HERITAGE
International School

THE INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE HERALD

May 22, 2020

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

"Just living is not enough… one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower."

Hans Christian Andersen

"The best thing one can do when it's raining is to let it rain"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

GENERAL

Notes from the Lighthouse

Dear Teachers,
We hope you are keeping well and trying to remain positive and motivated during these unusual times.With all the children of the world out of school, including here in Moldova, your distance learning programs are vital for not only their academic health but also more importantly their emotional health. We thank you, dear Educators, for your huge undertaking during the most difficult of times. You are part of the front line heroes that the world genuflects daily. Our Ambassador, HE Paul McGarry, was very impressed

with you when he met you all in February and would like to catch up and see how you and the students are getting on and to see what you are all doing during the lock-down.

Kind Regards, Suzanne;
Dr Suzanne O'Connell, Honorary Consulate of Ireland to Moldova

One of the 3am thoughts that goes around my mind, is a point made by a commentator at the start of this crisis about the very concept of a globalised society being very fragile as a result of this unprecedented pandemic and what we have all endured and experienced across the World for 2020 so far. Borders being closed down, schools closed, factories, shops, restaurants, transport stopped, words and phrases we didn't use a few months ago like "lock-down", "physical distancing" and "pandemic" crop up in daily conversations. the fascinating, at times scary debate, around when we should open back up our societies, connect again with neighbours and the World, are still questions without real answers as scientists grapple for a vaccine but also the agenda now too as we all return to a strange form of normal with so many questions left unanswered for the future hopefully to have a resolution. The few first months of this new decade have challenged us, frightened us and forced us all into a paradigm mind shift about the World and the certainties we thought we once knew that would see us through the new decade of the 2020s. There are many purposes to education and for me one of the central purposes of education is the certainty and hope it gives us in uncertain times, especially for our young people as our core role as teachers is to help them make sense of their world through the values passed onto us by our teachers, families and communities. I read a quote by the 19th century American philosopher, William James, this week that said "The greatest weapon against stress is our ability to choose one thought over another". As I reflect upon this penultimate week of this extraordinary academic year in the late May sunshine, two things struck me; one, our globalised society is definitely not fragmented and two, the paradigm mind shift and certainties are more closely linked than I first thought.

On Saturday, in a groundbreaking first for Heritage, Moldova and definitely for me, we held our first ever virtual Open House, complete with 360 tour (BBC accent polished as well as can be from the Marches of Shropshire and Wales), video and live talk with a Q&A for new families. It was really extraordinary with over 2500 watching at the end so I know for definite the audience wasn't just my family and friends. It was a great example of how we have continued to find answers and solutions to take on Covid19 such as the incredible distance learning plan we have been operating a fully functioning open school on since mid March without missing a day of real learning, interaction and meaningful education for every child in our community. A model of education and a solution that inspired our country as we supported the development of the national education community. My heartfelt thanks to Tatiana Arnautu and her team, and the wonderful QUBO, for making virtual Open House possible and providing such a platform for so many new families wanting to join us in September and be a part of the Heritage story and our innovative international school. Real hope for the future! Hope also came this week from Europe & the Celtic World on the other side of Europe from the beautiful lands of Ireland and Wales. On Monday, our young people shared the messages of peace and goodwill around the World, with the young people of Wales, as they shared their hope that they will make the World a better place for their generation and the generations to come. On Wednesday, it was a real joy to work with the Irish Embassy

again and the message from Dr O'Connell here to the education community of Moldova recognising the remarkable work of teachers in all of this crisis delivering daily lessons, from their own homes, using their electricity, resources, often with their own families around them, is fully appreciated and shared in her words. It is something we can all be proud of and this inspirational story of our school and Moldova was shared with colleagues around the World this week as our head of international education, Tatiana Popa, represented Moldova on the panel and as a speaker, at a major online British Council global education conference to talk about our educational model to hundreds of teachers and school leaders from around the World. This is how we succeed in adversity and Tatiana spoke for our entire school community and our country a message of hope and fortitude of how we find our solution to this crisis.

With our celebration of our International week next week, our Founders' Day on the 28th May and our International day to mark the end of the academic year in celebration, being proud of who we are, knowing who we are and where we are in an interconnected globalised society that still needs answers to big issues like climate change, inequalities and social justice, we know our World will be changed after Covid19 but in a positive, hopeful, reflective and meaningful way as we all find understanding from this time and what the lessons are we take forward into our ongoing globalised new decade and century.

Rob Ford, Director

Heritage in the media:

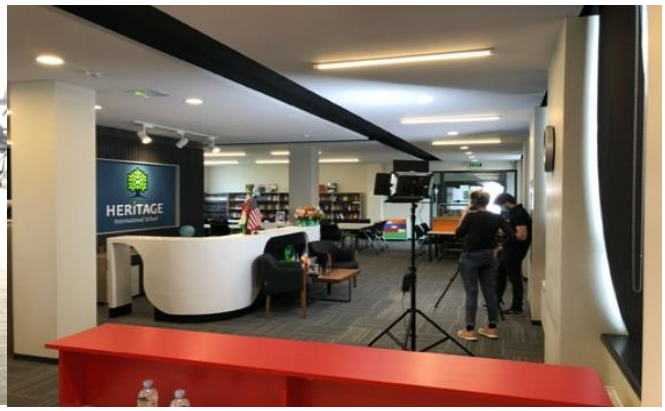
During this period of remote learning, the Heritage team is happy to continue to support families in choosing the best education for their child. We have taken all the best elements of our ***Open House*** *and moved them online! The Virtual Open House at Heritage took place on Saturday, May 16th,2020.*
All interested families were warmly invited to connect with us for a virtual event to discover a world of opportunities at the only Cambridge School in the country and to learn more about the rewarding international education we can offer the children in Moldova.

All 3 sessions of the Virtual Open House are presented below:

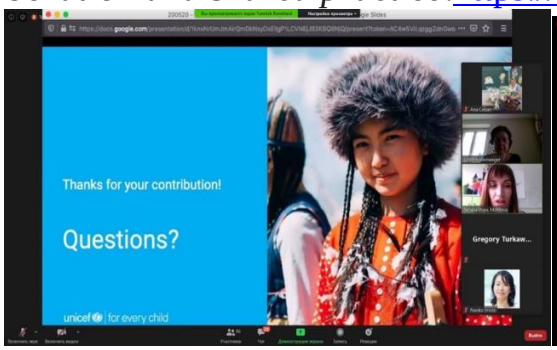
- A virtual 360-degree Campus Tour. A good opportunity to discover the wonderful facilities and see where children could receive global education across the broad international curriculum. The virtual tour gives an in-depth overview of different areas of the school, through an immersive 360-degree experience.

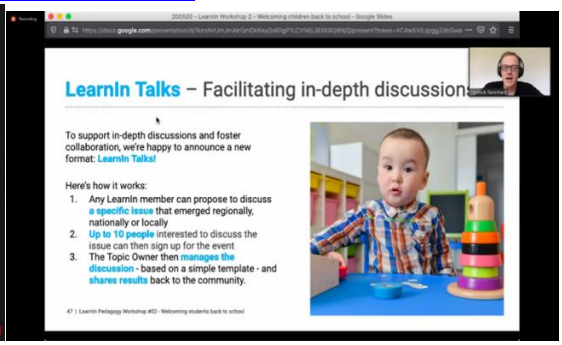
- Short webinars with the Senior Leadership Team. This is a good chance to learn more about the bespoke nature of our school and its unique approach to learning, as well as the opportunities available for all children from Pre-school through to Lyceum.

- The LIVE Q&A Session with the Heritage Director and Academic Director.

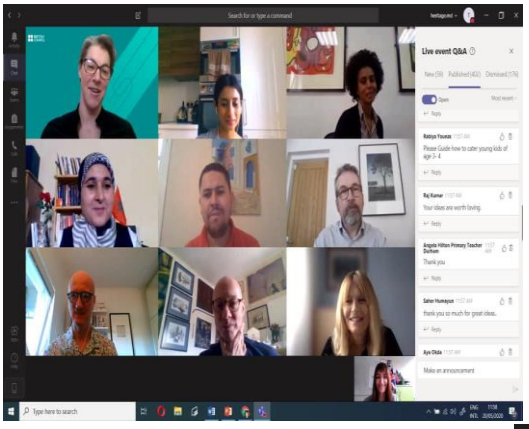


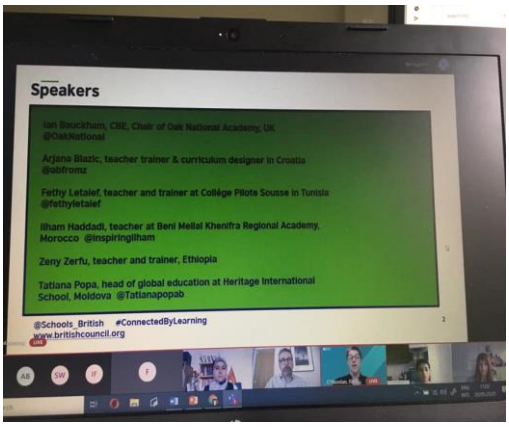
*As part of the National Task Force for Pedagogy, Tatiana Popa took part in a regional UNICEF webinar, reporting about the webinar she delivered on Tuesday in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research on national level, to inform teachers about the LearnIn educational platform. UNICEF, in partnership with Zurich University of Teacher Education PHZH, is launching LearnIn - a digital learning initiative designed to support both teachers and students as life-long learners. LearnIn will provide quality, personalized and culturally relevant learning opportunities within a digital environment, fostering collaboration and shared practice.*https://learnin.info/

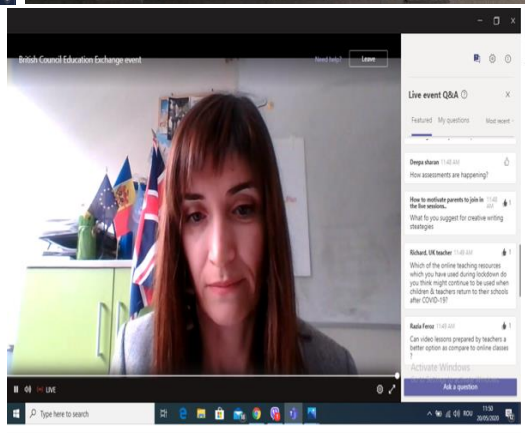




With many school buildings closed, remote learning could mean website, app, text, phone, radio or TV broadcast. How are teachers responding to this challenge in different contexts? On Wednesday, May 20th, the British Council organised an online panel event, with speakers from around the world, followed by questions from the audience. Tatiana Popa,our Head of Global Education, was one of the 6 presenters to an audience of 1200 attendees. Heritage Internation School shared its experience in delivering top-class teaching and learning during lockdown.







Heritage International School teachers featuring on the front cover of International School magazine

Summer | Winter | 2020 | Volume 22 | Issue 3

is International School

The magazine for international educators

Developing a positive school culture

Focus on second language learners | Saluting our frontline teachers in the fight against pandemic

'A smooth sea never made a skilful sailor'

Rob Ford explains why creating a positive school culture is the key to a successful international school

Even before the chimes of clocks around the world fell silent, heralding in the new year and new decade, some colleagues of mine in international schools around the world were looking ahead to the first day back with trepidation at what they may face in the new term as school leaders. Reflecting on the journey of any school, the distance that can be covered in a short space of time cannot be overestimated for genuine school improvement in diverse contexts with a clear strategy anchored in the establishment of a positive school culture. No school stays at the top forever, and as

Our true sense of urgency is to get our schools to be high-performing in everything they do, and the only way that will happen is when all staff are working towards this goal.

contexts change and education becomes more complex as we go into the new decade of the 2020s, the challenge for international school leaders is accepting uncertainty as the norm – and the way in which we respond to change is crucial. It can range from falling rolls, a cycle of poor results, fundamental and frequent changes in the school leadership and ownership, an untenable financial deficit, unstable national/regional contexts, recruitment crisis of staff; and the list goes on. It reads like a horror story for potential school leaders, especially those looking at leaving their national system to work in the international school system. But the challenge can also be the motivation.

It is the strength of the school community as a whole, but in particular the staff, that moves a school forward and allows a foundation to be built that permits any new Leadership Team to tackle the fundamental issues I have just described. Creating a 'positive school culture', coupled with learning that is rooted firmly in a World Class 21st Century approach, is a systemic process with stability as the only way forward. There are always plenty of curveballs and steep learning gradients to climb along the way, but empowering our colleagues to be leaders is central to this success. John Kotter has published frequently on the notion of 'urgency' in addressing issues head-on. Big changes cannot happen without it, but there

is a need to focus our efforts in order to avoid what Kotter also calls 'a false sense of frenetic urgency' rather than a 'true sense of urgency'. Our true sense of urgency is to get our schools to be high-performing in everything they do, and the only way that will happen is when all staff are working towards this goal. In an article for the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Leah Shafer (2018) asked what makes a good school culture, and quoted the work of Ebony Bridie-Mitchell: *'A culture will be strong or weak depending on the interactions between people in the organization. In a strong culture, there are many overlapping and cohesive interactions, so that knowledge about the organization's distinctive character — and what it takes to thrive in it — is widely spread.'*

The only way we can take any school forward is by building capacity in our staff – in the leaders with the formal titles, and particularly in those without. A well-executed and properly targeted quality assurance system is a key part of building capacity in individuals. I witnessed, and was part of, the leadership of such a QA system and approach in my former school in Royal Wootton Bassett, UK. In 2011, because of this work, the school became the first and only school to obtain 27 'outstandings' in 27 Ofsted national inspection categories. Canadian writer Michael Fullan (2015) says this about accountability:

'Accountability assumes that the most important thing to do is to make sure that a person down below acts in line with direction or criteria passed down by someone higher up. It is often understandable (but wrong) to conclude that because the education system often lacks focus, we must tighten it with strong direct accountability. At best, carrot and sticks work only in the short term, and always become dysfunctional in the middle to long terms, as Daniel Pink (2009) has convincingly shown in his book 'Drive', an examination of motivation … my colleagues and I have shown time and time again that if you give people skills (invest in capacity building), they will become accountable … tighten the screws and they will game the system … In short, accountability is achieved through targeted capacity-building rather than directly'.

It is implicit that professionalism and professional responsibilities underpin our organisations and structures:

The only way we can take any school forward is by building capacity in our staff – in the leaders with the formal titles, and particularly in those without.

At some point, any school in turbulent seas need to move from a 'vicious cycle' to a 'virtuous cycle' if they are to move forward and control their future as a school.

professional courtesy, compliance with duties and tasks, relevant standards, and so on. In order to develop an organisation where leadership is distributed, professional capacity building in individuals is targeted. Where there is a sense of common purpose and the only deciding factor in leadership conversations and decisions is 'what is for the good of the school?', we need to trust and devolve more, not less. This does not happen by chance, and is due partly to a positive school culture but also to a targeted strategy aimed at getting staff to want to offer more discretionary effort.

Doug Lemov's blog 'Teach like a Champion', and many of his recent thoughts shared through his social media channels, have resonated. Lemov once tweeted Monet's 'resistance is always proportional to the scale of change being attempted' and has concurred with UK headteacher Katharine Birbalsingh's premise that 'The Head/LT's main focus should not be the kids, but the staff. Happy staff means happy kids'. This is what we are working towards with our staff as leaders. Every external verifier will question variability in leadership standards as a key thread to pull as a school priority. We may have to model and scaffold the steps sometimes, but ultimately their ownership of their QA, their learning areas or faculties, and the raising of standards and attainment linked to where a school wants to be, can only be achieved by building their individual capacity. Taking fear, capriciousness and inequity out of any school with a consistently positive school culture allows leaders to tackle fundamental structural weaknesses across any school. I am yet to see the leadership strategy or philosophy that says fear and metaphorically bashing the staff over the head regularly will improve outcomes in the medium and long terms.

At some point, any school in turbulent seas need to move from a 'vicious cycle' to a 'virtuous cycle' if they are to move forward and control their future as a school. Leaders lead and direct this climate as a Leadership Team, and honesty in dialogue and discussions is always central to the way we achieve our aims because we are all motivated by making decisions that can only be for the good of the school. International school leaders entering the new decade with apprehension would be wise to ensure that the schools we lead are built on positive cultures, and that the challenges which inevitably arise in any country and context are not the rocks we are driven onto in rough seas, but the ones we navigate safely as a team – with a common purpose permeating the entire wider community as we chart a course for smoother waters.

References

Fullan M (2015) *The Principal: three keys to maximizing impact*, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass

Kotter J P (2008) A Sense of Urgency, Boston, MA: Harvard Business Press.

Shafer L (2018) *What Makes a Good School Culture?* Available via: https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/18/07/what-makes-good-school-culture

Rob Ford is Director of Heritage International School in Chisinau, Moldova, and was previously Principal of Wyedean School, Gloucestershire, UK. See his blog 'Mail from Moldova' on https://mailfrommoldova.home.blog/blog/

Email: robert.ford@heritage.md

FAQs

Q1: What can we do from home to support the final week/final day?

A1: Thank you to all parents and families for your ongoing support of the school over the academic year and especially these weeks on the DLP. We want to celebrate and commemorate our third academic year with our final week including Founders' Day on the 27th May, International Week and International Day on Friday 29th May, live streamed to everyone to celebrate our global community and all our nationalities. Any help you can offer, even photos of the year that has gone by, will be much appreciated.

Q2: I have friends who want to bring their children to Heritage and talk about enrollment. Who do they contact? Also, if classes are full, how does the waiting list system for Heritage work?

A2: Following the Virtual Open day on Saturday 16th May, the school has been overwhelmed with responses from new families and this is a very good sign going forward into the new academic year. There is a special section on the website for Admissions and the email for the admissions team is at the bottom of the newsletter. Our current families here have their places at Heritage for the coming year and arrangements to come into school to pay fees are now in place. Please be reassured and for new potential families both local and international, the admissions process remains in place as before. The school does have a maximum capacity for numbers but we are anticipating to get to that ceiling and not be over.

A3: The IHH newsletter mentioned uniforms for September. Can we purchase uniforms now/in the summer?

Q3: The uniform supplier is operating and any issues contact Tatiana Arnautu, our senior assistant director for the school's support staff and business manager.

Q4: What happens to the credit paid for the school canteen before the lock down?
A4: This remains on the system to be used by students when the school is physically open again in September.

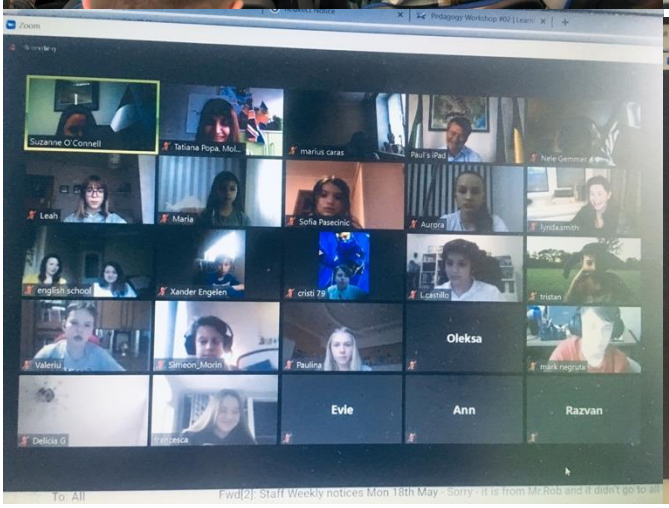
Q5: Will the school provide activities/Home learning for the summer break especially if we are on "staycation"?
A5: We have launched our ***Summer School*** *and* ***Heritage English Language Academy*** *(Intensive English Language courses) for the break this week but they are separate to the academic year and open to families across Moldova and not just from the school. For our students here not signing up for Summer school and English Language courses, we will offer our stretch and challenge reading list and activities, both on our website, to make sure they have plenty of things to do over the summer:*
http://www.heritage.md/en/learning-otherwise/ & *http://www.heritage.md/en/news/summer-reading-challenge/*

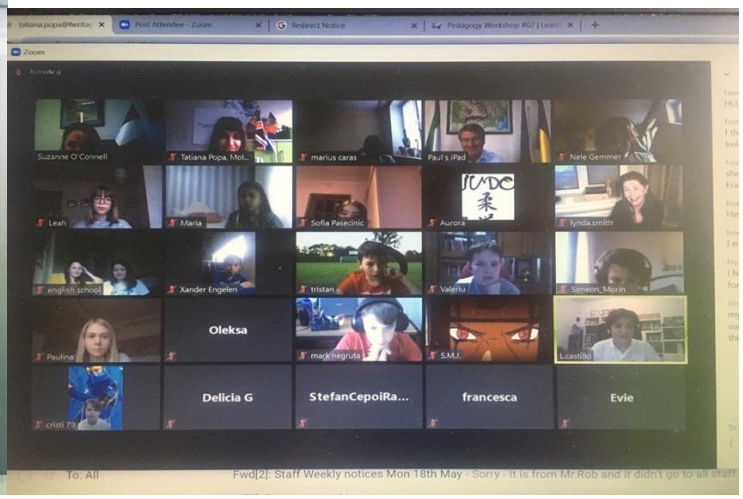
We would also recommend for Gymnasium into Lyceum students the virtual York Festival of Ideas programme this June from the University of York - it's free and the link is here to an eclectic and fascinating range of talks and lectures from across sciences, arts, humanities, business, media, technology etc. http://yorkfestivalofideas.com/2020-online/calendar/

Our Bright Shine students **:**
Hello,fellow student, teacher and parents!
Time has passed so fast, it is already the end of the school year. In this year, the Student Council has achieved a lot like the Instagram page. Our student council has already established an Instagram and youtube page in which we are uploading articles, motivational quotes, riddles, videos, etc. We are still developing a suitable plan for Youtube. However, you can find out more information on our Instagram page (studentcouncilheritage). The Student Council is also working on many exciting projects for the last week of the school year. The Student Council is here to make the school a better place even in the most challenging times. We adapted to the recent situation and found a way to continuing working on the projects that we planned even during this COVID-19 crisis and the DLP(Distance Learning Program). Our school is not closed, only the campus is.
Talicia Carra

3A Family Day padlet collection:
https://padlet.com/valentina_carmazan/gkopkuxt75nzfs9m

On Wednesday afternoon, our students from grade 5A, 6E and 7B had the possibility to meet online HE Ambassador Paul McGarry, the Irish Ambassador to Moldova, as a follow-up of the participation in the early St,Patrick's celebration in February. The students could share with other students from across Moldova and with His Excellency the good and the bad parts of staying at home in the lockdown. The students talked about their distance learning and daily lives, and HE the Ambassador told about his country's sense of unity and solidarity in these hard times. They promised to meet again in September and looked forward to telling other positive stories then.



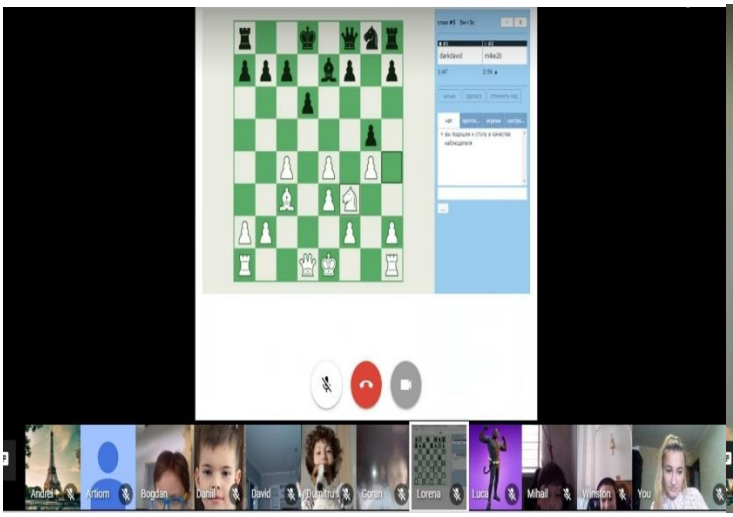


2E Family Day

Primary Bilingual Graduates' message

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKXh6vaHm4g&feature=youtu.be

Heritage Chess Championship



Congratulations to all the winners and participants!

Primary School

I place (School Starter) Robert Cauia
I place (grades 1-2) Dumitru Raileanu
I place (grades 3-4) Winston Zhu
I place (Primary school, girls) Lorena Railean
II place (grades 1-2) Daniil Torgai, Artiom Burceac, Bogdan Gorenco
II place (grades 3-4) Goran Dacho
III place (grades 1-2) David Chitic
III place (grades 3-4) Andrei Nistor
IV place (grades 1-2) Mihail Haceaturean
V place (grades 1-2) Luca Gaidampas

Secondary School

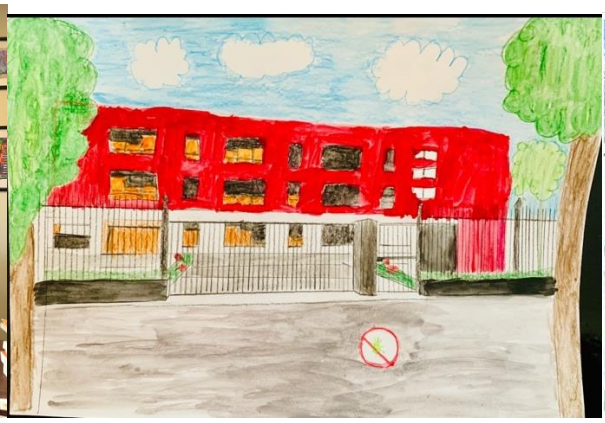
I place Victor Odobescu, Valeriu Bodean
I place (Secondary school, girls) Gesica Sirbu
II place Oleg Palancean,Iulian Raileanu
III place Adam Dacho
IV place Nichita Burlac

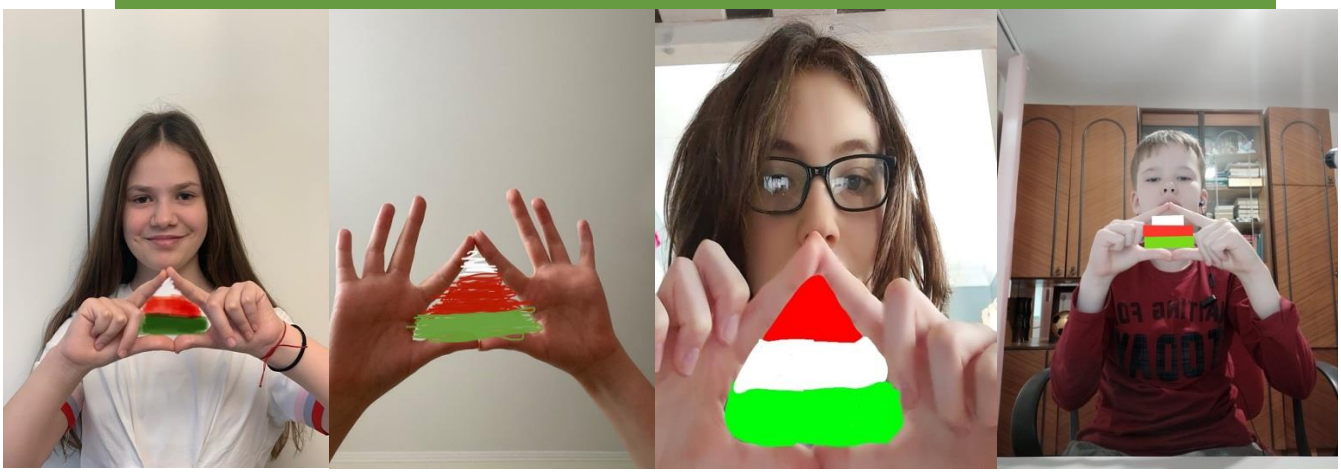
Grade 5 Art Gallery: Shoe Design

All the students to take part in a Virtual Art Exhibition "My Beloved School"

We call all Heritage students to participate in the Virtual Art Exhibition ***"My Beloved School"****, dedicated to the Founders' Day.*
Let's bring colors to our school life and ***show what we love the most in our school****!*

*Due date: May 26. You can sed the works to iulia.miscisina@heritage.md The works will be featured in our virtual **Art Gallery**. All participants will receive diplomas of participation.*





***Interesting related articles**:*
Nursery Rhymes and Songs: Animations of some of the best-known traditional nursery rhymes, many sung by BBC Children's TV presenters, with music that your children will love! They're an ideal resource to support a range of Early Years objectives, whether used in a nursery, reception class, or at home: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx

This is how a bookish home helps a child to thrive | World Economic Forum:https://bigthink.com/mind-brain/mind-brain-home-library-benefits?rebelltitem=1#rebelltitem1

Join the First Global Virtual NASA Social to Experience the #LaunchAmerica Mission: https://www.nasa.gov/social/launchamerica

A Brief History of Russian Folklore; Pushkin House, London: https://www.pushkinhouse.org/blog/2020/5/13/a-brief-history-of-russian-folklore?format=amp&__twitter_impression=true

Who Discovered Soap? What to Know About the Origins of the Life-Saving Substance: https://time.com/5831828/soap-origins/?amp=true&__twitter_impression=true

Imagining a better future through foresight – why the metaphors we use matter: https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/rsa-blogs/2020/05/imagining-future-foresight

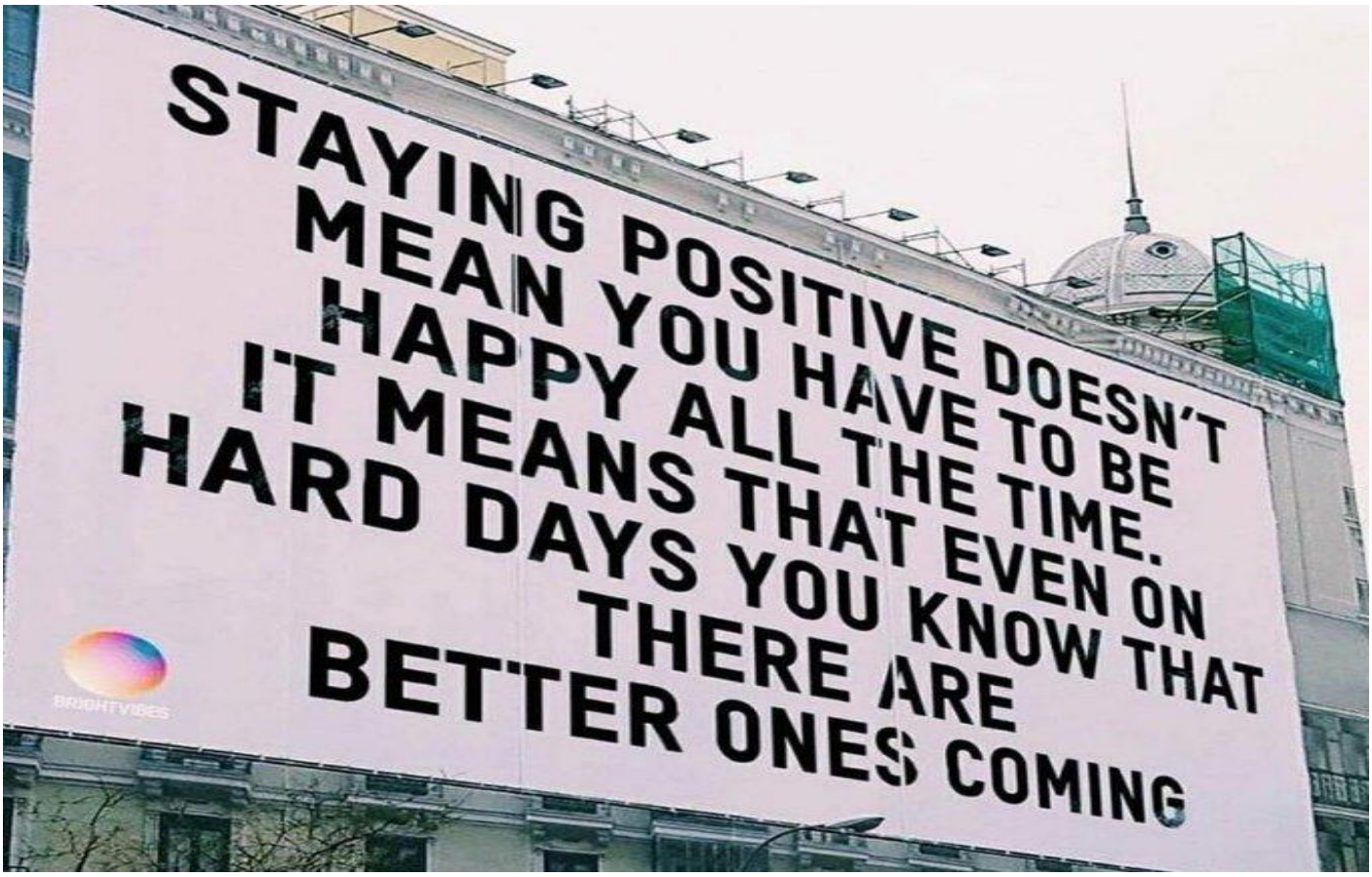
How to Be Supportive. The power of presence: https://characterlab.org/tips-of-the-week/how-to-be-supportive/

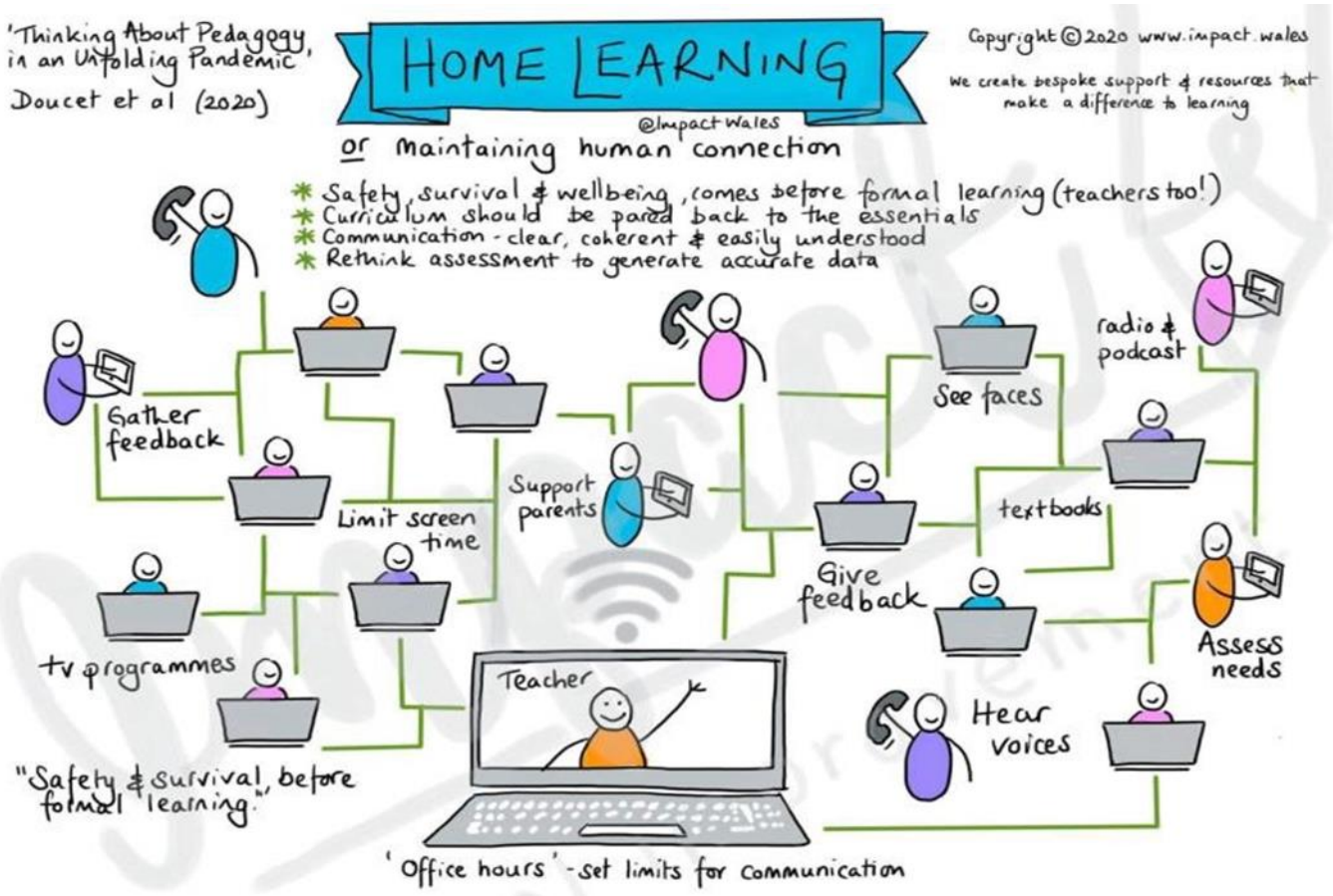
Czech Republic to set up "face-masks museum" in Prague: https://kafkadesk.org/2020/05/15/czech-republic-to-set-up-face-masks-museum-in-prague/amp/#click=https://t.co/8kYrqNcea5

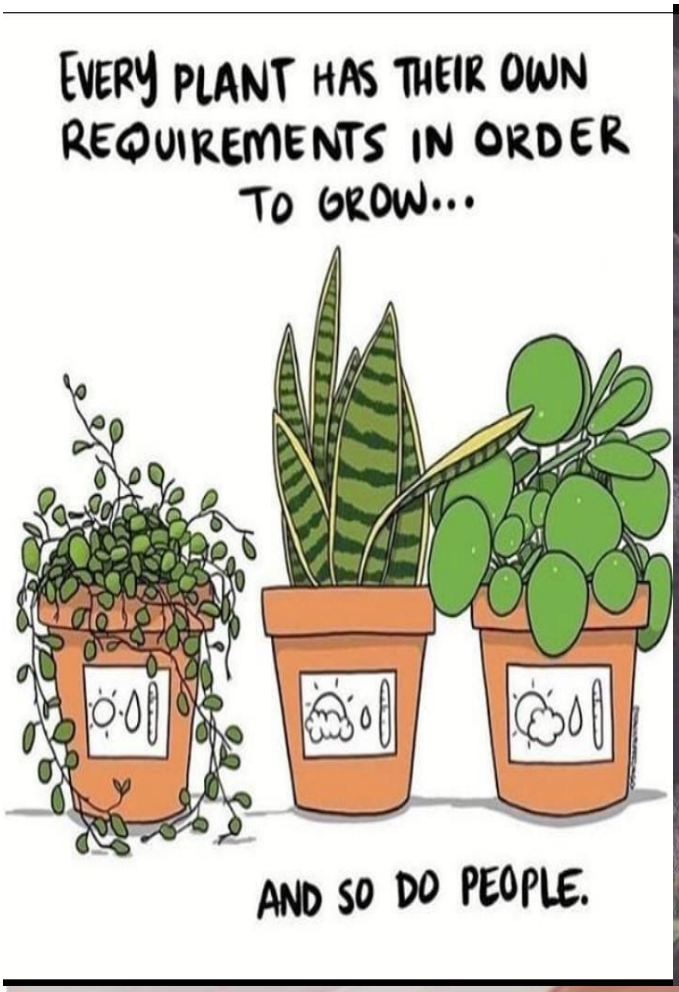
"Family Day" Heritage International School story book for children online: https://www.storyjumper.com/book/read/83056125/5eb45a8bdf225#page/52

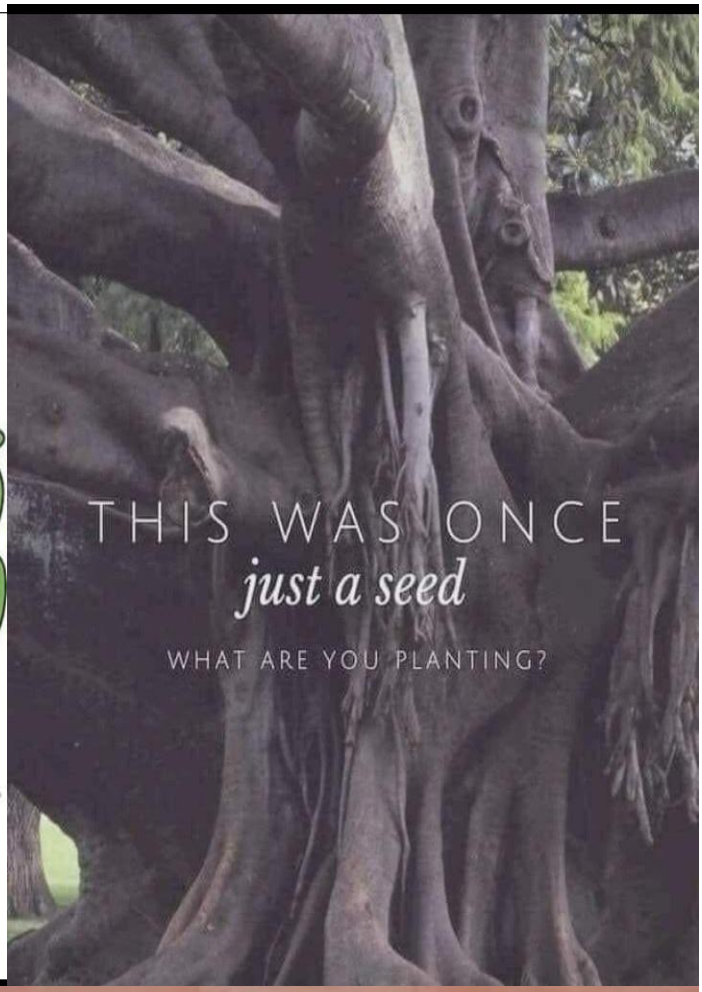
What Jane Austen Can Teach Us About Staying Home: https://time.com/5836347/jane-austen-social-distance-books/

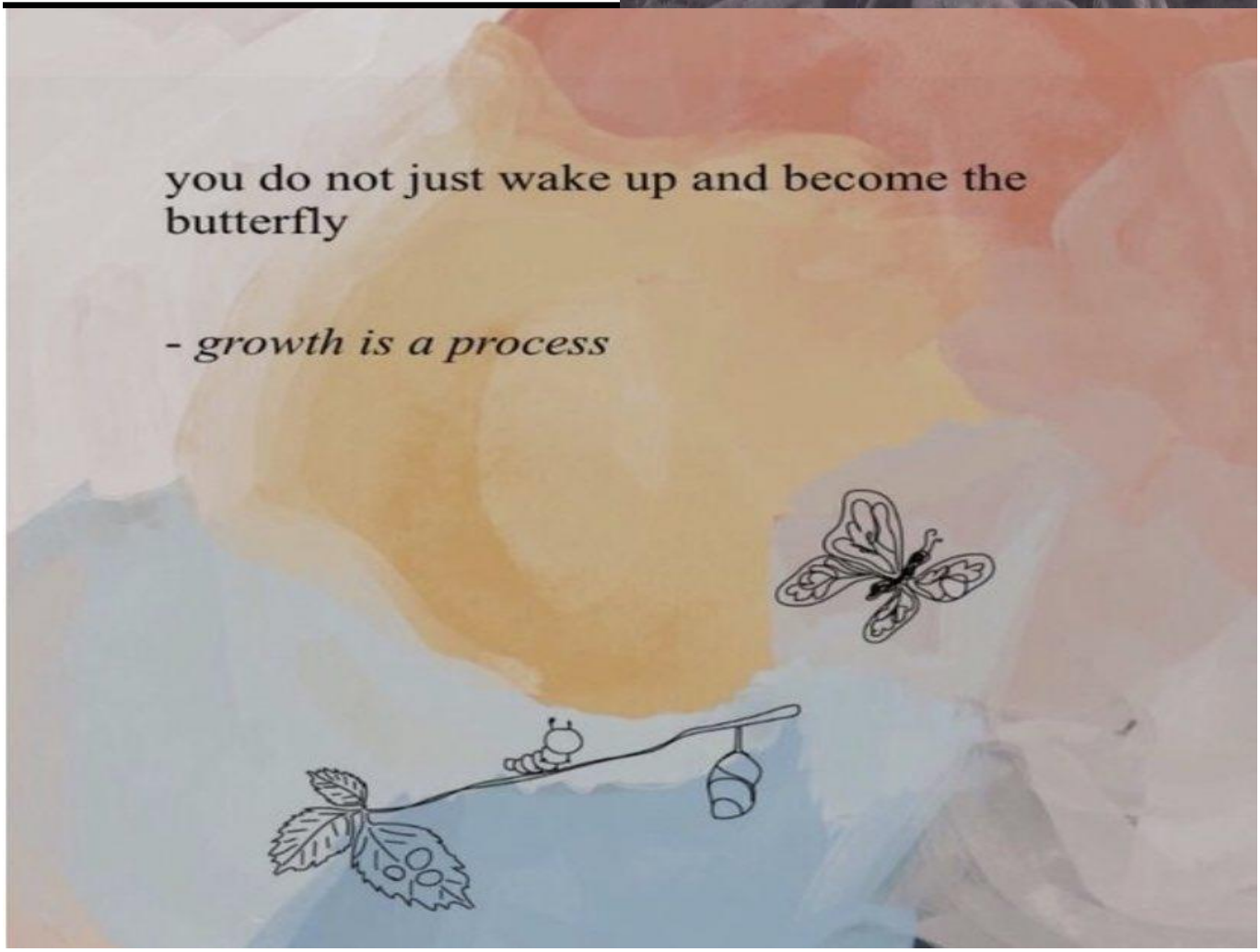
Hay Festival Digital - Literature - the World's greatest annual literary festival https://literature.britishcouncil.org/blog/2020/hay-festival-digital/


STAYING POSITIVE DOESN'T
MEAN YOU HAVE TO BE
HAPPY ALL THE TIME.
IT MEANS THAT EVEN ON
HARD DAYS YOU KNOW THAT
THERE ARE
BETTER ONES COMING
BRIGHTVIBES


'Thinking About Pedagogy in an Unfolding Pandemic'
Doucet et al (2020)
HOME LEARNING
@Impact Wales
or maintaining human connection
Copyright © 2020 www.impact.wales
We create bespoke support & resources that make a difference to learning
* Safety, survival & wellbeing, comes before formal learning (teachers too!)
* Curriculum should be pared back to the essentials
* Communication - clear, coherent & easily understood
* Rethink assessment to generate accurate data
Gather feedback
Limit screen time
Support parents
See faces
radio & podcast
textbooks
Give feedback
Assess needs
tv programmes
Teacher
Hear voices
"Safety & survival, before formal learning."
'Office hours' - set limits for communication


EVERY PLANT HAS THEIR OWN REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO GROW...
AND SO DO PEOPLE.


THIS WAS ONCE
just a seed
WHAT ARE YOU PLANTING?


you do not just wake up and become the butterfly
- growth is a process

6 MODALITĂȚI PENTRU REDUCEREA STRESULUI

STAI LA SOARE

MEDITEAZĂ

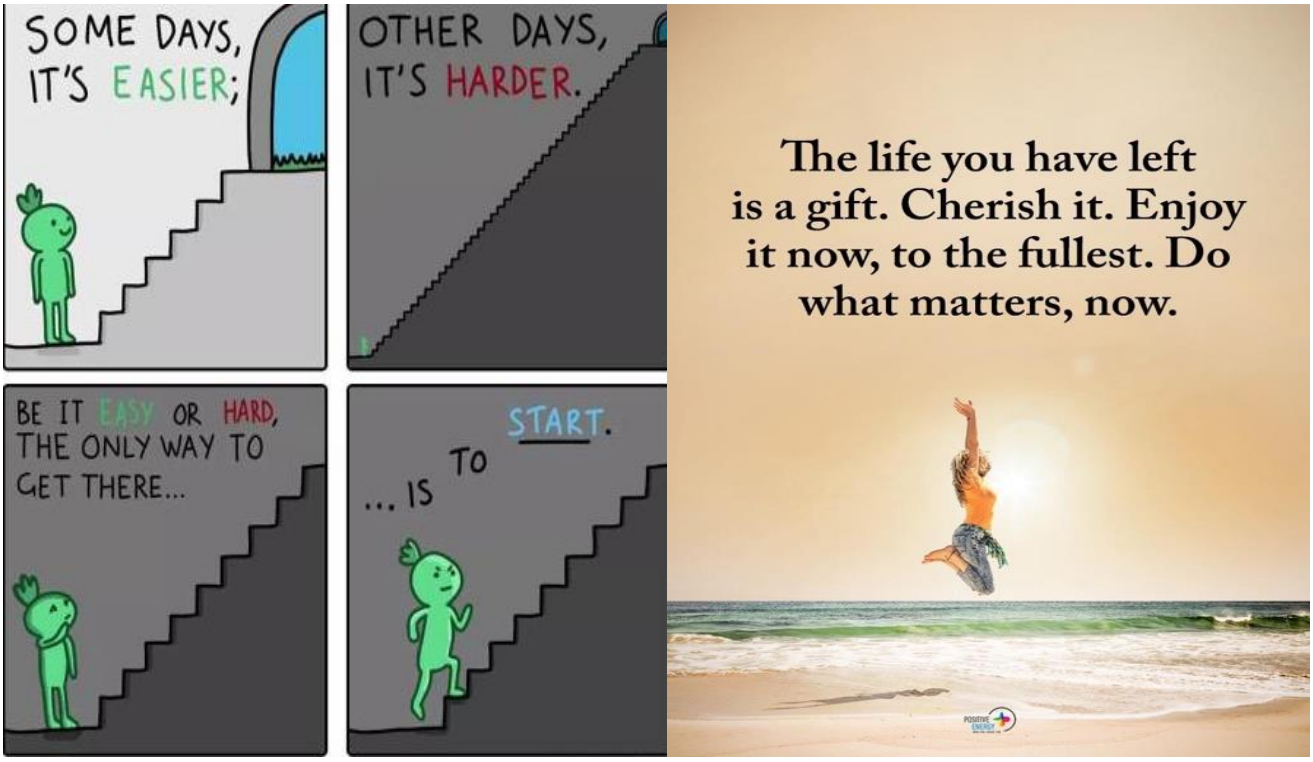
@pozitivul.official

FĂ O BAIE

SCRIE ÎNTR-UN JURNAL

BEA UN CEAI

ASCULTĂ MUZICĂ DE RELAXARE



The 7 Day KINDNESS Challenge!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Make a cup of tea for someone in your family	Send someone you haven't seen in ages a letter or a postcard	Donate food or clothes to people in need

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Bake a cake or some biscuits to cheer someone up	Ask your parents for a chore that would really help them out	Video call someone you know is feeling a bit lonely	Be kind to yourself and spend some time on YOU!

Things that don't define you

- Your mistakes
- Your problems
- Your illness/ disability
- Your thoughts

@what.is.mental.illness

Things that actually define you

- Your experiences
- Your perspective
- Your personality
- Your creativity
- Your goals
- Your hobbies and passions
- Your attitude
- Your habits

UPCOMING EVENTS

25th-29th May,2020	***International Week***
28th May,2020	***Heritage Founders' Day***
29th May, 2020	***Heritage International Day***
1st June-31st August,2020	***Summer Break***

International Summer School "Become a Global Citizen"

Heritage launches the international summer school, where children from the Republic of Moldova will have the opportunity to interact with children from other countries, to socialize and learn new things in a multicultural environment.

***Who can participate**:*

Groups for children aged 7-10 and 11-14, from the Republic of Moldova and abroad

The international summer school will carry out its activity based on 5 sessions:

- *"Virtual Travels" session: June 8 - June 19*
- *"Digital Era" session: June 22 - July 3*
- *"Critical Thinking" session: July 6 - July 17*
- *"Secrets of the World" session: July 20 - July 31*
- *"Becoming a leader" session: August 3 - August 14*

Schedule of the day - 10:00 - 17:00; Monday to Friday, with an hour break (13:00-14:00)
Number of children in the group - up to 15 children
Teaching languages - Romanian, Russian, English (mixed)

Daily activities within each session will be based on 9 key components:

- *Global citizenship;*
- *Go Green*
- *Healthy Lifestyle*
- *Developing digital skills*
- *Developing business skills*
- *Develop leadership skills*
- *Discover your talent*
- *Learning science and having fun*

At the same time, during each session we will have a special guest in the field of IT, business, tourism, a secret guest, an important person from the country or abroad. The children will have the chance to explore different countries, to find out about the traditions, gastronomy and culture of each of them. They will visit online museums and will "travel" into space. They will learn about the great world discoveries and people who changed the world. At the same time, through practical exercises they will develop critical thinking and will learn to actively participate in community development. Guided by teachers, will put information technologies into practice and develop digital skills. Your children will make new friends and they will explore social media and leadership -and will discover many other interesting topics together.

phone: 062020108, email: summer.school@heritage.md

Heritage Scholarship Program will continue for the 2020-2021 academic year
Heritage Scholarship Regulation will be officially published next week.

MAIN CONTACTS

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eTwinning SCHOOL 2020-2021