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#WeAreReddam

REDDAM HOUSE
UMHLANGA



NEWSLETTER | 8 MAY 2020 | VOLUME 7

FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

On 30 April 2020 the Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga, briefed South Africans on proposed plans for the re-opening of schools. The briefing contained many important points, but most pressing is the revised school calendar which proposes dates for the return of staff and students. The proposed calendar (which is yet to be approved by Cabinet and gazetted in terms of the Disaster Management Act) details the re-opening of state schools and the gradual return of students – starting with Grade 12s – from 1 June. It is based on the assumption that very little teaching and learning has taken place since the closure of schools and that it is in the best interests of Grade 12 students in particular to get them back onto school campuses and in contact with their teachers.

Whereas the proposed dates are intended primarily for state schools, when the Minister was asked about how these plans affect independent schools, she indicated that they could operate at Alert Level 4, if Covid-19 compliant and able to accommodate the acceptable number of students.

ISASA (Independent Schools Association of South Africa) has advised independent schools to follow the calendar as outlined for state schools. ISASA believes that, if an independent school can accommodate additional grades over and above Grade 12, while still remaining Covid-19 compliant, it should have flexibility to admit all these grades from 1 June 2020. The Minister seemed to suggest exactly this when referring to small independent schools during her briefing.

Little to no teaching time has been lost by our Grade 12 students but it is obvious that, although online teaching and learning is somewhat effective in the transmitting of content and teaching skills, there is nothing more reassuring for an anxious Grade 12 student in their final year of schooling than having contact with his/ her teacher. ISASA and the IEB (Independent Examinations Board) have both indicated that it is in the interests of all students - but Grade 12 students in particular - to be allowed to return to their physical school environments.

Our mid-year examinations for all Grade 8 to 12 students will, however, continue online (starting on 18 May until 29 May) in order to provide an academic focus for our students; an assessment of the skills required in most subjects and in order to provide feedback on our students' academic progress despite the challenging circumstances. Details regarding the facilitation of these online examinations can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Whereas they are not quite the same as the normal mid-year examinations, we appeal to every College student to undertake them in the same diligent, determined and honest manner. Rest assured that our teachers will be scrutinising the results prior to the reporting process to ensure that they are a fair reflection of our students' abilities.

This is a very stressful time, especially for those in authority in education, who are responsible for making life-changing decisions on behalf of the schooling system, and our students in particular. The lifting of the lockdown and the return of students to school is a very difficult decision with enormous implications for health and safety measures involving the sanitization of facilities; daily screenings; face masks; social distancing and so on. Each

family's circumstances are unique and we do not know what health profiles exist within our families. To enable us to make the best decisions in keeping with the interests of all of our students and their families, we kindly request all parents to complete the following survey for each of their children **by Wednesday 13 May:**

<https://forms.gle/u9miGHSs4U58mkyUA>

We foresee that until the government announces the lifting of the lockdown measures completely, and advises that risks associated with the pandemic are lessening, we will be undertaking a hybrid approach to the education offered at Reddam House Umhlanga – namely a combination of online teaching/ learning as well as a return of some teachers and students onto the school campus under stringent COVID-19 safety conditions. Logistics in this regard are currently being formulated and we will communicate details before the end of May.

We will soon begin the necessary preparations ahead of the expected re-opening of schools which will involve extensive sanitisation procedures and deep cleaning. This is in keeping with government regulations and in the interests of the safety of all of our staff and students.

It is, sadly, clear that a return to the normal school activities and interactions to which we were accustomed prior to the lockdown, may not happen for much of the remainder of the year. For how long, no one really knows, but we will continue to try and ensure that the most important school events and milestone moments take place before the end of the calendar year. Grade Heads will soon be sending out specific grade letters indicating the postponements and arrangements of these events. Our College management is, furthermore, planning some exciting and original interhouse competitions for maximum student engagement after the mid-year examinations and into next term. We hope this will forever provide a positive memory of this year in our lives.

The innovation, ingenuity and dedication shown by both our teachers and students to ensuring that there is no crippling disruption to the education process is nothing short of remarkable. We are also acutely aware that our Reddam House Umhlanga families are also under considerable financial strain and most of our families have had to make further financial sacrifices in order to honour the paying of school fees. We are incredibly appreciative of your loyalty and commitment to our College at this difficult time.

We acknowledge the unique challenges that the effects of the pandemic have had in many respects and would like to assure you that we will do whatever we can to assist every student at this difficult time without compromising both their safety and their education.

ADAM ROGERS
HEADMASTER

GENERAL NEWS & INFORMATION

Mid-Year Examination Routine & Procedures

The examination timetable can be found on the Reddam House Umhlanga app under the College Academics tab.

Two examination sessions will take place each day: the first session will begin at 8:45 and the second session will begin at 12:45pm.

Registration will take place each morning in the registration class Google Classrooms/Meet at 8:30 for all those writing an examination that day. Thereafter students will report to the Google Classroom of their relevant subject teacher by 8:45 for the start of the examination. There will be a 10 minute reading time before each examination.

Students will be expected to log onto Google Meet with their cameras and microphones on. However the microphone iPad/device volume (not microphone) must be turned down. Microphones and cameras must stay on for the entire duration of the examination. These sessions will be monitored and recorded to ensure students do not receive any assistance during their examinations. Cell phones must be off and placed out of sight completely.

Should a query arise in the examination, students must make use of the chat function and not speak out aloud.

Students will need to agree to a declaration of authenticity for each examination, whereby they confirm the work is their own and they have not engaged in any form of cheating/plagiarism. Any student who is found to have cheated will be given zero.

Students must adhere strictly to the time allocations for their subject. The submission times will be monitored closely and students will be penalised for late submissions. It is imperative that the integrity of the examination process is maintained, which means that examination papers must be submitted immediately following the end of the assessment. Any connectivity issues or technology related challenges must be brought to the subject teacher's attention in the examination session. Students are reminded that they should take screenshots of their work on a regular basis so that if they experience any issues with connectivity or the loss of work, this can be sent to their teacher.

Once the student has submitted their examination, as per the requirements issued by the subject teacher, and the teacher has confirmed that they have received the examination uploads, they may log off. They may not leave the Google Meet examination session without the expressed permission of the teacher.

Parent Responsibilities During the Mid-Year Examinations

As students will be writing their examinations in their home environment for the first time, it will be necessary for parents to please assist in taking responsibility for some of the examinations norms, ordinarily controlled at school. Parents are asked to try to ensure that their child has a quiet space to write the examinations, free from the disturbances or interruptions of the home. All cell-phones must be turned off and not present in the examination venues. Time frames are important and should be strictly adhered to. As much as is possible, students should go to the bathroom before an examination begins so as to avoid disturbances to the other students in the classroom. There should be no eating during any examination. The student should not be communicated with or disturbed throughout the examination writing session.

Pastoral Care Update/ Tutor Group Discussions

To date, this term, tutor group meetings have served a number of purposes – they have been used to “touch bases” with students in small, unthreatening groups, where they have been encouraged to share their concerns regarding the “bigger picture” of the situation in which the world finds itself, as well as to air any issues or troubles they have experienced regarding virtual learning. A common concern that was raised was that students were anxious about how to upload tests and examinations. Today, in the tutor group period, students watched a tutorial explaining how to do this and afterwards they were given the opportunity to ask questions to obtain greater clarification. The link to this tutorial can be found in the tutor group Google classroom, and students are encouraged to referred to it again, if necessary, and to direct any further queries either to his/her Grade Head or tutor.

Students have also completed a survey, compiled in part by their peers on the Student Support Council, and in part by senior management. This information will assist us to provide better support for our students throughout the lockdown period. We have also used tutor periods to help students to identify fake news and to direct them towards platforms where they can report it.

Global IT Helpdesk

6 May 2020 saw Inspired launching a new Global IT helpdesk, available from 07:30 SA time. Working closely with third-party CDW, this new service provides parents and students with a professional level of support and a single point of contact for all IT issues. The service will provide English language coverage 24/7 by telephoning 0100 600 935/ 0100 062 171 or email inspiredsd@uk.cdw.com. CDW will support calls relating to: Zoom, Google Meets, Google Hangouts and SeeSaw. Student owned hardware & operating system support incidents will be passed back to our internal IT Manager and technician.

Morning Exercise

One of the provisions of the level 4 lockdown provisions is the ability to exercise outside of the home from 06:00 to 09:00. Our management has deliberated a later start of the school day to accommodate this but felt, at this stage, it was more in our students' interests to maintain the existing routine in the lead up to the mid-year examinations. With examinations starting at 08:45 (and registration at 08:30) will allow our students who are wanting to undertake this exercise before school to do this during the two week examination period. Our management will continue to review our structures and processes after the mid-year examination period. We encourage our students to maintain their fitness by taking advantage of the afternoon skill sessions and the Wednesday Wellness Challenge from 3:15pm.

Virtual Assemblies

Our bi-weekly assemblies have taken on a different format since the lockdown. A new episode of "The Madder Show" is aired every Tuesday and Friday. We encourage students to share these episodes with their parents and friends. The 'show' serves to keep our Reddam House Umhlanga community connected.

Episode 4

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ueKWEgdCUc-eQFSB_KZRfrSivsLs_9

Episode 5

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fEo9VSWV6BKfhnIm73XD9P8LFD6f1_7c

Episode 6

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1e_fhLyEFsk1MIBwG_OaHg7eVv_S3eS8w

ACADEMIC NEWS & INFORMATION

Visual Art

Mrs Martin has provided the following report on Visual Art activities during the lockdown period:



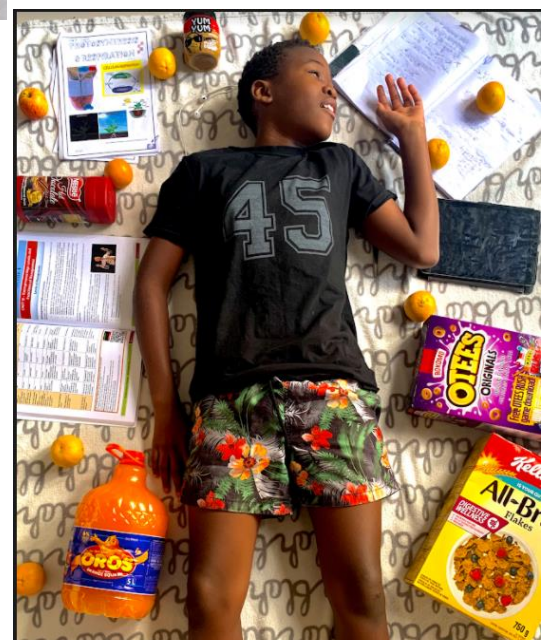
Sea shells by Jesse Grossi (Grade 8)

When we ended the first term training for on-line learning, one of the things that really concerned me was how my Visual Arts students were going to cope with limited art supplies at home.

I have had to abandon my plans for my Grade 8, 9 and 10 classes. I was supposed to be exploring watercolour and sculpture this term with these groups. The Grade 8 and 9 classes have now shifted to a choice-based art programme that facilitates the making of art with whatever art materials they can find at home, during this lock-down in South Africa.



Soap carving by Divya Venkatesan (Grade 9)



Ndalo Gama (Grade 8) surrounded by his "Quaranthings".

My Grade 10 class, not having access to watercolour paints, turned to coffee as a substitute.



Layla-Ann Sache (Grade 10)

Grade 11 and 12 Visual Arts students have been working on independent research projects that will culminate in a major artwork. In the meantime, they have not neglected their drawing and painting skills.



Tyra Fenger (Grade 11)



Kelly van der Vyver (Grade 12)



Thoraya Bonnin (Grade 12)

Aptitude & Career Assessments

We are excited to have launched a partnership with psychometrist, Bryce Dekker, to be able to give our Grade 9 and 11 students an opportunity to complete their aptitude and career assessments online. This is aimed to assist them in making their choices for subject packages and university courses. Information in this regard will be sent out to the respective grades in due course.

WELLNESS INFORMATION

Physical Wellbeing

As from 1 May 2020, the country moved from level 5 to level 4 lockdown. While this change comes with much needed amendments such as being allowed to cycle or jog within a 5km radius from your home, most South Africans are still working from home and classrooms have been replaced by online learning. Time on the playground is now spent playing video games and watching videos. Excessive screen time affects our general health negatively, which is why we have to pay attention to the ways and extent to which we use our smart devices on a daily basis. As online learning continues, it's important to maintain a balance between screen time and activities.

Below are some "off-screen" activities that one can do after online learning or working:

1. Enjoy screen-free meals - eating meals in front of a TV, computer or cell phone not only means more screen time, it can also result in a distracted mind that has a hard time truly savouring each bite.
2. Trade TV time for a podcast - It's tough to get much done while your attention is fixed on a TV. Engaging in a podcast leaves your eyes free to walk the dog or prepare a new dinner recipe at the same time.
3. Read one chapter of a book - the idea of reading an entire book can be daunting, especially with a busy schedule. Reading the first chapter requires a minimal time investment and gives the story a chance to reel you in.
4. Dance / Zumba time - to improve physical activity, the whole family can engage in a Zumba or dance class at the end of the day. This also creates space for family bonding time through laughs and play.

If you are struggling with any of the above-mentioned aspects or need general medical advice, the school nurse Tandeka Yakobi is available to offer assistance. Email Tandeka.yakobi@reddam.house or telephone 0832651039 (Call or WhatsApp).

Emotional Wellbeing

With the shift to level 4 lockdown – we really need to embrace the little bit of 'freedom' that this permits; particularly as we approach exams. Getting into an exam routine is more important than ever. This is something a student can control and feel empowered by. Creating a simple study timetable is useful in terms of reducing anxiety and worry. Waking at a set time every day and perhaps doing some exercise every day is so important for your mental wellbeing. A balance, as always, between work and things that one enjoys is vital.

If at any stage you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's emotional wellbeing – please reach out to our school counsellor, Ms Ros Lowry at ros.lowry@reddam.house

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES NEWS & INFORMATION

Cultural Activities Update

It has been wonderful to see students still getting involved in cultural activities during this lockdown period, be it through the photography competition, choir projects or dance ensemble - students are still finding a way to be creative and inspired during this time. DIY projects, recipes and challenges are added to the Google Cultural Activities Classroom weekly, as well as lists of free productions which can be streamed at home. We look forward to many online interhouse activities which will take place at the end of this term.

Reddam House Umhlanga Lockdown Photographic Competition

The Photography Competition is growing from strength to strength, and it is wonderful to see the creativity throughout our Reddam House Umhlanga family. Congratulations to last week's winners who were chosen by professional photographer Stephen Railton. Stephen has also donated a family photoshoot prize to the value of R2000 to the overall winner of the competition.

- 1st place: Rosanta Chen (Grade 11)
 2nd place: Mr Shaun van Wyk (staff)
 3rd place: Rachel Duvenhage (Grade 11)
 4th place: Mrs Renuka Maharaj (parent)

Footloose Online

The cast members of "Footloose" have been meeting weekly to revise lines and to keep the "spirit" of the cast going, believing that indeed the show will go on! Our cast has been invited to participate in "Lockdown Mob Dance" organised by Africa Rock the Lockdown. We look forward to seeing our cast members in this nationwide video which is being professionally edited.



COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWS & INFORMATION

Bhambayi Project

The Bhambayi Project community service initiative has begun to gain momentum with many submissions of hours of service coming in on a weekly basis. It is great seeing so many students volunteering at home with the intention of helping impoverished communities during this lockdown period. We are aware that many students are also involved in other types of initiatives, such as making face masks. Students who are working on any form of community service whilst at home are welcome to submit evidence towards their compulsory 15 hours of service for the year.

All service hours need to be logged though the Outreach tab on the Reddam House Umhlanga app. The first record of students' community service hours will be included on the Term 2 reports.

SPORTS NEWS & INFORMATION

Interhouse ('In Da House') Competition 2020

The first sound of the 'In Da House' Competition will take place during the tutor period on Friday 15 May with the 'throwing a tea bag into a tea cup' competition. House points will be kept. Look out for other activities that will range from sports to music, cooking, quizzes and art.

Skills & Physical Wellness Challenges

In a webinar hosted by Professor Jon Patricious he reminded us of the importance of exercising to strengthen our immune systems because that is the only way of fighting off the Corona virus. Everyone needs to keep eating correctly and exercising. Our Physical Wellness Google classroom has loads of workouts as well as hockey, rugby and netball drills.

On Wednesday 29 April we had the "Push Up Till Failure Challenge", and it was closely contested by Mr Taylor and Robert Jessop, with Robert coming out on top. On Wednesday 6 May we held the "Alpha Challenge" which was a range of exercisers from A through to Z. All our participating students were able to get through to Z.

Wednesday 13 May sees a live Pilates session with Leag Solman at 15:15. It will be through You Tube and not our normal Physical Wellness classroom. A link will be shared on the Physical Wellness Google classroom. We encourage every member of the Reddam House Umhlanga family – parents and students – to take part.

PARTNERSHIPS

PRESS CLUB FROZEN MEALS

NEW TASTE FOR EVERYDAY WEEKLY
SERVES FAMILY OF 3 - 4

Butter Chicken curry	R260	:	Penne Bolognaise	R250
Traditional Beef curry	R280	:	Chicken quinoa and broccoli bake	R250
Butter Bean & Potato Curry	R230	:	Traditional Potato Bake	R180
Beef & Veg Stew	R280	:	Rosemary Lamb & Veg Stew	R350
Mama's Cottage pie	R250	:	PC's Traditional Lamb Curry	R350
Chicken and spinach lasagne	R250	:	Sundried Tomato, Feta & Spinach Cannelloni	R240
Sweet chilli butternut and blue cheese lasagne	R240	:	Steak & Kidney Stew	R280
Spinach, feta and mozzarella lasagne	R240	:		

Enquire about our homemade Pies & Soups!

Just Heat To Eat



WE ARE OPEN MON - FRI FROM 9AM - 4:30PM FOR DELIVERY @ R20 PER ORDER
PLEASE ORDER BEFORE DELIVERY TIMES TO BE ON THE NEXT DELIVERY SLOT
DELIVERY TIMES: 10AM | 11:30AM | 1PM | 2:30PM | 4PM (WITHIN 5KM RADIUS)

DATES TO DIARISE

**SUNDAY
10 MAY**

Mothers' Day

**WEDNESDAY
13 MAY**

15:30 Wednesday Physical Wellness Challenge

**THURSDAY
14 MAY**

17:00 Grade 12 Parents Open Forum Discussion (details to follow)

**MONDAY
18 MAY**

Grade 8 – 12 Mid-Year Examinations begin

**WEDNESDAY
20 MAY**

15:30 Wednesday Physical Wellness Challenge