

LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTER

FAREWELL TO LOCKDOWN & ONLINE LEARNING!

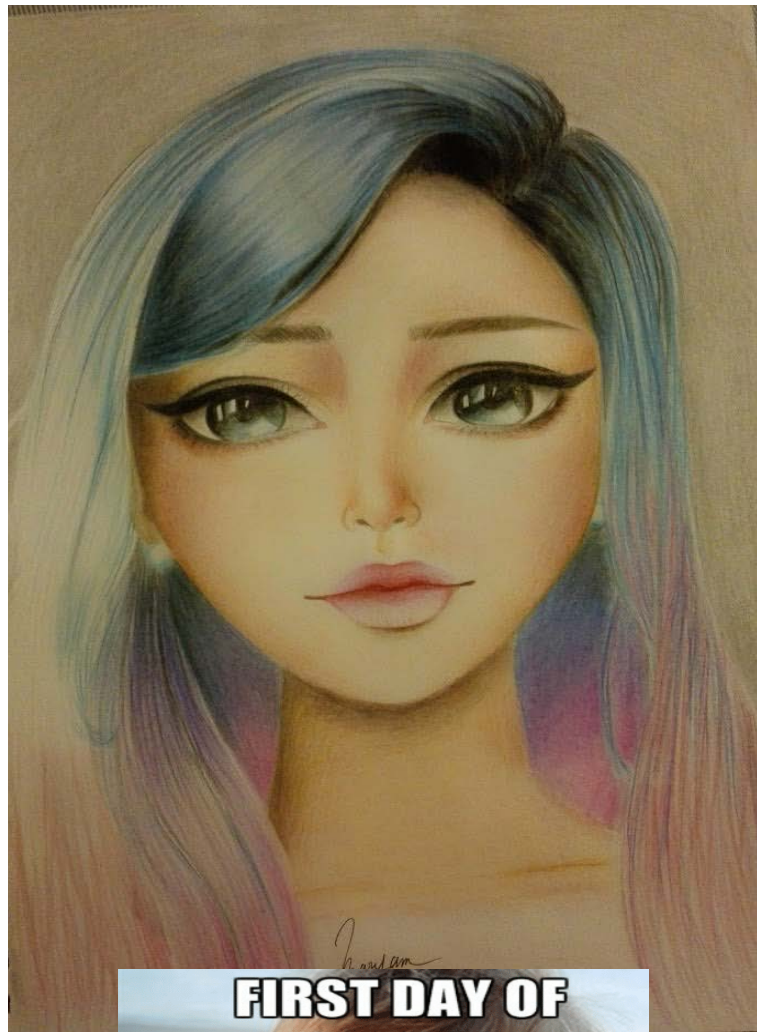
Welcome to the eleventh and final Issue of the Auburn Girls High School Lockdown Newsletter.

As we all head back to school on Monday we will be faced with the many challenges of post covid lockdown. New timetables, different classrooms, staggered bell times, masks, social distancing and many other changes.

It may be a little confronting at first, but it's a small price to pay as we move forward safely back to school. We have to remember that these changes are necessary for our safety and the safety of others. It's been a difficult time for everyone, but returning to school is a positive outcome and the beginning of a new chapter in our lives. Change can be a little more difficult for some people than others, and that is okay. The important thing is that we are mindful and respectful of others.

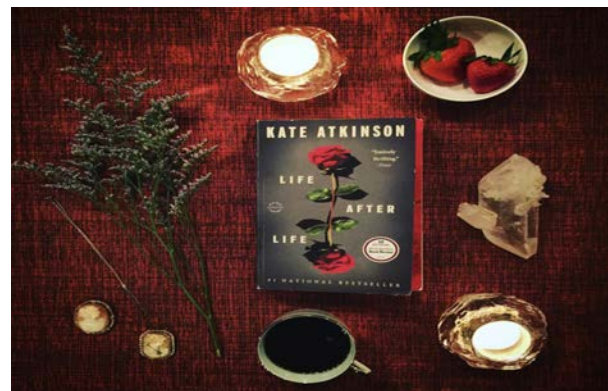
KINDNESS will be an important word this term and we must all try to remember that being kind will make the world of difference as we head back to school. Being kind means being patient at the gates. Being kind means keeping our masks on to protect others from being harmed. Being kind is listening to your teachers and being respectful of others.

So pack up your books and put away your laptops.
WELCOME BACK TO AGHS EVERYONE!



BOOK BENTO FINALISTS

Vote for your favourite Bento in the Google Prize



Their Mother Tongue

Is it true
that all the stories in the world
wouldn't have existed
If somebody didn't think them up?
Or write them down?

If A.A Milne didn't look into the eyes
of his son's teddy bear,
and see a reflection of Hundred Acre Wood,
I wouldn't have been given a Pooh bear
For my second birthday.

~~

No man is an island,
Entire of itself.
But maybe
Every man is an archipelago.
In and of itself.

No man alone has a presence, or a voice,
Or a story.
If he is not the centre of the detectives web
In his own eyes.
Connected by the invisible strings
Of other people's lives, and words, and
worlds.
Tethered together;
By Wordsworth, wandering lonely as a cloud,
By Dickinson, who could not stop for death,
By Elliot, whose world will end not with a
bang, but a whimper
And by Armitage,

Whose experiences are both his own,
And humanity's.

~~

Even if we could read minds
We wouldn't be able to understand them.
Each mind has a soul, and each soul
Has a story.
They sleep under the reflections of The Lakes,
Singing like sirens in secrecy
Until a universal language,
A mother tongue,
Understood their secrets
And carved them into images of inspiration.

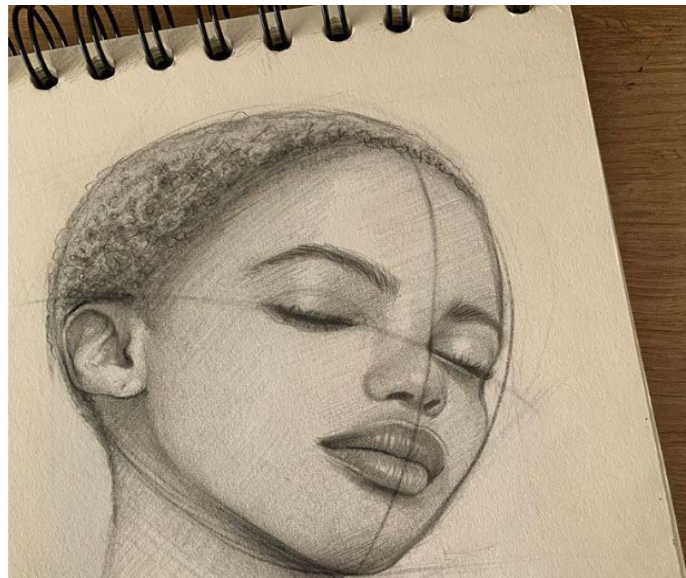
So maybe we are all sitting on a seaside cliff,
alone.
feet dangling over the edge,
And the cold misty air ensnaring them.
Wondering if small nudge will send us
tumbling,
falling into a void.
Like an asteroid descending from the sky;
plagued by ignorance.

For without the mother tongue of all stories,
We cannot hear the faint spark of possibility,
See the sepia tinted frames of the past,
Paint the kaleidoscopic colour of stars,
And ascend through the writer's sky.

By Hafsa Farooq

Drawing by

Hassanatu Kamara



LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER Year 10 English

She walked away to go prepare the supper, blocking out everything she had just heard. She felt dizzy and her head was spinning. She repeated to herself ' Supper, supper, I need to make supper'.

As she walked to the kitchen, she could hear her footsteps echoing. 'Supper' it echoed. She brought out the chopping board, a knife and baguette bread. She attempted to cut the bread in slices. She closes her eyes for a second, and as she opens them she saw herself cutting her hand repeatedly.

Continuous bleeding, as it dripped down to the floor. She screamed, and woke up. She was in a chair.

Rocking and rocking back and forth. She had been rocking for 20 years, frozen, and repeating the words 'supper, supper...' **Roudania**

Her behaviour resulted in the plate slipping from her hand before the shards ricocheted off the floor beneath her unsteady body. She took a few hazy seconds to come to terms with the situation of the inedible suppose. Her first instinct was to ask her husband for forgiveness, though he was not at all in her sight.

The sound of keys dangling echoed through the loud silence, then came the familiar clack of the doorknob rotating.

"I'll buy us one last meal from the takeaway right down the street." he sighed, not stopping to even look at her. The scene of him exiting from the door was excruciatingly slow in the eyes of the widow who resembled an abandoned dog. Her steps to the window showed his back turned towards her were heavy. An urge. An urge to unhesitatingly rush to the fleeting man and drag him back to their house to isolate him from the outside world, so that he could not desert her, even if it meant sacrificing her stomach and emptying it. **Kelly**

She became aware of the background noise in her home, and every little thing began to irritate her. The rapid breathing of her now drunk husband suddenly seemed overbearingly loud until it was the only thing she could hear. Mary wanted nothing more than to go back in time a few hours ago when she was unworried and blissful, waiting happily for the husband she adored to come home to her. But now that reality was shattered, and she was not ready to face her new one.

In the kitchen, Mary's hands worked automatically as she prepared a dinner for two, stubbornly refusing to allow her mind to accept her husband's wishes and trying, by sheer mind power, to forget the words that in an instant brought her entire world crashing down. A sharp pang in her belly broke her thoughts, and she was reminded of the baby she carried and feared for its future. Her husband sat still where she had left him but loud snores came from the living room. For once Mary was relieved she had time alone to gather her thoughts. **Isra**

Uneasy thoughts clouded her head as she stumbled through the kitchen and down the wooden staircase. She began to sweat, her heart pounding, filling in the silence of the long, narrow stairway. Her hands become clammy as her widened eyes reach the near end of the staircase .

'Did he love someone else?' Was the thought that bothered her and stood out the most. She loved him, she really did and only expected him to love her back like any husband would love his wife. Their wedding day flashed joyful memories into her miserable head, remembering their wedding vows, 'to love and to cherish, till death do us part'.

"Did those mean nothing to him?" She signed heavily pausing behind the macro-textured door, letting her thumping head drop. Tears welled up in her brown orbs as they slid down her flushed cheeks like rain on a dusty pane. hiccuping sobs fill the empty staircase as her sweaty, shivering hands twisted the cold silvery knob, she stood there watching the door creak open. **Mina**



This is the last week students will be nominated by the DP's to be awarded the **ONLINE LEARNING GOLD STAR AWARDS** for excellent engagement in online learning. Congratulations to this week's winners who will receive a Principal's Gold Award and Dojo

Year 7

- Tamana Naim
- Jaydhra Kodarusman
- Yuthika Seelam
- Rumaysa Mamdani
- Sarah Al Tmimi
- Malak Grawak
- Sibgha Rana
- Fatemeh Mohammadi
- Hassanatu Kamara
- Ecrin Caglayan
- Ruth Kebede
- Daniella Ronquillo
- Malalai Saidzada

Year 8

- Ayesha Arbab Khan
- Hiam Ghemraoui
- Jenan El Saddick
- Esra Daher
- Akoyujo Rai
- Dania Ghuneim
- Bo-Hae Nguyen
- Bhavna Sharma
- Saba Kauser
- Sidra Shahed
- Omaira Noor
- Nafisa Khan

Year 9

- Sirat Fatima
- Zainab Myakhil
- Adeena Khan
- Fatima Imran
- Faeza Frozan
- Khatera Frozan
- Sidiqa Sohrabi
- Sajah Alameddine
- Mariam Kamara
- Serene El Chami
- Stella Chow
- Bahar Isik
- Maryam Hadi

Year 10

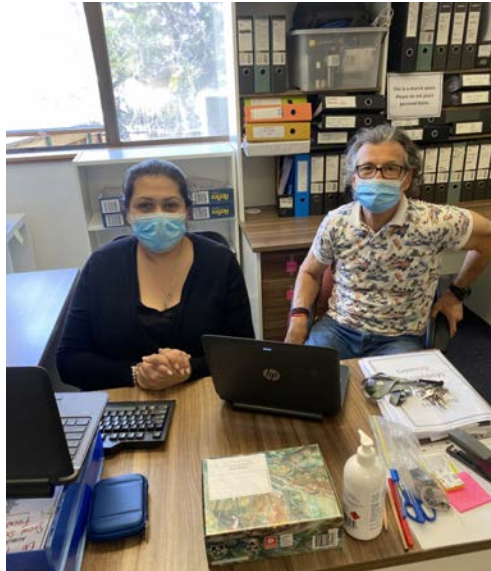
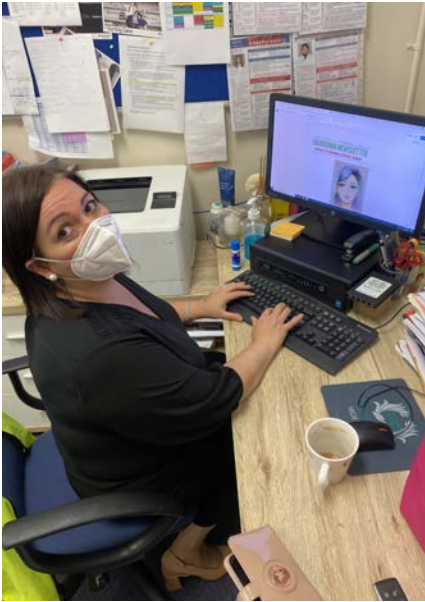
- Zohara Kazimie
- Jana Kassem
- Sahar Azizi
- Zainab Kashif
- Alice Chan
- Siti Balqis Khan
- Zaina Elamam
- Mina Ibraheem
- Annie Doan

Year 11

- Badia Baghdadi
- Noora Al-Mter
- Dia Chaker
- Dehlia Kawitia
- Layan Elsaidy
- Zahra Benkabbour
- Fatima Sohrabi

THIS WEEK WE WERE BACK AT SCHOOL AND IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL AT AGHS!!

Staff were excited to be back on site this week, teaching year 12 and preparing for your return. We can't wait to see you.



TEACHER FEATURE

Name: Lisa Wallis

Favourite subject:

Anything STEM that allows me to 'play'.

What movie or TV show do you watch when you just want to zone out and feel better? Anything science fiction.

If you could only listen to one singer or band for the rest of your life, who would you choose?

This is hard ... perhaps Muse or Imagine Dragons.

What would be your perfect day?

Sleep, delicious food that I didn't have to prepare, time adventuring outside (bush walk, kayaking, disc golf etc.), afternoon nap in the hammock, and watching Sci Fi with the family to end the day.

What are your top three biggest pet peeves?

Lack of manners/kindness, lack of integrity/honesty, and not owning your mistakes / not making a decision.

What do you never leave home without?

Sense of humour.

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Toblerone chocolate.

If you were down to your last \$10.00, what would you buy?

A treat for each of my boys.

If you could meet one famous person, who would it be and what would you say to them?

Ooh tough one ... Elon Musk about his R&D experiences or Barrack Obama about his craziest experiences and how to tackle bigotry.

What's your biggest fear?

My children dying and I'm not there to comfort them.

What's your absolute dream job?

This might surprise people, but I do not believe in a single dream job or 'finding your passion'.

Life is long with many twists and turns, and we all change as we go through this journey. At this point in my life, I love what I do!

What's the worst thing about lockdown?

As a natural introvert in a family of introverts, lockdown has been pretty good to me. The worst part is that I haven't seen my family (parents / siblings) in nearly two years. Fingers crossed for Christmas!

What three words would your friends use to describe you?

Kind, honest and a pragmatic optimist ... basically a big kid!

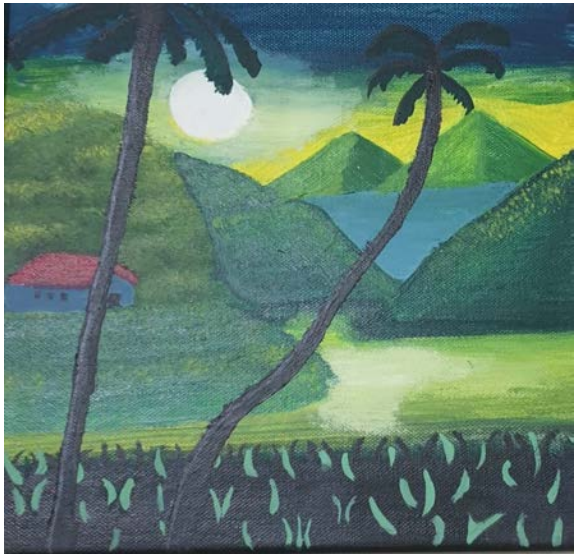
Who do you look up to the most, and what qualities do you love about that person?

This sounds corny but it is my husband because of his integrity, acceptance of others, intelligence, and volunteering.

If you had three wishes, what would they be?

An end to bigotry, an end to extreme wealth inequality, and health for my family. If I can sneak another one in there, a classroom full of engaged, excited students finding wonder in the world around them.





Artworks by Afiah Assadullah, Sumaita

Hassan, Dorothy Zhang, Maryam Mohammad Hussein, Seray Pekenti, Aysha Obeid

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK YEAR 12 2021



Bubbly Beautiful Resilient *cheeky* studious

mischievous Loving KIND *free spirited*

strong SPECIAL *caring DETERMINED*

A huge goodbye and good luck to all the Year 12 students as they prepare for the HSC and life beyond AGHS. It has been a challenging year but we know you will continue to learn, grow and achieve your goals. Best wishes for your examinations and future career path...the world awaits you!

Wearing a mask shows...



Kindness

WHAT NOT TO DO WHILE WEARING MASKS



Heading back to school on Monday will see staff and students facing unusual challenges, and one of them is anxiety about being separated from our families after 4 months of togetherness. For some students it will trigger separation anxiety in addition to the anxiety they may feel about leaving their safe home from the pandemic.

“Kids are just really used to being home with their parents now,” notes Jennifer Louie PhD, a clinical psychologist at the Child Mind Institute. Even kids who had comfortably adjusted to being in school before the pandemic are finding it stressful to be separated now. And, she adds, “there is the added fear that other people are not as safe as we thought they were.”

We are reminded not to get too close to other people, to keep our masks on, to use sanitizer, to wash our hands, notes Dr. Louie. “There’s just anxiety in the air, and I think kids feel that. I think they are wondering: *Are we sure it’s safe to go back? And are other people safe? And is it safe to touch this?*”

We’ve been out of the routine of going to school for so long it’s reasonable that they might struggle. And they might take a little bit longer to adapt, especially to these hybrid schedules.”

Some tips for students going back to school would be to:

STAY CALM and STAY POSITIVE it’s normal to feel anxious. This is a big change, everything will be ok.

GET READY and GET ORGANISED. Books, bags, uniform, lunches, alarms.

GET SOME SLEEP over the weekend and set a time for getting to bed and waking up.

TALK TO SOMEONE if you’re feeling distressed, have concerns or feel overly distressed.

HAVE A POSITIVE MINDSET. Think positive thoughts about seeing your friends and teachers and getting back to normality.

BE SAFE. Pack your mask and bring a spare. Bring your sanitizer, social distance and follow rules.

Child Mind Institute - Caroline Miller 2021





English teachers waiting for schools to reopen so they can give "write about your quarantine days in 300 words" essay as an assignment



Kids going back to school after months of quarantine hair cuts.

