

MUIZENBERG JUNIOR NEWS

September 2020

Issue 3/2020

Enter to Learn



Leave to Serve

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents and Guardians

Cast your minds back 2 or 3 months. Fear, anxiety and even despondency was in the air as South Africa, and the world, remained in the grip of Covid-19. It was hard to see the way forward; all seemed to be doom and gloom.

However, these days we have reason to be hopeful. The national lockdown has been reduced to Level 2, learners have returned to school, most people have returned to work and the easing of restrictions means that families and friends can interact more freely and people can socialise more freely. All of these are possible, of course, if all of us act responsibly and follow strict Covid-19 protocols.

While the hard lockdown had the specific purpose of controlling the spread of the Coronavirus, it also had the effect of allowing families to spend more time together and to strengthen the bonds between them. But there are other lessons to be learnt as well:

The lockdown has forced us to become resilient. The online dictionary defines resilience as being able to deal with challenges and difficulties and being able to adapt well in times of adversity. After months of uncertainty and the fear of imminent danger (in the form of the virus), we have learnt to cope under unusual circumstances and to embrace the unknown or "new normal." With regard to our school, this "new normal" is most evident in reduced school hours and the reduced school week, along with distance learning. As a result of the hard work put in by our staff, and your cooperation, we have been able to adapt to this new situation. For this, I owe you all a huge debt of gratitude.

At school, children, as a result of strict social distancing rules, have had to learn to interact differently with one another. They can no longer play many of the games they played before, and they can no longer show affection by shaking hands, hugging or giving high-fives. This is not easy for children.

However, it warms my heart to see them interact in new ways. During breaks I see the (socially-distanced) children talking and laughing, I see them greet each other with warm smiles instead of handshakes and I see them showing respect and care for one another by wearing their masks and obeying the Golden Rules.

It is, at times such as these, that we have to be thankful for what we have. Let us teach our children to show gratitude and appreciation for what they have. We should all be thankful that up to now, most of us have come through the pandemic largely unscathed. We should also be mindful that others have not been as fortunate. Some have lost loved ones, others have lost their jobs and many are suffering economic hardship.

Let us keep in mind all who have succumbed to the virus; especially members of the MJS community and their families. Let us also resolve to work together to take our school forward and to do our best to ensure that the learners at this school get the best education possible.

Keep warm and keep safe.

Kind regards

V. Erfort

(Principal)

RSANWEB
POWERED BY **OCTOTEL**

MJS PEDALS FOR PEACE MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Max Matubeni, one of the Groundstaff at MJS, used to walk from Masiphumele to MJS and back, when the trains stopped running. That is quite a distance to cover every day and he used to wake up at 4:30am to get to work on time. Mrs Whitford suggested that we try and get Max a bicycle.

We contacted Dave Bellairs and Nicky Eckstein, at Pedals for Peace, who organized this wonderful bicycle in the photo! With the bicycle, came a helmet, a bicycle pump, raingear, a rear and front headlight and a couple of water bottles! Some of these items were donated by MJS staff members.

We wish Max many happy, safe kilometres on his bicycle. Our grateful thanks to Nicky and Dave for their generosity!



POETRY PRESENTED BY GRADE 7S—LOCKDOWN DIDN'T KILL OUR CREATIVITY!

Coronavirus is a global crisis
So we need to stay at home to fight this
Some people don't do the right thing
That's why we can't have nice outings
Although it was boring to stay at home
At least I always had my phone
If you want this coronavirus out of existence
Wash your hands and keep your distance
Written by Reza Stanford



Grade 7s attend school on all 5 days a week. In order to rotate our clothes for safety sake, we wear civvies on Wednesdays. Civvies, combined with our unique masks can make it difficult for our teachers to identify us!

GRADE R NEWS

We dressed up as letters of the alphabet



GRADE 5 SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS



The Grade 5s did an experiment to show that a fire needs 3 things in order to burn. Fuel (candle wax), air (oxygen) and a source of heat (lighter). If one of these is taken away, the fire cannot burn.



FROM THE HEARTS OF GRADE 6s

Our Grade 6 pupils were asked these 3 questions when they returned to school at the beginning of July.

How did you feel on your first day back at school after Lockdown?

I was worried about the health, safety and well-being of others.

I was very excited to see my friends.

I was very nervous because things had changed.

I felt quite nervous when I walked through the gates, but as the day went on, I felt a lot more comfortable.

I was afraid that I would catch COVID 19.

I was curious about getting scanned.

I felt so hot under the mask, but I had to wear it for my safety.

I was feeling very anxious about going back to school.

What did you enjoy about staying at home during Lockdown?

I enjoyed it because I got to spend more time with my family.

There was a longer holiday and I could sleep in a few times.

Being able to relax.

Watching TV, chatting over Whatsapp with my friends and playing with my brother.

Reading lots of books and having lots of free time to do fun activities.

Walking my dogs around the house.

Improving my gaming skills.

I enjoyed getting together with my family.

What has been a challenge for you during Lockdown?

Not seeing my friends.

Staying at home

Homework has been quite a challenge.

Having nothing to do at home.

Not being able to see my family, friends and last, but not least, my teachers

Wearing my mask.

Walking in the shops with a mask

I was bored!

Not getting an education

MANDELA DAY 2020 AT MJS

Thank you to the Grade 7 Families who responded generously with soup goodies. These ingredients were donated to an organization called "War on Hunger" which is run by Mr and Mrs Ashley Fortuin, who are currently MJS grandparents. They make food for children and adults in Lavender Hill.



A MESSAGE FROM MRS CARTER, SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

20 August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

How wonderful to have most of our children back at school. It is lovely to have life back in school and noise in our corridors. I really enjoy the early mornings greeting our learners as they come in for screening.

As our country has moved to Level 2, we are able to enjoy more freedom and movement as families and long awaited family and friends' visits are now permitted.

One of the things I have really enjoyed and hope to hold on to after lockdown, is time spent with my own family. I have loved afternoons with my children where we are not rushing around to extra murals and a slower pace on weekends with few plans.

While we are still cautious to go out as we did before, we are so blessed in Cape Town to have amazing entertainment on our doorsteps which costs us nothing and is COVID-friendly, so to speak. I encourage you all, as our weather hopefully starts warming up (although it doesn't feel like that quite yet!), to get out as a family and enjoy what Cape Town has to offer.

There are not many places in the world where you can enjoy beautiful beach walks, forest strolls, mountain hikes and stunning parks all on our doorstep. Near our school, we can head to Muizenberg Beach for a swim, walk on the Cat Walk to St James or head off into the mountains for hike. What a treat!

After a long time spent at home, it is so refreshing to be out and about again and also a time we can share with friends outdoors.

That walk along the cat walk, with the fresh sea air, is soul food for me (just what is needed at this crazy time).

A saying I have always held on to personally, as a parent, is:



Lockdown and time during this pandemic has been a huge challenge and one we were not prepared for, but if we can take one positive thing from it, it is that our families have had more time together. Something in years to come, I hope, we will always remember is that we try and make more space for this as life shifts back to 'normal'.

With Spring around the corner, enjoy some beautiful outings and fresh air with your families.

As always, I am available to parents via e-mail or telephone and can offer any assistance that may be needed.

Warm regards

Meg Carter
School Counsellor

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For good, forever**

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Become a Volunteer Reading Helper and provide one-on-one reading help to struggling readers.

Give 3 hours per week to make a big difference!

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