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2020

AUGUST

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CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER **RON BOON**

EDUCATION AND COVID-19

Without wishing to be too political and with due respect to those with differing views, I thought it worthwhile to share some thoughts with respect to Education and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Education on a broad basis has been seriously impacted by the closure of schools. Private schools in South Africa have been permitted to open all classes, subject to permission being sought and granted from a higher authority. Government school-going children, which is the vast majority of children in South Africa, have had limited and, in some cases, no schooling. As it is, education levels in South Africa are of some concern. Now there is a generation of children who are missing key elements of school. How will they catch up or will they simply be moved onto the next school level without having gained selected fundamental knowledge that may be crucial to being able to function efficiently in future life?

The Unions have been calling for education to be closed. Are the Unions really positioned to make such recommendation?

With the shutdown of schools, how are the minds of students being stimulated?

It is natural to be concerned for one's child and to want to ensure their health and well-being. Children will be children and, in the younger age groups, they are unlikely to adhere to the new life norms such as social distancing. As such, those involved, including parents, friends, teachers and other staff members at school, need to be alert and aware of trying to enforce critical facets linked to the virus. Relate this comment for a moment to business. What is the difference between a parent going to work, or mixing with friends and family, or going to the casino or a movie, and a child going to school?

What then are the pros and cons of opening school and do the pros outweigh the cons?

Studies conducted in different countries of the world indicate that:

- A child under 18 years of age is between 33% and 50% less likely to be infected with Covid-19.
- A British research study that compared impact on the younger generation (under 10 years old) versus the older generation (aged 70 to 79) showed that younger children who incubate Covid-19 are a thousand times less likely to die.
- The British research further indicated that the younger generation were not particularly prone to infect others.
- Schools in Sweden were never closed. Bearing in mind that a teacher is in fairly close contact with his or her pupils every day, the Swedish system indicates that teachers are no more likely to contract Covid-19 than a person working in another occupation or sphere of business.
- Risks linked to Covid-19 can be minimalised if the correct precautions are in place. The reality is that Covid-19 is here to stay - until a vaccine is found. Each and every person on Earth, unless they go into total self-isolation, is likely at some stage to be exposed to somebody carrying the virus. The world (and education) surely cannot come to standstill pending the discovery of a vaccine?
- Whilst there will be a migration to online learning, especially in the First World and in more affluent families of the Third World, one has to wonder whether online learning is in the best interests of all young people. What about social engagement and interaction? Face-to-face communication with a teacher is surely better than remote engagement, assuming that the online student is subscribed to a proper online school system.
- A child learning at home may learn less and the practice of learning may be lost. In some subjects, learning via Zoom or Microsoft Teams may be workable but there are selected key subjects where such learning does not suffice. In this instance, children from less affluent families are more likely to suffer to a greater extent. There may be Wi-Fi problems at home, alternatively both parents may work. In addition, recent history suggests that in many families, abuse may happen, with consequent negative impact on the mental well-being of the child.

Should schools be open or closed?

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

The exams at the high school are almost finished and we are waiting to see what the results will show. It will be interesting to see what effects the online schooling has had on student outcomes. We are very aware that not all students relate well to online learning. Some students have been exposed to nearly four months of online learning and the results should give us an indication of which subjects struggle with this type of instruction.

As soon as the exams are over, students at the high school will be returning to face-to-face lessons. To keep in line with social distancing, we have had to stagger various year groups. In summary, the following schedules will apply. Where necessary, online support will continue to support those who are unable to return to school due to comorbidity issues or personal family situations.

Checkpoint 2 (Grade 8): These year groups will be attending school on staggered days. In the first week, they will attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In the second week, they will attend on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Checkpoint 3 (Grade 9): They will be attending on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the first cycle after the exams, followed by a Tuesday and Thursday in the next cycle.

IG 1/Grade 10 will be divided into two groups. Group 1 will be attending on staggered days together with the CP3s while the second group IG 1 (Group 2) will follow the CP2s' schedule.

Due to the coming external Cambridge exams in October, we have decided to prioritize the IG 2 and AS classes with having them attend every day. A separate letter will be sent to all parents to detail this with the relevant time tables.

We understand that this is a challenging time and want to thank you for the amazing support and impeccable behavior from your children at school during this period. This is a trying and testing time for us all but the support has been overwhelming.

As a small token of appreciation to the high school students we have decided to allow students to choose whether they wish to wear uniform or civvies until further notice. All we ask please is that they are dressed sensibly.

Stay safe and keep well.

DR STUART COLESKY



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LITERACY INITIATIVE



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SPCA Mandela Day Drive

A massive THANK YOU to the incredible Rundle College students, parents and teachers for the proceeds that were raised during the SPCA Nelson Mandela Day initiative. The Interact Club decided to support the SPCA Mandela Day Donation Drive as their contribution to the Mandela Day celebrations in support of the SPCA's goal of raising R6 700, 67 bags of dog food and 67 bags of cat food. The Rundle Interact Committee presented the SPCA with the donated food, goodies and cash donations. Thank you to everyone who supported the cause.



SCGU Tournaments Started in August

With Government and GolfRSA giving the green light on Union tournaments, Southern Cape Golf Union announced an adjusted golf schedule for 2020. The KeNako Academy and Rundle College golf students were relieved and excited at the news which allows them to compete in amateur golf with official Southern Cape Order of Merit tournaments again.



Nicola Gerhardsen Wins Swiss U18 Championship

Congratulations to KeNako Academy and Rundle College former student Nicola Gerhardsen who won the Swiss U18 Championship for a second consecutive year! Nicola departed KeNako Academy and Rundle College at the end of 2019 after spending two years at the Academy. Nicola won the Swiss U18 Championship in Montreux with an impressive ten strokes lead. Well played Nicola!



Chiara Sola Wins U16 Swiss Championship

Congratulations to KeNako Academy golfer and Rundle former school student Chiara Sola who won the U16 Swiss Golf Championship. Chiara was enrolled as a KeNako Academy golfer and a Rundle College school student for several months before returning home to Switzerland in 2019 and looks forward to returning to the Academy when time permits. Congratulations on winning the U16 Swiss Championship, Chiara!



Special Rundle Rates with IV Fusion

IV Fusion is a welcomed and brilliant feature to George. They provide a new approach to health care and overall wellbeing. IV therapy has grown in popularity around the world and it is no surprise that there has been massive uptake in JHB and CPT. George can now boast its very own dedicated IV wellness centre. Each treatment is specifically designed to assist with targeted symptoms including stress, fatigue, mental cognitive ability, exercise and race recovery, skin rejuvenation, nausea and immune system support. Dr Colesky agreed to sample their Vitamune Fusion, which is designed to help the body fight off infections as well as colds and flu. The Vitamune Fusion treatment contributes to the immune system supporting various cellular functions of both the innate and adaptive immune system. Who can't benefit from something like this nowadays? IV Fusion has agreed to support Rundle College by offering a special rate to coincide with their recent opening this month. A discount of 25% will be offered to all Rundle College students and parents until the end of the year. If you are interested, please call IV Fusion on 044 050 1440 or go to their website www.ivfusion.co.za or FB Page [ivfusionhealth](https://www.facebook.com/ivfusionhealth) to arrange for a private consultation.



PREPARATORY NEWS

Last term was a term which none of us ever thought we would experience in our lifetime. The world we have all entered into is definitely a different one. Many people view things very differently now compared to previously and one of the areas is education and how parents are choosing to educate their children. It is every parents right to decide whether their children will attend school again or be homeschooled. As an educator myself I believe different children suit different styles of learning. Some children thrive on face-to-face learning whereas others thrive on learning on their own.

This article is focusing on face-to-face learning and the importance for children to attend school. According to teaching-jobs.org the following are the advantages of going to school – why everyone should get education.

Learn basic skills

School provides an environment where we can learn a lot of basic skills. Children as young as three years old are taught how to read and write at their preschools. They start to learn the alphabet, numbers, and even do some simple arithmetic problems. They also get the chance to practice their drawing, building, problem-solving, and cognitive skills.

Gain knowledge

The world has an abundance of knowledge and information. In school, we study different subjects that cover history, biology, arts, literature, math, physics, physical education, geography, and many more. This should help us become aware of the hard work and efforts of our ancestors, the struggles of people from centuries ago, all the wars and battles that shaped our country, the beauty and intricacies of science and technology, and so on.

Develop your talents

If you have an interest that you want to be really good at, you need a place where you can harness it effectively. Schools around the world have student clubs that focus on particular hobbies and interests for students who would like to delve deeper into their chosen sport or pastime.

Learn from experts

Teachers play a key role in any student's life. They are like the children's second parents, adults who are there to supervise when they are not at home. They are knowledgeable on a lot of things, and they should be able to impart a wide array of information and wisdom on specific subject matters, as well as life in general.

Meet friends

School is much more fun if you have friends to hang out with. These people share the same interests as you, have lunch with you, laugh with you, study with you, walk home with you, and they are there to help you out if you are having trouble with academics or life.

School should be a place where children feel safe and free to be themselves. I believe our school allows the children this freedom and is a safe place for all. All the children attending school at the moment seem happy to be back at school and are enjoying and adapting well to the new norm. I applaud the students on how well they have adapted and thank them for making the transition such an easy one.

SHARON ELAN-PUTTICK

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Safety First!

The Rundle College students have adjusted well to a new normal, sanitising their hands as they enter the school premises, adhering to the social distance proximities and wearing their face masks in class. Thank you to all the Rundle parents who have reiterated the importance of adhering to the safety rules and regulations.



Adhering to Social Distancing

Thank you to the Rundle College preparatory staff members and teachers that ensure the safety regulations set out by the Government are adhered to. The teachers go above and beyond what is required. You are incredible!



Two Cans and a String

The Grade 4 and 5 Rundle College students are learning about the source of sound and sound travel. One of the exercises included making string tin telephones and learning about what difference it makes when the string is held tightly and why sound is lost when the string is loose. This is because the loose string causes the vibrations to travel all around rather than directly down the string.



Teaching is a Passion

Student Teacher Mr Boyd Scriven under the spotlight. `Mark Twain had this to say, " Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life." I can honestly say that this is true in my case. I've worked in all sorts of places, from call centres to control rooms, couriers to counter sales, and although I worked hard, most of the jobs I had never satisfied, that is, until I began teaching. It's the one thing I really enjoy doing. In fact, I can't see myself doing anything else. I don't want to do anything else. I feel that teaching is the one profession where you can imprint your life on another, and at the end of a normal school day, I feel I have done just that. I feel that I've made a difference, and that's the happiest place for me to be. Just two more years stand in my way of becoming a qualified teacher. In the meantime, I find my inspiration to push through from the eager faces before me and the support of fellow educators. `



States of Matter

The Grade 4 and 5 Rundle College students studied the different properties between liquids, gases and solids. The content was accompanied with a variety of different fun science experiments to support the theory by blowing bubbles and pouring water into different-shaped containers.



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IN LOVING MEMORY

1981 - 2020
JAN-HARM VENTER

It is with deepest regret that we inform everyone that KeNako Academy Fitness Expert and Biokineticist Jan-Harm Venter passed away on Tuesday 28 July. Jan-Harm has been fighting a cancer battle for the past 18 months. After chemotherapy and going into remission last year, the cancer reemerged early this year. Jan-Harm underwent another set of chemotherapy sessions but he was struggling. Despite his illness, Jan-Harm remained committed to the KeNako Academy and Rundle College hostel students at the academy and, since the lockdown began, he has been sending through training schedules for the students to Head Coach Roger Wessels. He was readmitted to hospital in Cape Town for a final try of chemotherapy. His body was weak and sadly, after being admitted to hospital for the cancer treatment, he tested Covid-19 positive. He was in isolation at Groote Schuur Hospital when he died. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Christal, young son Jan-Willem and his family. Jan-Harm will be remembered for his loyalty, his love for fitness and the great outdoors, his determined spirit, his passion for music and his direct approach to life. He used to enjoy inviting the academy students out onto the golf course and to join him on fun fishing excursions. Thank you Jan-Harm for your positive contribution to KeNako Academy and the impact that you had on the lives of the students, your clients and those around you. You will be missed by all. The KeNako family. RIP.

