

June 19, 2020

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Students,

SUBJECT: Distance Learning - Week 12

June Schedule:

Today, June 19, is the last day of end-of-semester examinations. Administering and taking online tests has been a learning experience. Those of you who have watched your children this week may have observed, as I have, an increase in the normal examination stress. First, the tests have not been any easier as perhaps we expected they would be away from the close, in-school examination supervision. Second, accessing the tests and submitting them on time added a new challenge to students. Please note that teachers are aware of the unusual demands placed on students this time. The objective of the assessments is to measure learning. Students will not be penalized for factors unrelated to this objective.

Cambridge Checkpoint Exams:

Checkpoint exams are finished. Thanks to students, teachers, and parents for participating and for honouring the precautionary health measures put in place.

Summer School:

A summer school program is planned for Enko Bonanjo in August. Classes in English, Mathematics, Science, and Art will be available to returning students and to students new to the school. Classes are planned for mornings in the first three weeks of August. Please contact the school if you want to take advantage of this opportunity.
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The Uncertainty of the New School Year:

Plans are we will be going back to school in the fall. But, what school will look like is unclear. At this point, it is likely to be a hybrid between online and in-school learning with staggered starting times and/or rotating schedules to limit contact and the number of students in a room. School staff and students would wear masks and maintain social distance throughout the day. There would be handwashing and sanitizing stations around the school. There would be new guidelines for cleanliness. It all sounds good. It all makes perfect sense. But for anyone who has been in an Enko Bonanjo classroom for more than a week, there are many questions. Most relate to keeping active, engaged, social young people apart in the many school situations providing opportunities for interaction. Right now, the answer is "I don't know how". The answer will require additional re-opening planning beyond the development of health and safety protocols. But, it is early yet, too early to worry about something that may not be. The school has managed to successfully finish the year. Students, teachers, and parents should enjoy the accomplishment for a while at least.

Dr. Bruce Gilbert, Head of School