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Dear Parents

Snap News: If the shoe fits!

Serving 1050 children, 84 staff members and taking 900 odd families into consideration, it is a given that the shoe might not fit everyone.

Covid-19 threw challenges beyond the norm at us. With the original threat excluding young people, the under 30's felt safe - it then went down to under 18's and currently under 12's. So dealing with children and staff between 6 and 72 is a tall order.

We have lost a few parents and grandparents due to Covid-19 and our thoughts and prayers are with these families. Yesterday we lost another grandparent and losing close friends is also still a reality. Some staff are still battling with the after effects while others did not even break a sweat when tested positive.

Some children tested positive with no symptoms (asymptomatic) while a few children, under 12, are really are currently still battling to recover while dealing with symptoms. We cannot ignore the fact that the 900 odd families are affected differently and here at school we are responsible for them all.

How you or your child's immune system will react to the virus is unknown and from personal experience I can tell you that it is not something to take lightly.

We are not even talking about those with comorbidities or those who fight life threatening diseases daily. YES, in the same class where your healthy child sits we also have children with cancer, heart disease, kidney problems, etc. and they are vulnerable. Even healthy children are faced with vulnerable parents, grandparents or other family members at home. The reality is that any child who might be positive without symptoms or perhaps have infected clothing, stationery etc can put another family unknowingly at risk. Taking this into consideration and keeping to what we know is the safest option. After consultation from our independent and professional compliance officer, school attorney, departmental official and medical doctor, will stick to regulations and what we know we can manage.

Let us be honest, the majority of children in a group struggle to keep to regulations. They undergo personality changes at school, they become 'funny' and teachers are not always able to enforce the regulations. During walk abouts we struggle to keep them apart - at the first opportunity some of them dive into one another's lunch boxes, swap cool drinks or masks. This is a daily reality. Turn your back in class and you will see what they will do. With cameras outside, in our passages, hall, gymnasium and Strelitzia we see the disrespect for regulations BUT we also find those children who comply and take it seriously. Strangely, this is actually normal.

A massive drive and urge for extra mural activities is currently sweeping through the city. With a few school ignoring the 1,5-meter social distancing in classes and on their premises. We cannot accommodate more learners per day nor use any other option successfully and effectively as what we are currently doing. A few schools and people misinterpret the phased in approach for sport and the compulsory regulations which they must follow. This is due to the fact that to enforce this is highly unlikely as the capacity of authorities is under huge pressure. Driving at 100km/h in a 60km/h zone due to the current lack of enforcement is still breaking the law. Not complying with the Pandemic regulations is also breaking the law and in some cases a criminal offence. Your choice BUT whenever on the receiving side please keep in mind that it was your choice.

We will not place children, parents and staff at risk by not following regulations irrespective of so called outdated information or regulations. Please ask someone who has lost a family member or has had to fight Covid-19 to stay alive on how they feel about people not complying with regulations and what their thoughts are about the huge urge for socialising and so called "normality". I can assure you that their answers will put all into perspective. Rather safe than sorry, alive than dead and rather accountable than irresponsible.

"If you don't like something; change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." – Maya Angelou

Sunshine greetings
M DE VRIES
Principal



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Geagte Ouers

Kitsnuus: as die skoel jou pas!

Om 1050 kinders en 84 personeellede te bedien, om ongeveer 900 gesinne se belange op die hart dra, is nie maklik nie. Covid-19 het ons tot die uiterste beproef. Toe die pandemie ons aanvanklik getref het, het mense jonger as 30 veilig gevoel, dit het verander na mense jonger as 18 en tans is dit jonger as 12. Om kinders en personeel tussen 6 en 72 veilig te hou, is dus 'n vermoeiende taak.

Ons het 'n hele paar ouers en grootouers a.g.v. Covid-19 verloor en ons hou hierdie families in ons gebede. Ons het gister 'n grootouer verloor en selfs die verlies van nabye vriende is 'n werklikheid. Terwyl sommige personeellede 'n worstelstryd voer, was daar ander wat skaars geweet het dat hulle dit onder lede het totdat hulle positief getoets is.

Kinders sonder simptome het positief getoets, terwyl 'n aantal kinders jonger as 12 steeds worstel om van die simptome te herstel. Dit staan soos 'n paal bo water dat die nagenoeg 900 gesinne op verskillende maniere geraak word en ons by die skool het 'n verantwoordelikheid teenoor almal.

Dit is onbekend hoe u of u kind se immuunstelsel op die virus sal reageer en uit persoonlike ondervinding kan ek u sê dat dit nie iets is om ligtelik op te neem nie.

Dan praat ons nie eers van diegene met onderliggende kwale en mense wat elke dag met lewensbedreigende siektes te kampe het nie. JA, in dieselfde klas waar u gesonde kind sit, het ons weerlose kinders met kanker, hartsiektes, nierprobleme, ens. Selfs gesonde kinders het soms weerlose ouers, grootouers of ander familieleden tuis. Die realiteit is dat enige kind wat dalk sonder simptome positief is of wat miskien besmette klere, skryfbehoeftes ens. huis toe neem, kan onwetend die hele familie in gevaar plaas. Hiermee in gedagte, is dit ons veiligste opsie om volgens ons kennis op te tree. Ons het kers opgesteek by ons onafhanklike en professionele vadoeningsbeampte, skoolprokureur, departementele beampte en mediese dokter en ons sal hou by die regulasies wat ons weet ons kan bestuur.

Om eerlik te wees, worstel die meerderheid kinders om in 'n groep die regulasies te eerbiedig. Hulle ondergaan persoonlikheidsveranderinge by die skool, hulle word vreemd en onderwysers kan nie altyd die reëls afdwing nie. Met die buitewandeling is dit 'n gesukkel om hulle apart te hou – by die eerste geleentheid duik hulle in mekaar se kosblikke of ruil koeldrank en maskers uit. Dit is waarmee ons daaglik te kampe het. Draai jou rug op die klas en kyk wat hulle doen. Met kameras buite, in die gange, saal, gimnasium en Strelitzia sien ons hoe reëls verontagsaam word, MAAR ons sien ook kinders wat die reëls ernstig opneem en dit eerbiedig. Vreemd genoeg is dit eintlik normaal.

'n Ontslaglike drang na buitemuurse aktiwiteite vier tans hoogty in die stad, met 'n paar skole wat die 1,5 m sosiale afstand in klasse en op hulle skoolterrein ignoreer. Ons kan nie meer leerlinge per dag akkommodeer nie en ons kan ook nie enige ander opsie suksesvol en doeltreffend toepas as die huidige nie. 'n Paar skole misverstaan die ingefaseerde benadering tot sport en die verpligte reëls wat eerbiedig moet word. Dit is as gevolg van die feit dat die owerhede onder geweldige druk verkeer en dit onwaarskynlik is dat die reëls afdwing sal word. Indien 'n mens dus 100 km/h in 'n 60 km/h ry, is dit steeds teen die wet alhoewel daar nie wetstoepassing plaasvind nie. Om die reëls van die pandemie te verbreek, is teen die wet en in sommige gevalle 'n kriminele oortreding. Dit bly u keuse, MAAR wanneer u aan die kortste end trek, moet u in gedagte hou dat u dit gekies het.

Ons sal nie kinders, ouers en personeel aan gevaar blootstel deur nie die reëls te eerbiedig nie, ten spyte van sogenaamde verouderde inligting of regulasies. Gesels gerus met iemand wat 'n familielid verloor het of vir hul lewe moes veg a.g.v. Covid-19 en hoor hoe hulle voel oor mense wat nie die reëls eerbiedig nie en wat hulle dink van die onblusbare drang om te sosialiseer en om na die sogenaamde "normaal" terug te keer. Ek kan u verseker dat hul antwoorde alles in perspektief sal plaas. Bly liewer veilig, bly lewe en bly verantwoordelik.

"If you don't like something; change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." – Maya Angelou

Sonskyngroete
M DE VRIES
Skoolhoof

