

Raphaeli Waldorf School

JUNE 2020

THE RAPHAELI CHILDREN
HAVE HELD HOPE AND
LIGHT COURAGEOUSLY
IN THEIR HEARTS.

IT IS WITH PASSION AND
DETERMINATION THAT
WE FEND OFF THE
DARKNESS OF
COVID - 19.

OUR GRATITUDE IS
IMMENSE, THAT ONCE
AGAIN WE CAN ENJOY
THE SUN TOGETHER.

OUR SCHOOL IS OPEN



TO GO OR NOT TO GO?

We understand that after such a long absence from school many parents are hesitant about letting children come back.

Some of you may be anxious to know whether we have complied with all the government regulations.

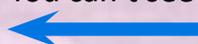
We would like to reassure you that:

- Raphaeli has been judged compliant with all the safety requirements in order to re-open.
- We have permission as a small private school to allow most classes to return to school immediately.

Others may be wondering - will the mandatory wearing of masks, the temperature taking, the repeated hand washing and the inability to be physically close to friends be too traumatic for the children? From the survey you filled in, we know that many of you are waiting to see how school will feel when the children return.

To answer some of your questions please read on!

Grade 7 loves being back and so does their teacher Rhian Berning. You can't see the smiles but you can definitely hear them!



WATCH THE VIDEO FROM GRADE 7 HERE



**Grade 7 thoughts on
being back at school**

OK, BUT WHAT IS IT REALLY LIKE?

- ◇ The dropoff and collection of children will be staggered according to Grades, you'll be advised of your time. School hours will only be from 09h00 to 13h00 for the time being.
- ◇ Children will need to be wearing a mask provided from home before getting out of the car.
- ◇ Only children will be allowed out of the car, parents may visit school by appointment.
- ◇ Teachers will be waiting for children at the "Red door shop" where a teacher or Kirsten will take their temperature with a "no contact thermometer." If a child's temperature is 38 degrees or over, they will return home with their parents or be kept at school until parents can pick up their child.
- ◇ Children will have their hands sanitised & then follow their teachers to the classroom.
- ◇ In class, the children will remove their "home masks" and a mask provided by the school will be chosen by each child. This then will be sanitised by the school each day and children will wear them while at school.

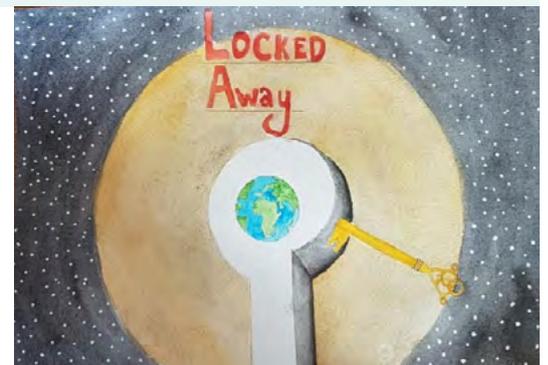


Rhian's Grade 7 Classroom where desks have been arranged in an oval with adequate social distancing between each child. A little Waldorf flair and it's not nearly as intimidating as some of the images in the media.

- ◇ Masks will be worn during school.
- ◇ Hands will be regularly washed with soap and water.
- ◇ Social distancing will take place.
- ◇ Teachers will be wearing masks.
- ◇ Classes and equipment will be sanitised everyday
- ◇ Toilet breaks will be "coordinated".

We know this sounds draconian; we know for some parents it sounds like the impossible; but we will be working with the children to create understanding and tolerance in the kindest possible way. And yes, we expect some accidents, grumpiness, irritability and frustration. We are also aware that wearing a mask can cause issues with breathing and will be constantly checking that the children are feeling comfortable. The children's well being is our priority.

While this is not the ideal school experience, the benefits of chatting and playing with friends, outdoor lessons on our beautiful property and real life interaction between teachers and children far outweigh the temporary challenges faced by the restrictions.



WE INVITE YOU TO BRING YOUR CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL

BUT FIRST - GRATITUDE.

All of you parents have kept the connection between Raphaeli School and the children strong and vibrant. Your support of the teachers, while we grappled with the challenges of “on-line learning” will always be valued. The patience, cooperation and dedication it took from you to help create a successful distance learning environment was immense. It has never been more obvious that it requires a community - children, parents and teachers - to educate our children. You have been wonderful and we thank you.

“Teachers light a fire,
but how long the fire burns
is out of their hands”

Haiku - Stevie Gray

As the children return to school, parents will have an opportunity to return to work, regroup, plan and re-orient themselves. Meanwhile the children can relax into much needed space, have the opportunity to re-connect with classmates, to grow new friendships, even to disagree with each other. Social learning comes in many forms. One of the gifts of these past two and a half months has been that we realise what we most cherish about life – and that is each other.



“Online learning can never replace the creative learning experience that our children enjoy. Even with masks and social distancing, the children laugh, chat and have fun, there is no replacement for real life interaction”

Kirsten - Mom



Local psychologist Carol Surya offers tips on preparing children for the return to school

Waldorf Education is based on strengthening the individual - by learning together. It is a way of learning for both children and adults that above all is to do with health and healthy challenges; with empathetic understanding; with a measured pace of learning that fits with children’s real capacities.

It is an education which knows that play is essential; that respectful relationships with each other are the basis of the society we strive for.

It is an education which knows that rhythms and repeated rituals build the buoyancy that brings resilience. We know that all these factors foster a strong immune system and it is a strong immune system which enables children to not only cope, but thrive and become the adults who can bring the creative solutions so desperately needed.

With anticipation and good wishes

The College and Staff of Raphaeli

If you have any questions about the return to school or would like to visit the school, please contact Deonette.

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“Being back at school has been really positive, the Class 7’s are visibly happy to all be together again and the learning is far more engaged, there are wonderful cognitive light bulb moments which only occur through discussion and questioning.”
Rhian - Grade 7 Teacher



“I’ve been elated to feel the warmth & “joie de vivre” that flooded into the school when the children returned.”
Deonette - Administrator