HERITAGE
International School

THE INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE HERALD

March 27, 2020

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"What Lies Behind Us and What Lies Before Us Are Tiny Matters Compared to What Lies Within Us."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

GENERAL

Notes from the Lighthouse:

I read from a colleague this week that teaching was fundamentally about connecting. As we come to the end of two weeks now on our Distance Learning Plan, we are refining the learning and everyone is adjusting to our "new normal" as we are discovering as a community how we adjust to the restrictions placed on us by the lockdown to slow down the spread of Covid19 so we can continue to connect, learn and still be a school cohesive community. It's been a week of numbers and statistics. I read this week numbers that made me realise the national and global community we belong to; for example, the 15000

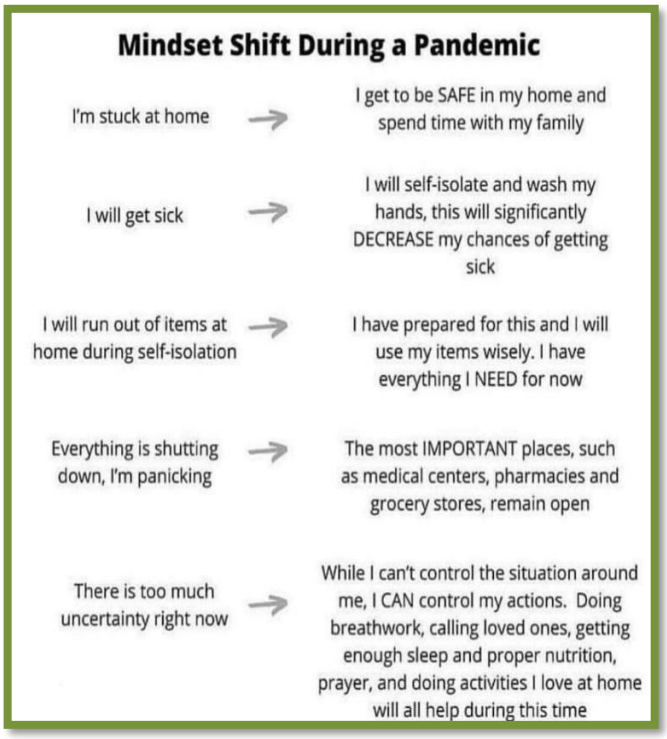
Moldovan teachers who have now seen the webinar on distance learning and have been trained by our colleague Tatiana Popa, for the Ministry of Education, on real, interactive distance learning, and not just a platform to post tasks. We have also trained over 300 schools in Europe and the USA on our distance learning plan. This is real meaningful hope as we connect as an education community and make real solutions, by educators and school leaders for learning to continue and to avoid the false panaceas that are inevitably cropping up. The word "Hope" has been used a lot this week around the World in school communities as parents and schools work together to ensure our children are given hope that this will not last forever and we can make the situation work through our resilience and fortitude. It is also making us realise our place in the World and the importance we attach to the things that make up our lives. I don't mind sharing this but as those wonderful "rainbows of hope" from the Sure Starters and the Primary school arriving by email to share with schools around the World doing the same, I did have a moment of a few years, but tears of joy, at the strength, values and character of our Heritage students. I took the theme of "Home" this week for my Gymnasium assembly to illustrate that a fundamental concepts such as where we live is much more than bricks and mortar. Although with the new restrictions announced on the 25th March with all public places now out of use, we need the value of patience in our confined homes as well to get through the lockdown. UNESCO statistics released this week shows that nearly 80% of students around the World are not in school now because of Covid19, that is 138 countries and 1.37billion children and their families. I read the powerful words of the New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Arden and will share them here to illustrate how all citizens around the globe are adjusting to ensure we can end this sooner and get back to our lives. Lives that perhaps will have changed for the better after these times we are all sharing & connecting better now. Keep one another safe, stay home & positive and keep learning; Rob Ford

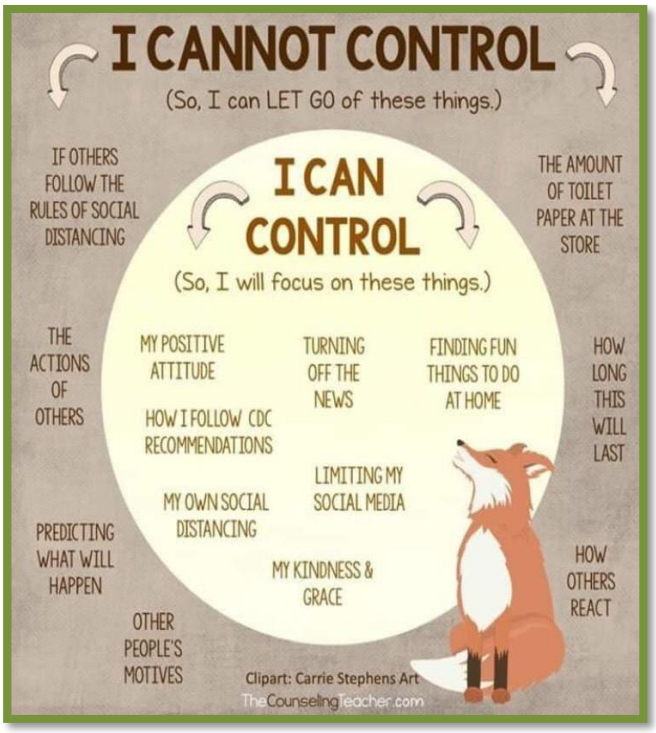
"Everything you will all give up for the next few weeks, all of the lost contact with others, all of the isolation and difficult time entertaining children; it will literally save lives"
Jacinda Arden, New Zealand PM.

Heritage changing education in Moldova - The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research has approved the "Methodology regarding the distance continuation of the educational process under quarantine conditions" in the general education:
https://mecc.gov.md/ro/content/ministerul-educatiei-culturii-si-cercetarii-aprobat-metodologia-privind-continuarea-la

Heritage International School in the News: We are featured in an article in the educational magazine, April edt, of "Independent Schools" on wellbeing and our new 'Oak Centre' - link here pp51-54; https://flickread.com/edition/html/5e78986fae35b#51

Rainbows spreading cheer! Pictures of rainbows have started springing up in windows after schools closed in response to the coronavirus outbreak:
https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-51988671





FAQs:

Q1: Teachers should be using this method or this tool in their lessons; students need more lectures, memorisation of facts...

A1: Student and parental feedback is really important, especially after the first two weeks of establishing the DLP, getting into routines and refining the model. We would ask for patience on issues around connectivity, expecting either constant face to face time or less face to face time, for example. Methodology such as what tools, how long a teacher is speaking for; in this new normal, my colleagues are adjusting to a whole new pedagogy using online distance learning. With the restrictions and lockdown, we are fortunate enough to have used the little time we had wisely, to take an entire school over to the DLP and train in the time we had. We meet every Wednesday as a staff in sections to go through what is working and what we need to improve and that is from our own student voice and the leadership team daily visiting lessons. We also have a Teaching and Learning briefing presentation recorded that follows up afterwards. Trust and confidence in our teachers to do their professional roles is everything, especially now, and we will always listen to ideas and

suggestions but ultimately as a strategic and operational responsibility as educational professionals to lead the school and carry out its core function. A lay person seeing a classroom operate, the interactions, the pedagogy of learning, forms only an opinion and there are 350 valid opinions in our school that all inform the process of the educational professionals to decide, lead and teach the students of Heritage International School. No child is alike, we all learn in different ways and teachers use the pedagogy that works for them within the framework of the high professional teaching standards underpinning our education here. We are lucky to have the teachers we have at this school, especially right now and we are very proud of them ensuring our students continue to access meaningful, interactive education.
Email DLP Coordinator if you need support: lynda.smith@heritage.md

Q2: What is going to happen with the rest of the calendar events for this academic year?
A2: We have already said our advertised Open House cannot go ahead but we are planning to have a "Virtual Open House" in May because of the increased amount of families wanting to see and potentially join the school. World Scholar's Cup has been postponed and we have taken the decision that it is extremely unlikely we will be back in school for Sports Day. Plus the restrictions of gathering when they are lifted will more than likely be lifted gradually. We are looking at how to run a virtual online sports day so watch this space. We are more optimistic about Summer Camp and we are going ahead to look at this for the end of June/July and into August. Parents are contacting the school daily to raise issues or pass on thanks but after the Easter break, we are looking at organising forum for parents to get involved, along the lines of the coffee morning, and academic meetings.

Q3: If we cannot move around the city and even get into the building how do we pay fees for next year?
A3: We are going to have an online payment facility developed on the website which will solve this but we are currently looking at several web design firms that allows us to do this. Contact Marina, our chief accounting officer, on any related issues and as a school community, we recognise the additional pressures this is putting everyone under. Email - contabil.sef@heritage.md

Q4: Is everyone doing ok?
A4: Great question. The hardest challenge we have is our cohesion as a school community and adjusting to what we have had to respond to very quickly, especially as even now the parameters keep changing to in the lockdown restrictions and how we all stay connected. To go back to Answer 1, we all need a lot of patience and understanding of the realities this unprecedented crisis has created. Remaining hopeful, positive and finding solutions, all for the sake of our children is where we are at the end of Week 2 on the DLP. There are lots of cohesive methods we are seeing from other schools that are working but the majority of teachers and support staff energies right now is making sure we have quality learning and the time needed to plan, train, prepare and teach on the DLP, a new experience, is taking a lot of time. Our Hong Kong colleagues tell us it gets easier. We don't have time to argue semantics on a lot of issues right now, such as what platform we are using, and the community might be unaware that Moldova didn't even have the Order to allow distance learning until the school shared its own online safety policy with the Ministry and worked

with them and advised them to make sure the whole country could move onto this and distance learning. We need to be patient with each other and look out for each other. Mrs Olesea has sent out some great resources and advice already on wellbeing and is also available in her role as school psychologist. Advice and tips here greatly welcome from the whole community.

Useful articles for home:

How Bad Times Bring Out the Best in People (Harvard Business Review) https://hbr-org.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/hbr.org/amp/2020/03/how-bad-times-bring-out-the-best-in-people

Dave the Dog is worried about coronavirus (good for younger children) https://nursedottybooks.com/dave-the-dog-is-worried-about-coronavirus-2/?fbclid=IwAR2xzx5IPUaVRZ506wnQKyq-e1vdJ8KZtEpLeXF2AVoROsNfmNJIGbnOGus

How to Help Kids Understand Coronavirus During Distance Learning
https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/55625/how-to-help-kids-understand-coronavirus-during-distance-learning

Audible Stories | Audible.com
https://stories.audible.com/start-listen

10 museums: virtual tours and online collections.
1.Pinacoteca di Brera di Milano https://pinacotecabrera.org
2. The Uffizi Gallery in Florence https://www.uffizi.it/mostre-virtuali
3. Vatican Museums, Rome http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/it/collezioni/catalogo-online.html
4.National Archaeological Museum of Athens https://www.namuseum.gr/en/collections/
5. Prado Museum,Madrid https://www.museodelprado.es/en/the-collection/art-works
6. Louvre Museum, Paris https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne
7. The British Museum, London https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection
8.The metropolitan Museum of Art, New York https://artsandculture.google.com/explore
9. Hermitage Museum ,Saint Petersburg https://bit.ly/3cJHdnj
10. The National Gallery of Art, Washington https://www.nga.gov/index.html

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#WakeUpWednesday

10 TOP TIPS

REMOTE LEARNING FOR CHILDREN

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For students, it's the perfect way to ensure they still get the education they need, despite not being at school. However it also requires a level of discipline and careful planning. That's why we've created this guide to help pupils understand different aspects of remote learning and to support them in ensuring their experience is as safe and secure as it can be.

1) Treat remote learning the same as classroom learning

Despite being at home, it's important to remember the same rules apply as being in the classroom, particularly in respect of behavior and conduct. Focus on learning and don't get distracted by your surroundings.

2) Use classroom language

If you are encouraged to communicate through emails and online messages, don't use shorthand text speak and write as though you would speak in class. Remember to be respectful and polite and avoid positing negative comments or spamming the chat.

3) Take regular screen breaks

Whilst remote learning might be an exciting experience to begin with, having prolonged periods of time in front of a screen isn't always healthy. Remember to have regular screen breaks where possible and in your spare time, try to get some fresh air and enjoy other activities away from electronic devices.

4) Always conduct video learning in an open space at home

To get the best experience from remote learning, it's important to create the right environment around you. Try to set up a mock 'classroom desk' at home in an open space so parents can supervise if necessary. Avoid bedrooms as this could be considered inappropriate.

5) Only communicate through approved school portals and platforms

It's important that you send messages and any pictures or images required for class through approved school channels, such as internal learning portals or approved platforms. This will help to keep your personal information safe and secure.

6) Stick to teacher rules and guidelines around online learning

Your school should issue you with guidance around remote learning and the rules to follow. Always maintain classroom behaviour and try to remember that you are in a learning environment and not a social setting.

7) Dress in school uniform

As part of your learning environment, try to maintain school uniform/dress. This will help as part of replicating classroom learning in the home. Try to avoid wearing anything too casual as this could be deemed inappropriate for school.

8) Don't share passwords or other sensitive information

In order begin your online lessons or to gain access to learning materials, you may be provided with login details and passwords. In the same way you keep your personal details private, always keep these safe and never share them with others.

9) Don't use school platforms to discuss personal matters

It's important to keep your school communication channels separate from your own personal communication with friends and family. Don't be tempted to engage in casual discussions or send images, videos or links via official school apps or platforms that aren't associated with your learning.

10) Look after your mental health and wellbeing

Remote learning ultimately means working alone and missing out on daily social interaction with your friends. If you ever feel frustrated, low or sad, it's important to discuss how you feel with your parents or your teacher. Keeping in touch with friends over the phone or on social media can also help to keep your spirits up.

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10 TOP TIPS
REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.

2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.

3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.

4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teacher's will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.

5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.

6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.

7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.

8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.

9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feed-back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.

10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Based on the provision of the Commission for Exceptional Situations of the Republic of Moldova, the period 30 March-03 April 2020 has been declared as days off. Based on this, in accordance with the Disposition of Ministry if Education, the educational process, including distance learning will be cancelled in all public and private schools.

În conformitate cu Dispoziția Comisiei pentru Situații Excepționale, perioada 30 martie- 03 aprilie 2020 au fost declarate zile de odihnă. În acest context, în baza Circularei Ministerului Educației, în perioada 30 martie-03 aprilie 2020 va fi stopat procesul educațional, inclusiv învățământul la distanță in toate instituțiile de stat si private.

В соответствии с Положением Комиссии по чрезвычайным ситуациям дни с 30 марта по 3 апреля 2020 года были объявлены выходными. В этом контексте, согласно приказу Министерства образования, в период с 30 марта по 3 апреля 2020 года будет приостановлен образовательный процесс, в том числе дистанционная форма образования во всех частных и государственных школах.

On Monday the teachers will set the tasks for the students:

- *extra reading tasks;*
- *independent activities;*
- *creative projects;*
- *cognitive development activities;*
- *virtual tours;*
- *recommended resources;*
- *mind challenges;*

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