

TAFELBERG SCHOOL



Newsletter



27 MAY 2020 – 2nd TERM – NUMBER 17



coolideas
FIBRE INTERNET

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Dear parent / guardian

All teachers, therapists, administrative and support staff are back at school, and have undergone an orientation program, and are hard at work preparing for the return of our children. All the staff are doing a wonderful job of ensuring that the school is cleaned, sanitized and organized, so that we can receive the learners, and implement the safety procedures and protocols as from day one. Classrooms, benches, corridors etc. are also being marked out, and posters being displayed in preparation.

At the same time, all the teaching staff are being trained to use a uniform system to facilitate distance learning, in order to better assist learners at home or should we again move back to lockdown level 5. In this regard the Junior School will only use the Class Dojo platform, while the Senior school will use Google Classroom. Furthermore, they are revising their teaching plans and preparing lessons for the weeks ahead.

Despite the huge uncertainty and many unanswered questions within the education space at the moment, and the fluid situation nationally, we have done our best to draw up plans to fit our school circumstances, with the “facts” and resources at our disposal at present. The true test will come when the learners return and the implementation of the theory begins. Our plans are laid but will be reviewed if and when necessary ... it is not the strongest that survive but those that manage change best.

The SGB have held a virtual meeting and reviewed the Covid-19 policy and processes in preparation for the re-opening of the school. They are satisfied with the policy and preparations made to ensure the safety of all our children. The policy was thus adopted as of 26 May 2020, and will be loaded onto our website soon. The SGB also approved additional spending on certain equipment in order to ensure safety measures in and around the school.

All learners will receive orientation training on their return which includes information about the Covid-19 virus, how it spreads, what safety precautions can be taken to minimize the spread thereof, our Covid-19 policy and procedures, and our expectations of them in these difficult times.

The psychologists, counsellor and therapists are also prepared to render socio-emotional support to our learners when they return. The staff are looking forward to seeing all the learners again.

1. *Count down to 1 June: what parents need to do*

As stated in the previous Newsletter, it is imperative that parents start preparing their child for their return to school. This is not only aimed at parents with learners in Grades 12 and 7, but ALL parents. At this stage only Grades 12 and 7 will return on 1 June. The other Grades will be phased in later, at dates not yet revealed to us. This home preparation will help your child re-integrate so much easier, thus reducing their stress and anxiety. Before we can get to the academic program we need to ensure they are emotionally stable, feel safe and are confident to tackle the curriculum ... without this learning is going to be very difficult for them.

Please refer to the suggestions given in the last Newsletter, and add the following:

- Practice wearing a mask at home for long periods.
- Teach them how to put a mask on and how to take it off properly.
- Discuss using a clean mask every day and the importance of washing the mask properly.
- Impress on them that they must not touch their face or mask with unwashed hands.
- Teach them to wash their hands properly with soap, regularly.
- Explain why social distancing is important in reducing the spread of the virus.
- Explain why they must not touch, hug, “high 5” etc. their friends when they return – for many this will be very difficult!
- Ensure they have all their stationery, books, equipment and lunch and explain why they must not borrow, lend or share these items.



Thank you for helping us prepare your child for the changed school reality. Your assistance is appreciated.

2. Grade 12 and Grade 7 return

As per announcement the Grades 12 and 7 will return as from 1 June 2020. As we have both Grades in the Senior School section, the decision was taken that the **Grade 12's return on Monday** 1 June, and **Grade 7's on Wednesday** 3 June. This will give us time to iron out any possible problems that may arise on the Monday, so we are fully prepared for the Grade 7's on the Wednesday. We do not foresee issues but we need to be cautious, and ensure the safety of all our school community.

3. NB Changes of School times

As a result of reworking our timetable to ensure the Grade 12's have enough class contact time, and the need for screening and controlling access to the school, the following times must be adhered to:

The school gates will **only open at 7:30am**, and will be **locked** again at **8:00am**. This is necessary to ensure safe access and that proper screening takes place. Please ensure the necessary transport arrangements, and inform lift clubs/shuttle service providers. We do not want groups of learners being dropped off long before 7:30am and thus standing around in groups – this is not safe (social distancing etc.) and since it is winter, it is dark and may be raining. Parents are responsible to ensure the safety of their child before they allowed to enter the school grounds – please make the necessary arrangements, in the best interests of your child.

a) Grade 12:

- Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8:00am – 3:30pm
- Tuesday: 8:00am – 2:40pm
- Friday: 8:00am – 2:00pm



NB NB - End of day for the **first week will be 2:40pm**.

- The late Monday, Wednesday + Thursday times will only start as from next **Monday, the 8 June**.

b) **Grade 7:**

- Monday to Thursday: 8:00am – 2:30pm
- Friday: 8:00am – 2:00pm

NB Please ensure you fetch, or your lift club/shuttle service fetches, your child immediately the school day ends. Learners cannot wait for an hour or more outside, as it can become a social distancing issue.



4. Medication

Parents can decide whether to dispense medication to their child in the morning or delegate that task to the school, as in the past. Should you want the school to dispense the medication, in the interests of safety, please purchase a plastic pill dispenser box and send it to school with your child. Should there be a problem, please contact your child's register teacher.

Parents choosing to medicate their child at home must please ensure consistency each morning – do not skip medication in the mornings as this causes havoc for your child.

5. Learner attendance

Although we support the call for learners to return to school and rediscover the classroom learning and teaching environment which they have missed out on for the past 60 odd days, we acknowledge the right of the parent not to send their child back immediately because of health issues:

- Learners with an established comorbidity must be kept at home.
- Learners who have contracted the virus must be kept at home and only return to school once a medical professional instructs that the learner is no longer positive.
- Learners who show symptoms of Covid-19 must be kept home until it is safe for them to return to school.
- Learners who are sick (flu etc) must stay home until they have recovered.

These learners will not be de-registered from school, and will continue to be assisted via our distance learning program, until such time they are able to return.

We understand that some parents may want to keep their child out of school until the situation changes, because of fears for their health/safety. However, please note the following:

- The parent needs to inform the school of their intention.
- The parent accepts responsibility for the child's learning, homework etc (the school will still give them support).
- At some point the learner will have to return to school because schools cannot indefinitely keep an "open space" in a classroom.
- Once the DBE Assessment Program is made known, these learners will have to attend school to write the assessments under controlled "exam conditions".

Should a parent decide to Homeschool their child, we must be informed in writing. The learner will then be deregistered from Tafelberg school, and the parent must register their child with the WCED into an accredited homeschool. We can assist in this regard should parents need the help. Please note that if homeschooled, Tafelberg school will no longer support the learner via our distance learning program.

6. Parent survey

Thank you to all the parents who have completed the survey. Your input is valuable and it is helping us refine our processes and structures in. If you have not yet completed it, please do so ASAP. You are welcome to contact Mrs Lundie (viceprin@tafelbergschool.co.za) if you cannot access the survey/link to the survey via your phone.



7. General

- Please “screen” your child before sending them to school. If they answer “yes” to the first question and or have a temperature of 38°C and above, then keep them at home.
- Grade 12 learners who have a valid license and their own vehicles are encouraged to use them to come to school. There will be no charge to park inside the school grounds. The learner remains in the vehicle until 7:30am and will then join the other learners at the screening stations. The rules as per the Learner Driver Policy remain in force.
- The Covid-19 policy amends the Uniform policy until further notice, in regard only to the following: all learners are allowed to wear either their winter, summer or full tracksuit to school until further notice. Please note that “mix and matching” of the 3 uniforms is NOT allowed – it is either one or the other. Ensure they stay warm.

Thought for today:

Success today requires the agility and drive to constantly rethink, reinvigorate, react, and reinvent - Bill Gates

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L E Benecke', written over a horizontal line.

Mr L E Benecke
Principal

Last week's puzzle : To be or not to be.

QUIZ : Which metal is extracted from sea water?

ENTER TO LEARN, LEAVE TO SERVE