HERITAGE
International School

THE INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE HERALD

December 11, 2020

GENERAL

Quote: *"Alone we can do little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller*

Director's weekly notes- "The view from Dacia Boulevard"

Winter definitely came to stay on Dacia Boulevard this week. The cold mornings at the school gate are a complete contrast to the decorations inside the school halls, canteen and classrooms. I am glad we have been able to find the way to ensure we have this joy and light into the school after a long year. My assembly this week looked at the celebrations around the World in December and the Christmas card entries show again. There is so much creativity and talent in our school. Well done everyone for taking this challenge and Mrs Elena and Miss Iulia for their organising. These cards will be a very welcome

season greetings to our partners in Moldova and around the World. As I walked along Stefan Cel Mare on Sunday, I noticed the large numbers announcing 2021 in the square where the artists used to gather and my thoughts lept to the hope for the coming year. In the interview I gave on Tuesday to Moldova.org about the new Lyceum, we spoke about hope for the coming year. Even with cases still at concerning levels in the wider society, it seems we can see a way through the next semester as our Grade 10s will be facing their IGCSEs as the first cohort and applicants to the new Lyceum. I have to single out Grade 10 and their teachers, for the way they have been working so hard this year and the role models they are for the rest of the school. It was nice to see them all back from isolation.

I had a leap back to January when I heard the Radio Free Europe I kept and broadcasted for a week as part of journalist Valentina Ursa's remarkable project capturing voices from Moldova. I listened, hardly believing the differences in the way we viewed life and the year ahead at the start of the year in contrast to now. The link is here in this newsletter. It was a real pleasure to be invited to speak to language teachers in the UK on Tuesday for Linguascope and it is just astounding to know the work brilliant teachers are doing and ensuring their students are outward facing global citizens. It is always a pleasure to connect from one end of Europe to another, especially to share the Heritage story. Our students were complimented on their international mindedness and activism on so many projects and also on their plurilingualism. It was one of the things I adore the most here at Heritage. As the old joke used to go, you can tell someone is not English when they speak it too well. I even demonstrated my developing Romanian in the canteen this week to grade 9s and our future acting star, Loredana Sandu. Her work on the light hearted drama Lost in Moldova premiered at the weekend and we are really proud of her achievement.

The weekly teaching and learning briefing looked at positive relationships in education and communication, especially as we get to these last couple of weeks of a very long semester. I have used the example a lot recently of how our human connections are sorely missed and those 5 minutes of conversations at the school gate or on reception at the end of the day often communicate so many things. We are all working hard to ensure we don't lose our community cohesive glue in the restrictions. The constructive online meetings we have had with parents show we won't and I highlight the brilliant parents of 4A and 3B for the partnerships demonstrated recently to solve issues, as an example of good, constructive collaboration. I have spoken to a number of people about educational paradigm shifts and as we have worked hard all semester to ensure our community has been able to stay returned to school, it is the very physicality of school and relationships that will come out of this crisis even more so valued. I am sure the robot teachers and the space schools on Mars are for the 2030s. Let's get through the 2020s first.

The role and importance of our wider Heritage community got rightly celebrated in the article I wrote for the winter edition of International School magazine. The link is below and again, I felt so proud to be able to share our wonderful story of hope, innovation and education fit for the challenges of the future, with the global audience of international schools. We have enough energy to get us all to the end of semester 1 and we will get there together as one school community. We know a new year is coming but we will finish this semester first, then rest and family for all of us, before we even look at the 2021 signs.

Rob Ford, Director

Please take time to have a look at supporting ChildAid, a charity in Eastern Europe supporting vulnerable children and families including the amazing work in the Tony Hawkes centre in Moldova (Child Aid picture here) - https://www.childaidee.org.uk/

Heritage in the news:

- International School Magazine - Heritage in the Winter 2020 edition with an article on the value of our wider community as an international school (photos and link pp24-25):
https://issuu.com/williamclarence/docs/is_nov20

The importance of the wider community

in developing opportunities in an international school

Rob Ford

Three dreaded words in organisations looking for something to motivate colleagues and build cohesion: Team Building Event! What made this problematic for me as a new director of a school was that this planned event had to settle international colleagues into Moldova and attempt to bridge the gap between them and local staff. Heritage International School, set up in 2017, was the first international school to be established in a part of Europe where networks are few and far between, and connections to develop everything from training to curriculum events take far more effort and thought than I was used to in the UK. Isolation for international schools, even those in well-established networks such as COBIS (the Council of British International Schools), CIS (the Council of International Schools), the International Baccalaureate, Cambridge Assessment International Education, or United World College groups, is a constant issue; being connected, sharing good practice and feeling less on your own as an international school. The event? Simple. We harvested grapes at a colleague's home, had lunch, made wine and bonded on a sunny September day. This August, even in the midst of Covid-19, we again spent a day in the beautiful countryside, only this time at a colleague's farm and beehives. All because we utilised the wider community to find an answer that had a strong positive impact.

Answers to developing wider connections, becoming less isolated and creating something that positively benefits education as an international school, are often nearer and less costly than we might think – if we utilise what already exists in our international school communities. Six simple steps are suggested for all international schools to consider:

1. Parents and carers: All parents want to help their school whatever the setting. In international schools there is a strong pull together for the common good and used effectively this can have a significant impact on connections to improve opportunities and education. For example, at Heritage, we wanted a focus on Stretch & Challenge learning, with an emphasis on giving our students real life experience in a range of careers. We put out a call to parents interested in contributing to our new Founders' Lecture series and as a result we have had diplomats, NGO heads and business leaders volunteer to speak with students, providing an impressive narrative to the wider curriculum. This year, the second series has already included the UK Ambassador to Moldova, His Excellency Mr Steve Fisher, speaking to students about Brexit, Europe and the role of an ambassador; as well as the Head of the UN in Moldova, Mr Simon Springett, on the 75th anniversary of the UN.
2. International organisations: The fantastic work of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in Moldova on Sustainable Development Goals made this an obvious international organisation to contact and explore ways in which our students could link their Science and Technology lessons to their work here, on everything from green energy to green technology. The UNDP were delighted to provide support, and there are numerous international organisations operating around the world that are happy to support learning in schools. Our Climate Change Action work has really grown, and we represented Moldova in October at the Global Showcase of schools for World Education Week.
3. Local schools: This may not seem obvious, but some of the most powerful connections for an international school are with local, national schools, collaborating on a range of educational projects. In Moldova and Eastern Europe, we are involved in the local English language association of teachers. We work together on global learning through networks including eTwinning and the British Council; we are involved in leadership fora, as well as in sporting and academic events: competitions such as debating and the World Scholar's Cup, for example. Recently, we hosted a technology and learning conference that brought educators together from all over the country, sharing good practice and all taking something positive away from the day.
4. Charities and social responsibility: For so many international schools it is a moral duty, and integral to their ethos, to support others. These connections also play a vital part in supporting schools' outward-facing mission. At Heritage, the Founders' mission for the school to develop a strong sense of social responsibility is realised through our links with and support of local charities such as the Areal animal centre in Chisinau, the centre for the prevention of human trafficking, and vulnerable children centres in Moldova. These links are about more than just abstract altruism; they are a key part of how we develop societal values of civic responsibility in these potential future leaders. This autumn, we are working with the Collaborate Red Box charity in Moldova for the school's PSHE curriculum and, in December, will support the Winter Food campaign for the Areal dog shelters.
5. The wider business community: perhaps obvious, but often under-utilised by many international schools. We are currently working with the National Bank of Moldova as a pilot scheme to develop financial literacy in the country, and this is supporting our wider curriculum. Radio Free Europe is interviewing staff for programmes that support their reporting of the country to show a fuller, reflective and less hackneyed approach towards Eastern Europe. The European Union is working with us to explore grants to support STEM education that will also support education in Moldova.
6. The diplomatic community: Last but not least, ambassador's love working with schools, and a range of embassies here in Chisinau have given so much time and support to us as an international school, from Chevening Scholars inspiring students, Mandarin teaching from the Confucius Institute, French language resources from Alliance Française, America House providing brilliant support, and the ever-wonderful British Council allowing the first ever UK school exchange to Moldova last November.

The key challenge for international school leaders and their communities is to stop thinking that they are an island in their national country and, instead, develop a wider outward-facing strategy of utilising connections that takes full advantage of being a global school in a local community. The impact will be transformative. We see clearly, in the Covid-19 crisis this year, the power of international schools and their communities collaborating globally in sharing ideas and solutions. We need hope right now in our schools, and to know that better things lie ahead in 2021; the power of education gives our community and young people that hope. As a school, you are never isolated when you immerse yourself in your local community. ◆

Rob Ford is Director of Heritage International School, Chisinau, Moldova
✉ robert.ford@heritage.md

- Radio Free Europe journal for 2019-20, Tatiana Popa and Rob Ford wrote and broadcast for this community project looking at life in Moldova in 2020. The book is now out and a huge thanks to the respected journalist, Valentina Ursa, for her support of our school. Rob Ford's RFE broadcast here: https://moldova.europalibera.org/a/30411273.html

-Robert Ford, Director of Heritage International School, discusses the new Cambridge pathway Lyceum: ***"There is nothing like this in Moldova, we are proud to be the first"***
https://www.moldova.org/en/robert-ford-director-of-heritage-international-school-discusses-the-new-cambridge-pathway-lyceum-there-is-nothing-like-this-in-moldova-we-are-proud-to-be-the-first/

- On Tuesday 15th Dec, our head of global education, Tatiana Popa, will be presenting to our Global School Alliance partners & a Worldwide audience, talking about our strategy and story for the pandemic crisis and it's impact on education in 2020.

-Heritage promotes proper masks wearing

- We are really proud of Heritage's and 9E1's very own Loredana Sandu for her starring acting performance in the light hearted drama "Lost in Moldova " now premiering on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVhypK8myC0

Articles of interest:

Where do Cambridge International students go to university and what do they study?

https://blog.cambridgeinternational.org/where-do-cambridge-international-students-go-to-university-and-what-do-they-study-a-look-at-key-trends-2017-to-2020/

The Globe *staff has published the December issue of the school newspaper. Please take a look at all the great content: a short story and poetry in the Literary Corner, artwork from Primary and Secondary, reflections on education, a karting student, a tech review, one student's experience playing the violin, and more. Then, be sure to compliment those students on their great work when you see them.*

Our Student Newspaper
The Heritage Globe
Click Below
https://sites.google.com/heritage.md/heritageglobe

Notes from Ms Elize

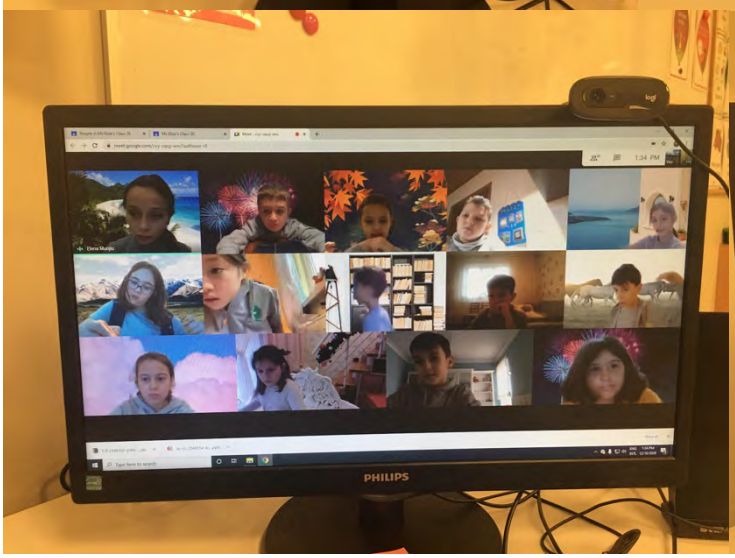
While Hybrid Learning and Distance Learning paved the way for education at Heritage during the pandemic, one often wonders about the lack of physical human connection. This connection between teachers, students and parents make up an integral part of our school community. Community, at its core, is a group of interconnected people that communicate with and relate to one another. When many of us think about our communities, we think of neighbours meeting up, friends gathered for a shared meal and co-workers working side by side on common challenges and Heritage parents and students gathering and getting together, sharing experiences and educational milestones.

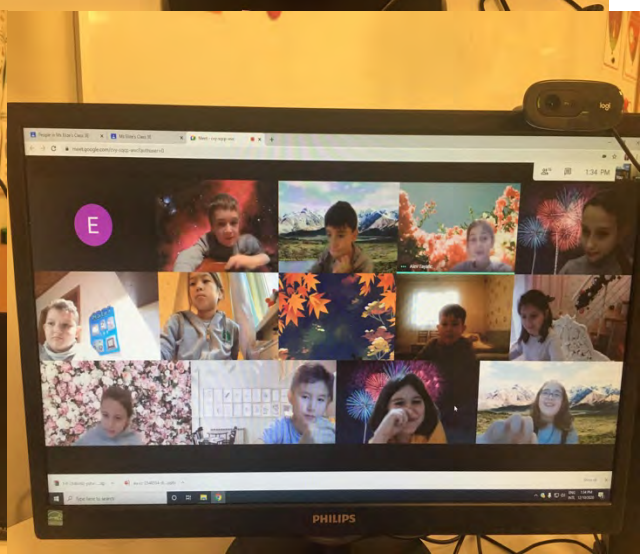
Our community may look different online, but its essence is the same. We are a community with compassion for others. During this pandemic we've all had experiences of loss for example the loss of plans or the loss of a job. Rather than mourn in isolation, our own losses can be invitations to grow in sensitivity for the daily realities of others. We are a community supporting each other and above all a community who celebrates each other accomplishments and victories, however big or small. This Holiday Season let's continue to celebrate Kindness Month through our compassion for each other.

*"More smiling, less worrying. More compassion, less judgment. More blessed, less stressed. More love, less hate."— **Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart***

Ms Vlada and 4B during recess. Taking a break, getting fresh and stretching our legs is important to be able to stay focused in class. What a better way to celebrate winter than some fun in the snow!

Whether in school or online there is always Love and Peace in 3E. Every morning we take time to greet each other during Morning Greeting time. We check in and give each other best wishes for the day. Sometimes we are also having a bit of fun. Technology is not only for learning we can also use it to have fun.

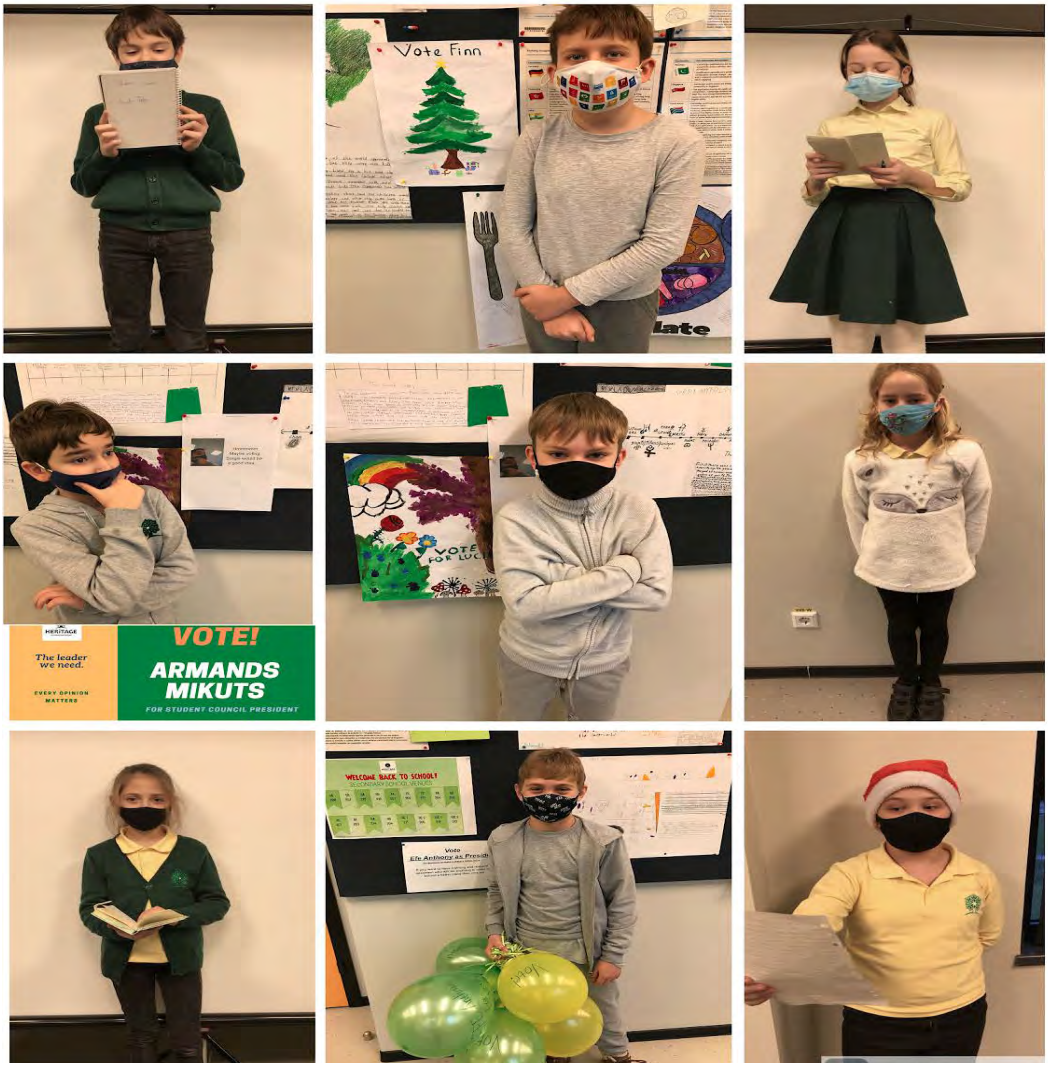




1A and Ms Ana have been very creative. They designed their Christmas Sweaters and did some amazing colouring!

Primary School Student Council:

Primary members of Student Council held elections on Friday, after a long week of making campaign signs, writing speeches, and recording videos. The level of creativity and passion, that having a voice in the Heritage community inspired, is genuinely incredible. I have full trust that these leaders will continue to make us here at Heritage proud, long after they have graduated!



News from Secondary:

*For the Founders Lecture series, we have the **Irish Ambassador based in Bucharest, HE Paul McGarry**, speaking to our students on **Wednesday, the 16th of December**, about Ireland's experience of migration and its path to economic development.*

For the second semester, we have two more speakers confirmed:

*- In January, **Martin Wilcox, the director of ChildAid for Eastern Europe**, will speak about how students such as ours can make a difference in their future by helping others by putting their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm into humanitarian charitable work. He will focus on some of the aspects of our work in Moldova and the wider region.*

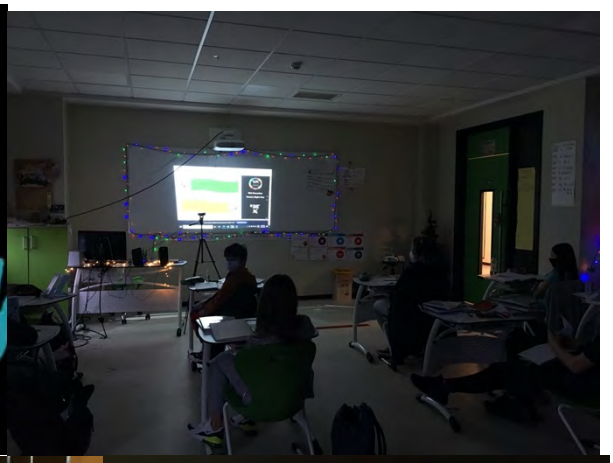
*- For February, we have the **Baroness Janet Royall of Blaisdon, who is a British Labour Co-operative Party politician**. She was Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council. She is the principal of Somerville College, Oxford. She will also have lots of interesting things to share with our students.*

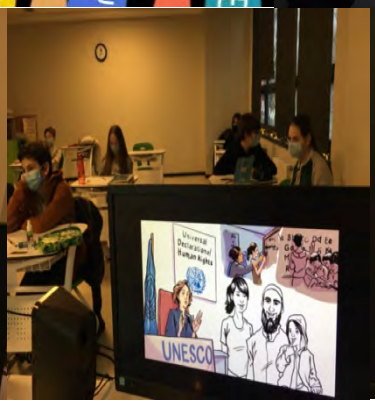
https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/news/transcript-of-jan-royalls-lecture-on-the-shoulders-of-giants-somervilles-women-pioneers/

Global Education:

Grade 6A celebrated the World Human Rights Day as part of 'Single Voices, Global choices' eTwinning project.

They read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, watched videos and discussed human rights globally. They also watched the documentary film 'The dark side of chocolate' in order to learn how human rights are respected in countries where cocoa beans are grown, especially they learned about children's rights and human trafficking.





Our Upper Secondary students started the IGCSE mock exams session today. They will test current ability in the subjects, identify their strengths & weaknesses and grow confidence and concentration. Mock exams are an excellent opportunity for our students to practice internationally standardised exam regulations and conduct. Practice makes perfect!

Our students enjoyed Christmas Sweater Day, our classes are decorated and our hearts are open, we really holiday mood! Our students were so inspired and enjoyed the day, they requested the next week to be a Christmas Sweater Week. Your child can wear Christmas sweater (or school uniform) and donate books, school supplies, toys or hygiene products, and anything else (except food or sweets) that you think will make the recipient happy. Let us try to make this Christmas special for kids who need our support. We collect Charity Shoe Box for the kids from the orphanage, do not forget to add a personal signed message and wrap the gift. The boxes will be collected in a specially marked place at Heritage reception.

Students are invited to produce a piece of art that reflects this year's competition theme, 'Connections'.

Our Art Competition is a fantastic opportunity for young artists to compete internationally and showcase their talents. The competition is open to all COBIS schools, including Applicant schools.

*Submissions will open on Wednesday 27 January and close at 3pm (GMT) on **Wednesday 24 February 2021**. Each school will be able to submit up to three entries per category listed below. Many schools choose to run an internal competition to select these entries.*

- *Early Years and Foundation Stage*
- *Key Stage 1*
- *Key Stage 2*
- *Key Stage 3*
- *Group Entries (all ages)*

Entries will be submitted via an online form. Full details about how to submit your students' entries will be made available on this webpage in January 2021.

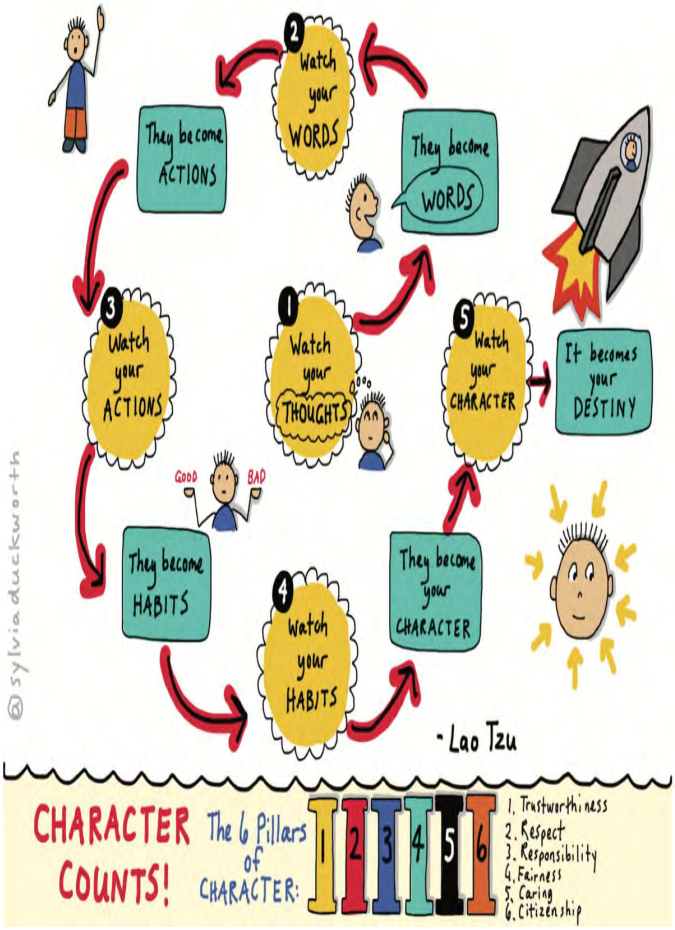
Winners and Prizes

The winners will be announced on our website and social media channels in April 2021. The winning entries will be published on our website and may feature at our Annual Conference in May 2021.

Discovery Education's student Coding Challenge *Children will gain a firm understanding of coding concepts like algorithms, sequences and variables – while practising computational thinking through problem-solving and the breaking down of tasks into logical steps. Using Discovery Education Coding, students will be guided through a sequence of activities to familiarise themselves with the platform and develop their coding skills - before unleashing their creativity to design their own app!*

*Students can work individually or in groups of up to four. There will be two challenges, one for **children aged 5-7** and one for **ages 7-12**.*

Black Sea Online Maths Cupon the 17th February 2021, *for Year 5 & Year 6 students (UK grades)-your Math teacher will provide the details, we will need to select 10 students to participate*



CARRIE FISHER

FRIDA KAHLO

HARRIET TUBMAN

ROSA PARKS

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

JOY HARJO

MARIE CURIE

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

AMELIA EARHART

KINDNESS CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 Share the Kindness Calendar with others and spread kindness	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today	5 Make a gift for someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about
7 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	11 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	12 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank	13 See how many different people you can smile at today
14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one	15 Contact an elderly neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Practice gratitude. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Give away something that you have been holding on to	19 Buy locally and support independent shops near you	20 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated
21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you	22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!	26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat
28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy	29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2021			

Let's look beyond our differences and help each other. Every act of kindness matters

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

#DoGoodDecember

www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/do-good-december

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind

Can/Should my child go to school today?

Is your child or anyone in the family being tested for Covid19 and displaying symptoms or have self isolated?	**Stay at home**, for 14 days, and inform the school immediately. Monitor symptoms and if any doubt see your medical health care provider for a test and further advice. Lessons will be from the Hybrid model. Inform the class teacher for advice about when you think you are returning safely from isolation. **Do not send into school if any doubt!**
A student in my child's class has tested positive, and the whole class have been kept in their isolation	The school will inform directly the families of the class, any siblings, to go home immediately and where the cluster may have been. To isolate, continuing on Distance Learning.
My child's teacher has gone home with symptoms/tested positive but has been practicing safe measures?	The class can stay in school, to be monitored, because the teacher has kept all safe measures. The class will have a substitute to continue learning if the teacher is not able to teach remotely. Any issues with learning contact the Head of Primary (for primary) or the Hybrid Learning Coordinator or Academic Director.
Will the whole school community be informed each time there is a case or a suspected case?	No. We update our central track and trace spreadsheet continually. The classes are operating in isolation bubbles, the school is deep cleaned several times daily, students are using outdoor spaces and getting fresh air in classes in school and therefore this avoids transmission clusters across the classes. We are working with those directly affected immediately and keep the community informed weekly.
When/if will the school move onto a DLP and how long is this likely?	The country is now on RAG zones of danger from the 1st Oct and we liaise with the public authorities at all times on cases, numbers, operational safety and any developments. The DLP remains immediately operational at all times in the event of the school closing for a few weeks as case numbers are steadied and we can return to physical school. This will likely be the pattern of 2020-21.
What to look for?	**If you are in any doubt, do not allow your child to come to school. The three main symptoms to watch for are:** **1. a high temperature: any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to necessarily measure the temperature)** **2. a new continuous cough: coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours** **3. a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste: a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal**

If one of the students is tested positive with Covid-19, the whole class will be quarantined for 14 days. ***Siblings*** *do need to be in isolation as well.*

*For all the children who are in quarantine parents should fill in the e**pidemiological form:*** *https://forms.gle/Qk1DBdfa4BykX8Gq9 All the information provided will be sent to the Public Health Center.*

Necessary documentation for returning to school:

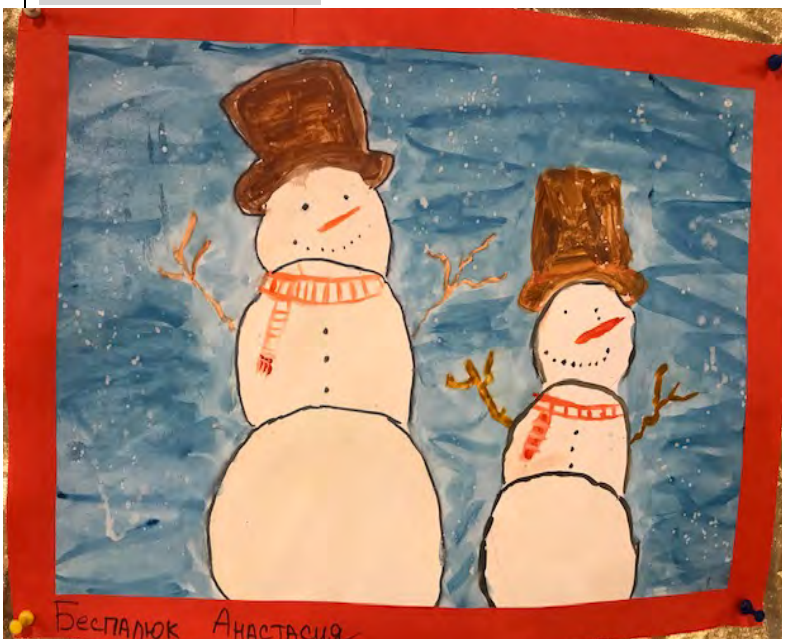
Before returning to school after the quarantine period, parents should present to classroom teacher the ***Declaration***

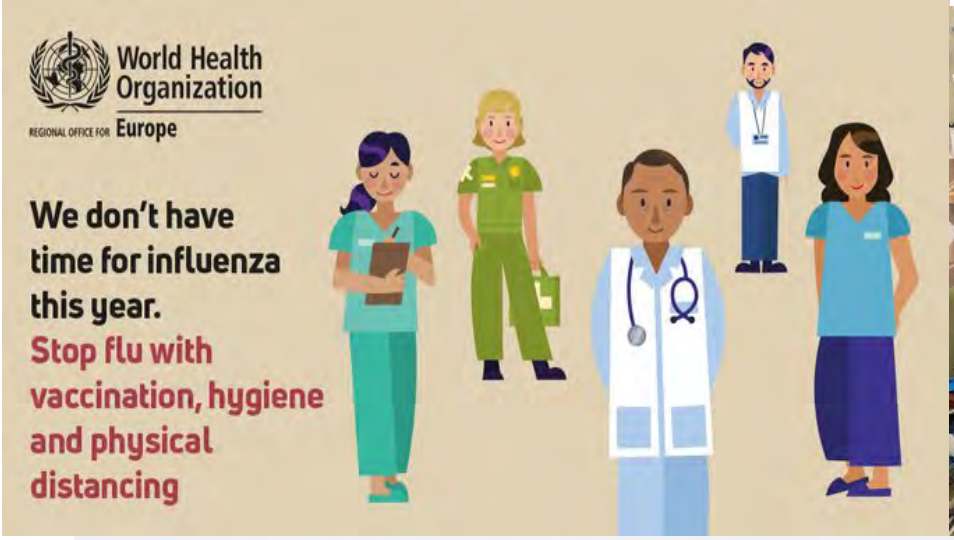
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1J0WBrE37gjfOQHJAXY3UR0DG_klSi7wc?q=owner:iute%40mail.ru

For children who have been tested positive with Covid-19 and in case of any disease, for return to school it is mandatory to present the ***medical certificate*** *with the 3 stamps, as a confirmation that the child can attend groups of children.*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

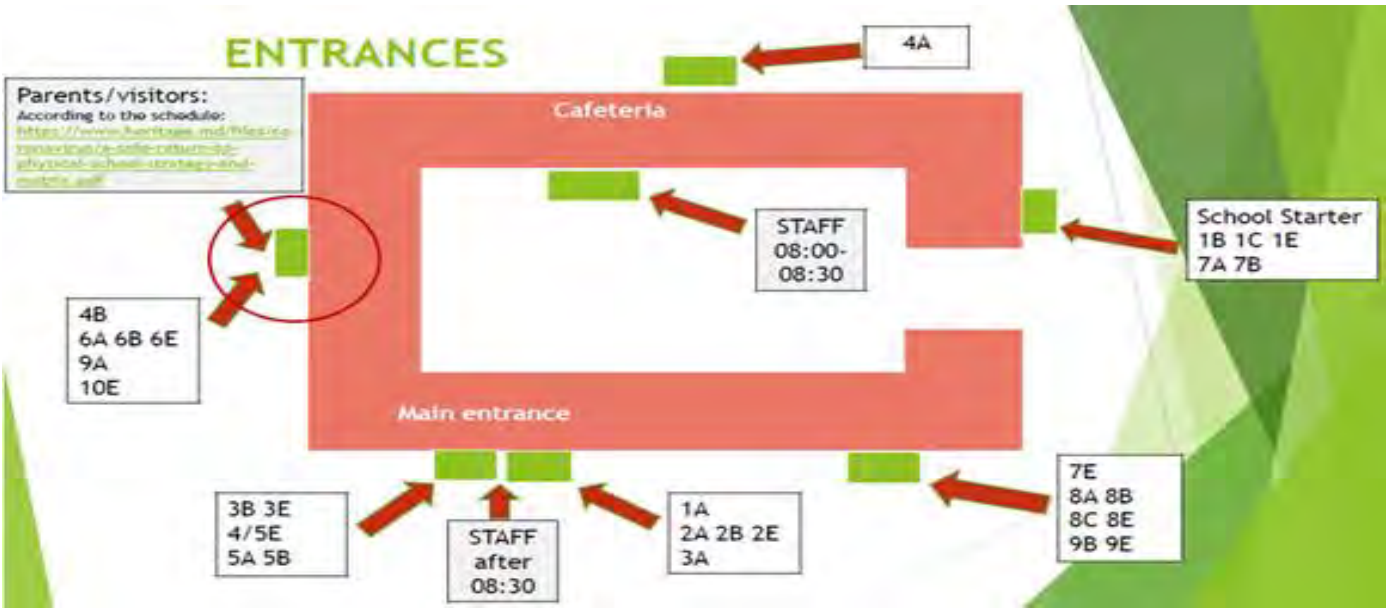
14th-18th December 2020	*Christmas Jumper Week*
16th December, Wednesday.3p.m.	*4th Founders' Lecture:HE Paul McGarry, Ambassador of Ireland to Moldova "The success of small countries in a global World"*
18th December 2020	*School Christmas lunch*
21st-24th December 2020	*Winter Adventures Week*
11th January 2021	*Semester 2 return date*

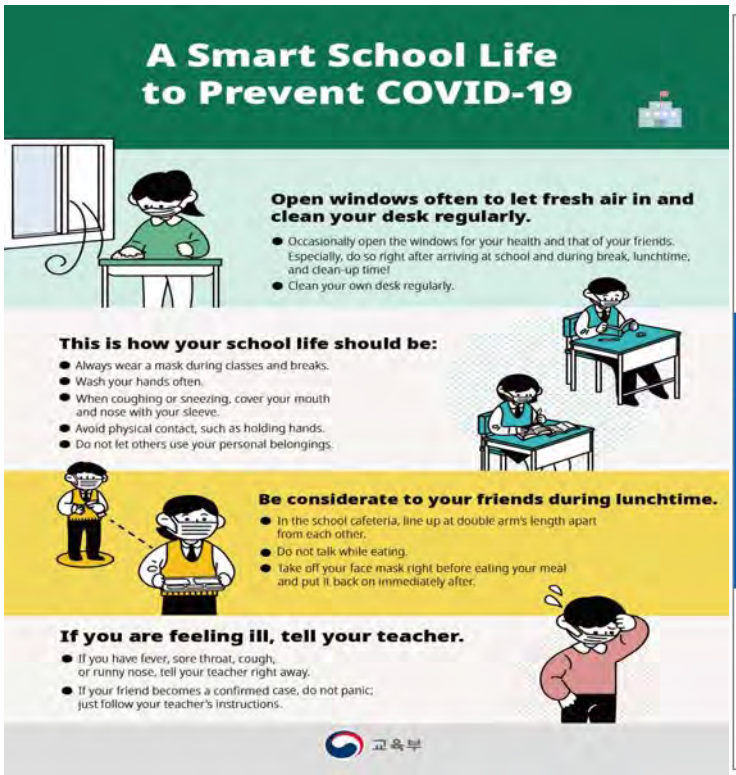




Six things NOT to do when wearing a face covering

- DO NOT use if damaged or damp
- DO NOT wear it around chin
- DO NOT wear loose-fitting mask
- DO NOT pull away from face to speak
- DO NOT touch front of mask
- DO NOT share your mask





MAIN CONTACTS

Director: director@heritage.md
Academic/Secondary School inga.chiosa@heritage.md
Primary School: elize.morin@heritage.md
International: international@heritage.md
Family Liaison Officer: diana.pulbere@heritage.md
School psychologist: olesea.pletniov@heritage.md
Head of English Department: liliana.pulbere@heritage.md
ESL Cambridge primary: larisa.mirza@heritage.md
Absences: school.absences@heritage.md
Buses/meals: tatiana.arnautu@heritage.md
Hybrid Learning Coordinator: tatiana.popa@heritage.md

Follow Heritage on social media: FB (@heritage.moldova) Webpage (www.heritage.md) Twitter(@HIS_Moldova

Cambridge Assessment International Education
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BRITISH COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

eTwinning SCHOOL 2020-2021

ipc INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY CURRICULUM

Global School Alliance MEMBER