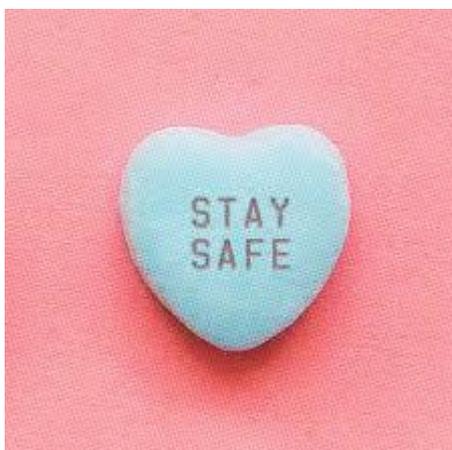
**#Learners2Leaders**

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

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**CONTACT DETAILS OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND GRADE HEADS:**

<b>Receptionist</b>	Cindy Duma	Cindy.D3@curro.co.za
<b>Head of High School</b>	Dion Kotze	Dion.K@curro.co.za
<b>FET Phase Head</b>	Sarah-Jane Olivier	Sarah-Jane.O01@curro.co.za
<b>Snr Phase Head</b>	Donne Valkenburg	Donne.V1@curro.co.za
<b>Head of Sport</b>	Adrian Ferreira	Adrian.F@curroholdings.co.za
<b>Head of Culture</b>	Saskia Snyders	Saskia.S@curro.co.za
<b>Grade 12 Heads</b>	Judy Beeston	Judy.B@curroholdings.co.za
	Anita Bornman	Anita.B@curro.co.za
<b>Grade 11 Heads</b>	Janine Tobin	Janine.T@curro.co.za
	Geneva Schmidt	Geneva.G1@curro.co.za
<b>Grade 10 Heads</b>	Kelsey Gallon	Kelsey.G2@curro.co.za
	Loutjie de Wet	Loutjie.D@curro.co.za
<b>Grade 9 Heads</b>	Kyla Hayter	Kyla.H@curro.co.za
	Warrick Hammond	Warrick.H@curro.co.za
<b>Grade 8 Heads</b>	Hayley Dawson	Hayley.D2@curro.co.za
	Craig Hourquebie	Craig.H2@curro.co.za



“The difference between champions and everyone else is that champions are never afraid of losing, while everyone else is afraid of winning.” - *Jeffrey Fry*

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

Yours in education,

Dion Kotze  
Head of High School

## Want to work as a team?

Club together to donate R800 to sponsor the sterilisation of a furry friend.



**What to do:**

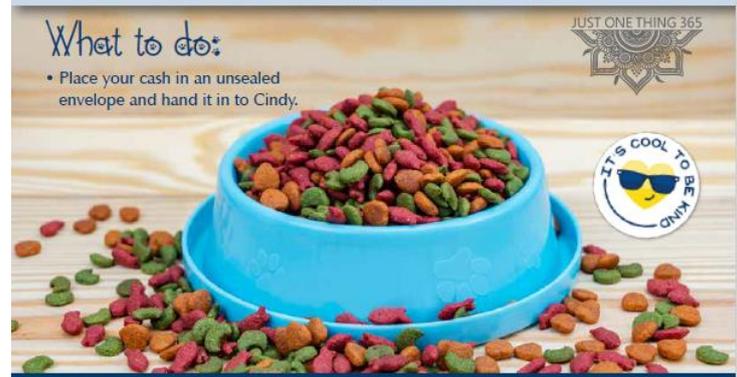
- Write a card to thank your furry friend's human for loving them so much.
- Sign your names.
- Place the card in an unsealed envelope with your R800 and hand it in to Cindy.

#Learners2Leaders

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## Didn't quite make the R800 total?

Thank you for doing your best!  
Your money will go towards buying much-needed dog and cat food.



**What to do:**

- Place your cash in an unsealed envelope and hand it in to Cindy.

#Learners2Leaders

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## Upcycle, recycle or shop

Donate items to our furry friends and their loving humans.



**What to donate:**

- New or used collar and/or leash
- New or used blanket and/or bedding or cushions
- Something for our furry friend's human: a bag of sweets, non-perishable food items, used clothing, toys and stationery in good condition

**What to do:**

- Hand in your (washed and cleaned) items to Cindy in a clearly-marked bag.

#Learners2Leaders

**CURRO**  
Aurora

# Love is a Four-legged Word

Show some love for the community this Valentine's Day

Curro Aurora High School is working together with JustOneThing365 in aid of World Sterilisation Day.



Let's show our furry friends the kind of love they deserve.  
Donations will be accepted until the end of the term.  
These can be handed in to Cindy at the high school office.

For more information: [www.justonething365.com](http://www.justonething365.com) | [inspire@justonething365.com](mailto:inspire@justonething365.com)

**#Learners2Leaders**

087 087 0355

[info.aurora@curro.co.za](mailto:info.aurora@curro.co.za)

[@curro.aurora](https://www.instagram.com/curro.aurora) | [@justonething365](https://www.instagram.com/justonething365)

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

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## 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.**

