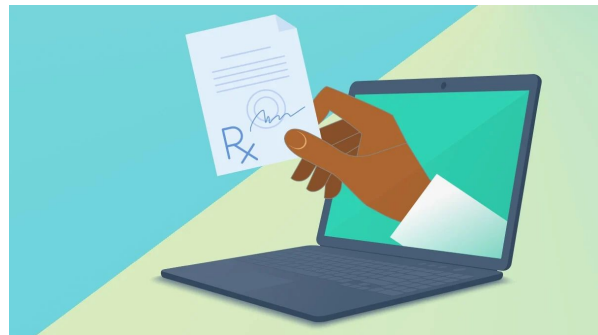# NDLOVU'S ½ CLASS NEWSLETTER

Technological effects of COVID-19 will last

By JD F.

For the past two months, the world has been forced to stay inside. We can't see anybody that doesn't live with us. Nobody can go to school, work or anywhere else they might want to go. This is, of course, due to the coronavirus. But the world can't just press pause for a couple of months, so we must figure out ways to do things remotely. This need has led to a huge shift towards electronics, with most people using technology to solve this long-distance predicament. But what happens when we go back to our normal lives, our jobs? Will some of it still be the same?

I believe that when all of this is over, when a vaccine for coronavirus has been found or it burned itself out, some of the elements from this time will stay the same. As businesses and schools are transitioning to technology, they have started to realize that some of these things actually work better than their alternative. Many businesses have started to offer curbside services, and the majority of reports say that they are much more convenient for both workers and customers, with the same quality of work being produced. Restaurants around the country (and the world, for that matter) have enforced glove-and-mask-wearing policies for their employees, resulting in little-to-no direct contact with the food they serve. This makes the food much safer in general, because with less hands touching it, they're less of a chance for it to become contaminated, or have contagious germs of any kind.

Doctors have started to offer remote visits, and the general consensus is that these "virtual visits" are much more convenient and helpful for both patient and doctor. While these might not work for physicals and routine checkups, this seems to be a good strategy for things such as medication visits (for those that it applies to) and other visits where there's no physical contact required. Many doctors think they should've been doing this for years now, and this has been the push they needed. It has also paved a path to the future for many companies. Many establishments thought that they were as much as ten years away from being able to do virtual business, but with coronavirus pushing them to their limits, they figured it out in mere weeks, and have realized that this alternative might be more effective than the traditional method.

In conclusion, I believe that many of the technological changes caused by the coronavirus are for the better, and I believe that they will stick around, at least to an extent. The world is moving into a technological future, and before the virus, not everyone was ready. I see coronavirus as a push. It pushed us to develop technology and create strategies to do things remotely. It pushed us into a new era.

What can we learn from this coronavirus experience?

By Iris M-D.

    The main things would be patience and creativity.

    For patience, people have to wait until an indefinite time to be able to leave their homes and do their normal activities outside the house. Also, people want to be able to see others, but they can't, because of quarantine, and they have no choice but to wait. Being angry at the situation won't make it any better, so all the people can do is be patient. This may make people more understanding and patient in the future, because they were in a situation where they had no choice but to be patient.

    For creativity, people have to stay inside all day, and they have to figure out entertainment for themselves. I've heard boredom is good for creativity and the brain. People will discover more ways to make entertainment for themselves. People will make new wires in their brain, with new sparks of creativity to come. New doors opening, new chances. People may even find new hobbies inside the house that they didn't even know they enjoyed.

    In this time of boredom and impatience, people will learn the important lessons of creativity and patience. Why it's important to use those lessons during quarantine. That is what people will learn from the coronavirus experience, something people will most likely remember for a very long time.

Spring 2020 (over exaggerated)

Birds will chirp, flowers will bloom
But all ill sense is impending doom
Locked inside, cant socialize
Were safe until we realize
The hours we spend alone and in pain
Will slowly and surely make us go insane
People will panic and buy out the stores
While others just sit in bed being bored
The people we saw will eventually fade
Because of the virus we have to evade
Spring outside somewhere i can't go
Will I ever escape?
I don't really know

So if i am never set free
From this hanging tree
Will you be the one to tell my story?
Tell how i died just cooped up inside
Not really surprised as my soul starts to rise
Will you tell the world, every boy, every girl
Of the worldwide pandemic i had to face?
Maybe we'll learn from our past mistakes
Because every event in turn has its place

~By Megan C.

Will spring distance learning affect the fall?

By Caitlyn L.

As we all know there is a pandemic happening right now which is causing everyone to stay home and do online school. This is obviously cutting down some of the learning we would be doing in school right now. Due to this cutting down our learning my question is, will this affect our learning in the fall? Will we have to catch up on some of the learning we missed? Well I'm going to share some of what I am thinking about this for my article.

Will this affect us in the fall? In my opinion, yes. This is going to affect us in some good ways but also some bad ways. Negatively, if we do attend school in the fall, I think that everyone is going to be more paranoid. This virus is so big that it probably won't fully clear out. Even though we have the flu come back every year and things that are worse than this virus have happened before, things like this haven't happened in a long time. Nobody was really expecting this and nobody was prepared. I think that people will be more prepared now. This has led to positive effects. People will be safer. Also, I feel that it has led to everyone starting to appreciate the little things more and not taking anything for granted. This is going to be a time in history that nobody will forget and, like the other viruses such as the black plague, people will probably see this as a big event.

But back to the main question about affecting our learning in the fall. In an article I read from Brookings.edu, the writer stated that due to this quarantine, we are going to start using laptops now that we will know how to use them better. He said that people are predicting this will affect the way we live. During this online school, we did do a lot of school which is good, but we haven't done everything we were supposed to do. We didn't do tests or anything. Now my question is will we have to make up the learning we missed? Will our eighth grade learning be pushed back to finish seventh grade learning or will we just move on and forget about it? If we just move on, then when we approach topics that we should have discussed in seventh grade, will we have trouble with it since we didn't fully learn about the first part the way we should? Will eighth grade be more difficult? All these questions are ones that we can't fully predict until it comes that time and we see what happens. Hopefully when the time does come we will be prepared to handle it.

In conclusion, I think this will affect us in the fall and the way we live and learn. Mainly because of our learning getting pushed back and us not fully learning everything we should. Also this will definitely change the way we live because now people will be more careful about getting sick like this (hopefully). If this does happen again we will be more prepared for it at least. Overall my answer is yes to our learning being affected. But we do have to remember that we are all going through this together and whatever happens from now on we will still be going through it together.

Why people should always do their best!

By Ava S.

I think people should always try their best for multiple reasons.

Some people give up when they feel like it's "good enough" or they feel like they can't do better. When you feel as if you're done with writing, it's probably not true; there's more to do. Yet it's just some people don't realize it or they are just done trying to make it better. Or when you're working on some sort of project and you feel as if it's your best but also you feel there's something missing. Even after putting many hours into it, some people just give up and deal with the consequences just because.

People should put their best into something because depending on what it is they can usually improve on things they dislike about it or feel that they could change it for the better not the worst.

Benefits of online school

By Drew T.

The times right now are different. We are having to do things we never would've thought of. One of those things is online school. For as long as we can remember we have been in schools with peers and teachers But things have changed. With this online school the real question is how will this affect our schooling.

For the first part of the article I will talk about why it is good for schooling. In a article from ViewSonic called "What Is Distance Learning? And Why Is It So Important?" the author said, "The top benefit of distance education is its flexibility." This is important because it shows one of the main positives of online school is that there is no set time to do it, and you can do it when you want to. This is different from normal school because there you have a set time you have to do things and that can be hard for people.

One more thing that is important is the cost. From the ViewSonic article, I also learned that for college students estimates of in-person tuition and living expenses at one university are at $22,782 a year for a total of $91,128 for 4 years. But now for online school, it said, "The same degree online would cost $50,085 in total." From this you can see that for online school it saves a lot of money. It cost about half as normal. This is important because it would help students with loans.

From this it helps you see that online school is good for many reasons such as flexibility and cost. So what are your thoughts about online school?

Distance learning tips

By Luke R.

There are many ways you can make distance learning easier for yourself. You can do little things such as making a schedule. Make a set day for when you get all your work done. In this article you will be learning a few tricks on how to make life easier during distance learning.

- Making a schedule is a great idea to stay organized. You can have set times you do your work or you can have set days that you do your work. For example, you do math, health and Spanish on Friday and you do social studies, science and art on Tuesday's. Anything you prefer. But a schedule is a great way to keep organized and make sure you're getting your work done on time.
- Split up your work, you can do things how you like as long as it gets turned in on time. So do things that fit your schedule. Something you can do is split up your work on different days. Do a couple of subjects on Monday, take a break on Tuesday and do the rest on Wednesday.
- Obviously with due dates comes stress. So a good strategy is to take a break after every subject and do something you like such as playing video games. Watching tv. Going on your phone. This will help you be more productive when you need to get lots of work for each subject done.
- Distance learning can't get much easier than what we have but those are a few tips and tricks to stay organized and stress-free through distance learning. I hope these tips and tricks can help you throughout the rest of distance learning.

5 ways to stay productive during quarantine
By Bradey S.

If you're looking for ways that help you stay and be productive (which I know you are) than this is the article for you.

1. Focus on mental and emotional health. Somethings that you can do to stay mentally and emotionally healthy are creating a good sleep schedule, journaling, connecting with old friends and family by texting, FaceTiming, etc.
2. Make a list. Making a list helps not only to be productive but also helps you stay productive. It can also keep you organize, and it is so easy to write down the things that you need to do for the day and then get them done.
3. Exercise. Exercise is so important and staying active makes you feel better; it's even better for you when your able to go outside to exercise. The fresh air is really beneficial for you, and it can reduce so much stress.
4. Create a balanced sleep schedule, the average human should get at least 8 hours of sleep. You have to remember that it is also important to wake up at a responsible time, too.
5. Eat healthy. This one is so important I know that with being at home it's so hard to not eat healthy but you have to remember that it's okay to treat yourself but you need to eat healthy it helps you in so many ways.

Remember to do all 5 of these things and they might turn into a habit which would be amazing but hopefully these 5 ideas help you.

5 things you can do for friends, family and neighbors
By Mya G.

Many people are doing nice things during this time. Here are 5 examples of what you could do.

1. Do yard work for them. Some people's neighbors may need help with yard work because the people that would normally do that can't do it because of Covid-19. This would really lift people's spirits and it would show your kindness.
2. Write something nice with chalk on your driveway. When people are driving by, they will see whatever you wrote on your driveway. A good example that I have seen is, stay healthy Indian Mound! You could also write something like, stay healthy, stay safe and then the name of your street or McFarland.
3. Do something for a friends or family members birthday. Drive by their house, make a video of you saying happy birthday, go on a virtual meeting with them, or even drop off a present. Many people that have their birthdays now are unhappy that they do not get to have a party or get presents, this would be like having a birthday party.
4. Make a zoom call and just talk to someone that has been lonely. Every weekend me and my family make a zoom call with friends and family, we talk about stuff like jobs and what we have been doing for fun!
5. Make origami and put it on their doorstep. You could write a note inside of it. You could also make a ton of them and scatter them over their yard.

Overall any of these would make someone happy, no matter which one it is.

Ideas to keep busy while in quarantine

By Sarai K.

Summer is approaching but quarantine might continue to limit options as it has for the past two monts. Some things will slowly be re-opening but others might stay closed. Here are some things to help you keep busy while in quarantine.

Workouts: This is an easy way to stay healthy, and it also can keep you busy. Some ideas include going on runs, making up your own workouts, following the school workouts in PE, or looking up sheets of workouts. Or just go outside and get some exercise.

Go outside! Everybody needs just a little sun; you can do things that you do inside on your phone while being outside and soaking up a little bit of sun. If you have a trampoline, you can get jumping. As parks are reopening, you could also walk down to those. Getting outside is a fun way to also get a little bit of exercise, and getting outside is a healthier choice than staying inside 24/7.

Play board games: Maybe less active, but you could use board games to spend a little bit more time with your family. Playing board games might not be as fun as going on the phone, but it's a little bit of a change. You can also take it a step further by creating a family fun night filled with games and fun activities for your family one day a week.

Read a book! Reading a book can also be done outside, and it might be very relaxing. This also helps when you go back to school. Again this might not be the most fun activity, but sometimes if you find the right book you can just read for hours and you might finish it. Also if there are little libraries around your neighborhood, you could go and pick out one of those books, read it if you're interested and then put it back. The little library might be a good choice if you want to read a lot because there are lots of choices usually in them. Not only that but they are free!!! If you have extra books you can also help it out by putting some in there.

Talk with a friend: Most all kids might have some electronic device where they can either FaceTime or zoom. Zooming with friends or family members might be a good choice to take up some of your time and stay updated about their lives to. It's also just fun to talk to people that you haven't in a long time. Especially friends.

Stay up-to-date: If you have a news channel, it might be a good idea to watch a little bit of it so that you can stay up-to-date with things that are happening in the world.

In addition to keeping you busy while you're in quarantine, the ideas I stated can also keep you safe and free from any of these germs. Just watch out on the playground and the little library because other people might also be touching items there.

Ways to stay active

By Tori R.

During this coronavirus situation it's been hard and boring since there's nothing left to do. But it's always good to stay active and healthy in any way possible because you're not getting as much exercise as your old everyday life self. Exercising is a good way to stay healthy during this time. For example according to the website SevenTeen .com, each teenager should get at least 1 hour of physical activity per day.
This could include….
- going on bike rides,
- going for walks or runs
- if you have a trampoline that could always work to
- practicing some sort of sport such as basketball, soccer, throwing a football, volleyball or anything like that.
- Taking your dog for a walk or playing with your animals
- Taking short breaks during the day to take a walk of some sort.
- Do some yoga
- Go swimming

There could be many more ideas for staying active but these are some of the basics you can do in quarantine to make sure that you get the exercise you need every day. So go outside and do those things or inside, whatever works for you. But get that exercise in and have fun for whatever you choose to do.

Genre variety in book recommendations

By Anika N.

I have read a lot of good books this school year. This article includes summaries of my five favorites, along with the picture of the cover. I liked these books because they were interesting and they are a wide variety of genres.

Title: *Unwind*

Genre: Dystopian

Short Summary: In the future there is no abortion. Instead if you don't want your child you can send them to be unwound. Unwinding is when every part of your body is given to someone else to be used. Connor was going to unwound but he escaped his horrible fate. Now he is running for his life until he is eighteen and can no longer be unwound.

Why I liked this book: It is very interesting. The concept of unwinding intrigued me, how do you keep human tissue alive without the other parts of the body? This book also horrified me, why would they do that to young teenagers, it's just morally wrong. However, overall, I liked it.

Title: *Da' Vinci's Tiger*

Genre: Historical Fiction

Short Summary: Ginevra de' Benci is an aspiring poet living during the reformation. However she is a girl in an arranged marriage. Throughout the book she struggles to find her voice. The story is based on one of Leonardo Da' Vinci's paintings.

Why I liked this book: I liked this book because it shows the Renaissance differently than I have ever seen. The Renaissance is not just art and music, it was also a very confusing time to live in. I liked this part of the book because it made me wonder more about the Renaissance.

Title: *City of Veils*

Genre: Fantasy

Short Summary: Brynna is both the masked vigilante known as the Veil, and the princess. When both her brother and her father are killed Brynna has to move back to the palace against her will to become the queen. Over the course of the book she continuously tries to find evidence that the infamous Lord Beswick is doing illegal trade with the Severians.

Why I liked this book: There are a lot of unexpected twists and turns that you never see coming. I liked this factor because it kept me guessing what was going to happen until the last reveal. This made the book really interesting and hard to put down. Even once I finished it I wanted to read more of it.

Title: *Between Shades of Grey*

Genre: Mostly factual historical

Short Summary: Lina is a Lithuanien girl just living a normal life until Soviet guards come and take her family from their home. She is separated from her father and stuffed into a train with her mother and little brother. They are sent to a work camp where they have to fight to survive.

Why I liked this book: It is very fascinating to see how Lina and her family deal with the hardships in the camp. Also Lina is only fifteen and has to go through all of this. It is also mostly based in fact which makes it even more fascinating. This is just an amazing book.

Title: *The Hate U Give*

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Short Summary: Starr lives in two worlds, the fancy school where her friends are, and the poor black neighborhood where she grew up. One night after a party she witnesses a white police officer shoot her friend. Over the course of the entire book she struggles with making her voice heard and making the right choices.

Why I liked this book: It shows a real world problem from the perspective of those that are hurt by it. Normally when you hear about police brutality you hear about it from the police, that he felt "threatened" by a twelve year old. That is not the perspective of this book, this book shows how difficult it actually is to make your voice heard.

These are my five favorite books of the year. The main thing I liked about all of these books was that they made you want to read until the last page and then left you wanting more. I hope this article has given you something new to read.
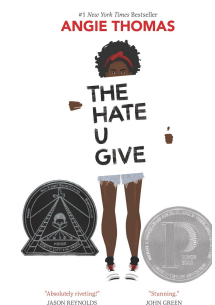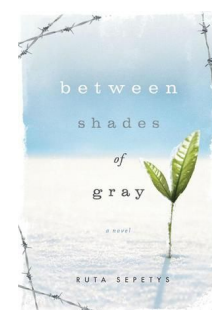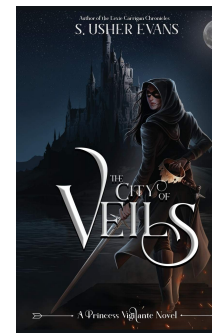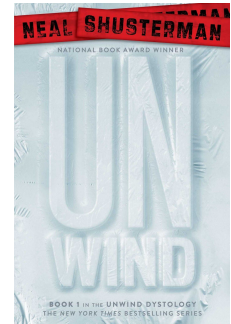
Go fishing and other tips for surviving quarantine

By Brady O.

Are you and your siblings "going crazy" during quarantine? Are you looking for ideas to do? Many people are trying new things with this "new normal" like cooking, or learning a new skill. There are many different ideas that people say that you can and cannot do, but here is a list of ideas and many fun things to do.

A 5 pound fish I caught during quarantine

Go fishing

One great way to have fun is to fish. It isn't very hard, and anybody can learn it. All ponds, lakes and rivers are still open, and you can easily walk or bike to one near you. You can go for hours, and you can have tons of fun, plus you can stay 6 feet apart if you go fishing with friends If you don't know where to fish, you can visit the Takemefishing.org website for places to fish. All you have to do is put in McFarland, Wisconsin, and it gives fishing spots nearby, and what fish live there.

Learn a new skill

There are many new skills that you can learn during quarantine. Many people are learning how to bake, but it can be anything you want. It could be getting good at a sport or an instrument, or it can be working on how to be a wood crafter. It is good because it can be anything you want, and you get to learn a new skill while you do. It is a very good thing to do during quarantine.

Try a new television show

If you want to be adventurous, but don't want to go outside, try a new show. There are many shows that you can try out, with hundreds of different genres, from comedy to horror. A good thing about it is that you can find one you like, or try a different one if the last one isn't as good. You have total control, so it is all up to what you want. It is a good activity as long as you get your schoolwork done, and at least 30 minutes of outside activities.

Go for a walk or bike ride

Walking and biking is a great way to stay active. You can also do it if you stay 6 feet apart from others. You can still stay safe, and still have fun while you do it. Walking is great because you can walk long distances or short distances. Biking is also great, because you can go to many bike paths and trails that are still available. Both are really great exercise and good to do during quarantine.