

Dear AISZ Community,

Firstly I wish to express my sincere gratitude to those families who wrote to me with “get well soon” messages and strong appreciation for the hard work we are all doing here at AISZ.

### **AISZ Crisis Response Team**

Yesterday, the Crisis Response Team met to discuss the most imminent threat to our ability to deliver a quality educational program in light of the current epidemiological situation. Our systems have proved to be an outstanding success in light of increasing numbers and even rapid substantial linear growth. For that combined effort we can be very proud.

The biggest threat to program delivery is in this time of uncontrolled exponential community spread where the virus abounds everywhere throughout the community. A condition in which it is transmitting sideways, with a large number of mystery cases and contract tracing is not keeping up or failing. In this scenario, the risk comes from outside the school and as my case shows, even the maintenance of a strong hygiene regime can be found to be not enough. In exponential community growth, the largest impact is the scenario where multiple faculty are impacted by the need to isolate. This is a very real trigger which would take us from our current mode of delivery to the full implementation of our virtual learning program.

We need to be aware of this as we plan our next phase of response to the virus.

### **Current Status**

#### **No Change**

14 students are in isolation directly related to COVID-19.

4 students remain positive

5 students previously isolated have received negative tests.

#### **COVID +ve**

#### **No Change**

2 faculty

### **Grade 5 VLP until November 7**

Today we completed the deep clean of the classrooms, center islands, bathroom, outside playground equipment and the outside atrium connected to the classroom. We also used the time to reassess the epidemiological conditions which apply in this situation. Even though all safety protocols were followed by adults and students, I regret to have to inform you, that the regional epidemiological conditions require our Grade 5 to self isolate at home for a period of 10 days commencing **October 28** and concluding **November 7th**. Mr. Douma commenced VLP today and will continue until November 7th. I want to thank Mr. Douma publicly for his preparation with the class and the flexibility which enable him to switch modes at a moments notice.

### **Student Attendance**

Since Monday 19 after the October break, absence in the school has increased markedly to almost 20% through a mixture of isolation and self selection.

Lower School upwards towards 15% - 20% of LS = approx 3x increase

Middle School upwards towards 15% - 20% of MS = approx 3x increase

High School upwards towards 12% of HS = approx 2x increase\*

*Note:\** 20 % of Grade 10 were absent 27th October due to either official self isolation or self selecting to remain home.

The absences are a growing problem due to the pressure to deliver online learning and face to face at the same time. We are currently examining ways to modify a delivery mode that caters better to those who are self selecting to remain home at this time. If you are in this category, please make sure that the Divisional Principal, Dr. Romana, the homeroom teacher and attendance are included in your email. Please note that his request must be from a parent and not from students.

**Once again I thank you for your immense support while we do our very best to support your children and keep them safe.**

Sincerely,

Paul Buckley