



Pathways School Noida

From the Director's Desk...



PATHWAYS
SCHOOL
Learn • Work • Play • Think • LIVE

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The poet TS Eliot referred to April as the cruellest month. In most international schools I suspect that the cruellest month is May. The temperature soars, secondary students confront end-of-year exams, Form 5 prepares to leave one world and enter another. For teachers and administration it is a time to review the past year and begin detailed planning for the next one. And even as they do, they have launched into teaching the pre-term curriculum with all the students who joined us in April.

Approaching Exams

Amidst all this, it is astonishing that neither students nor teachers have begun to look worn out. This is the business end of the year, the time for completing courses, units of enquiry and assessments. There are no issues distracting us from the business of learning. Yet it is important to stress that unlike in more traditional education systems, the "business of

learning" should not be too different at the end of the year. This is obvious in the PYP programme which continues with units of enquiry - even though Form 5 is planning graduation and transitioning to middle school.

However in middle school I strongly urge parents not to treat examinations as times of unusual pressure. Middle school final exams are one of the many measures we use of student learning. They make up a small percentage of a student's overall grade over the year. This is why you will have received sample exam papers and students will be doing exam revision as part of their regular lessons. Examinations are not a "trick" or a way of catching out students and they will be as transparent as possible. We aim to gradually accustom students to the more serious exams at the top of the school - the Diploma and IGCSE. But the key word in middle-school is "gradually"!

And as for the senior school - we aim to create a culture of expectations as the surest path to success. Students need expectations - not only the expectations that parents, teachers and other people have. More importantly it

is the expectations that students put upon themselves because in the end they have to take control of their own lives. So from their early years, this is what we aim for: not success in end of year assessments which are driven by the anxiety of parents and teachers. But the success and hard work and preparation which is born by students own expectations of themselves. That is what will last them a lifetime.

Middle Years Personal Project

In the light of this, the students continue to be occupied by a number of different learnings. Form 8 students will be presenting their Personal Projects to parents and teachers. Characteristic of the IB MYP, the Personal Project ensures that a student identifies an area of personal interest, is guided by a supervisor over many months and exhibits their final product - whether it is an engineering marvel, a new magazine or a game show.

Miming for Earth Week

There was an extended awareness week for Earth Day. You can read details elsewhere in this newsletter. However I should

Days to Note :

- 30th April—Personal Project presentation Middle School
- 7th May—Working Saturday. Form 1-3 enact ORT stories

highlight the marvellous mime show performed by Form 3 & 4 at their assembly. Focussed on urging action not words, students used the style of classic French mime including make up and gestures to convey their message in absolute silence.

Summer Trip to NASA

Parents of students from Form 6 up will have received notification of a trip to NASA in the USA which we are arranging in combination with Pathways school Gurgaon. It is a good exposure to the world of space travel and to meeting children in a similar school so do respond as soon as possible in case you are interested in this.

Shalini Advani
School Director



Earth Week

To focus on the challenges faced by Earth and to reflect about what we can do to help protect the environment, Pathways School Noida celebrated Earth Week from April 18-21, 2011.

Various programmes were organized across the school to create awareness and make students think about their own role and responsibility in preserving the planet. .

The primary school students went for a *Nature Walk* around the school campus and learned to recognise and name different plants and trees that have been planted within the school compound. Early learners planted saplings in pots which will be re-planted on the school premises later. If our students do not develop a knowledge and understanding of the plants and trees around them, they will never be inspired to conserve them.

Students made grocery bags using old newspapers and decorated them with Earth Day messages. The activity was aimed at promoting environmental awareness in school as well as in the community. Students brainstormed writing slogans and illustrating posters like *Protect Our Planet, Recycle Today!, Clean and Green, Going Green, Earth Protector, Waste Not, Want Not, Give a Hoot Don't Pollute, One Man's Trash Is Another Man's Treasure*, etc. and pasted them all over the school to create awareness!!!

There was discussion on the 'Importance of Trees' through a visual projected in the dining hall. Teachers shared the story of the Chipko Movement with students as story/reflections.

The secondary school also participated in a series of events that were organized to mark EARTH WEEK. Movie shows depicting environmental concerns was a shared resource: Students made movies and these were shown through the week

during the lunch break in the cafeteria.

Earth Week Art and ICT Competition was an inter-house event where students expressed their concern for the earth. In the ICT event students created posters sensitizing the audience about environmental issues in the campus and community.

Pathways Earth Week Photo Contest -2011 gave students the opportunity to click photographs that provide a glimpse into the suffering of the environment and people due to neglect/waste/exploitation of resources or portrayed an endangered aspect of our world. The photographs the students have clicked are a real treasure and inspire us to make a change. These will form part of the school year book and are also on display in the school.



The smoky truth

Abandoned—I am waste. I am deserted. But you know why? Because of your deeds, human. Yes, I am dead.

A special Earth day Assembly saw the participation of students from the Middle and Senior school. The assembly showcased, among other things, a panel discussion on 'Sustainable development is unsustainable'. It exposed the students to multiple perspectives of politicians,

industrialists, social activists, the environment protection brigade etc. It was a learning experience. Other issues, in the assembly focused on two sides of the debate on global warming and if it is for real. The film on 'The Story of Stuff' exposed to us the political-economic nexus to 'create' demand which inadvertently pressurizes the earth and then all of us.

The Earth week concluded with an inter-house quiz competition. Students participated enthusiastically and Water House was the winner.

Dr Advani rightly summed up, "It was a great learning experience".

Dr. R K Kaul
Geography Teacher

Senior School Principal

And well, as we cruise towards the end of the term, I do have some good news for all of us! You all are aware that we are an authorised school for conducting the IB Diploma Programme; and now we have also successfully been able to get our accreditations for our IGCSE programme- this is one big and an important step in establishing Pathways truly as a world school in the realm of Indian education.

We understand that these students from Grade 9 to grade 12 are teenagers who have entered a very vulnerable stage in their lives. They are young adults living in an era where there is an explosion of information, a gust of sweeping changes and therefore are facing a bewildering crisis of growing up. Not only is this phase of life full of vital changes in and for them in every which way, but with the tremendous exposure to information and the highly influencing media in general, there is in them suddenly a deliberate loss of innocence juxtaposed with an innate, untouched and unexplored tenderness of the mind and heart. We have therefore begun to hold workshops for these students on very relevant and almost common issues with children these days. We first held a workshop on 'Substance Abuse' on 11th April which was conducted by well known professionals of the city. It was an opportunity for them to become aware of the myriad drugs abused, their effects and the consequences of using the same on their lives in general. It was very well received by the children and it turned out to be an extremely interactive session. The next workshop we will hold is on 'Sex Education,' the details of which will be sent to you soon. This endeavour is in line with our thinking that schooling of a child must be related to the changes in the time and space he/she lives in.

On the academic front, the S P Jain Centre for Management, Singapore

is conducting a Brain Triathlon Contest exclusively for the grade 11 students of IB schools only, the details of which have been sent to you. It is a test for general awareness, business acumen and aptitude, which if won has very rewarding scholarships and therefore academic benefits. This test is being held on 30th April 2011. The topper in this test will travel to Singapore to take the assessment at next level.

This apart, we have been having our routine visits from Education Officers of different academic institutions across the globe; this time around, it was a visit from the University of Kentucky and counsellor's meeting with UPenn representatives.



Our College Counsellor, Ms. Puja Rao also visited universities and colleges in Italy and Switzerland to gain more information and insight into the courses being offered by them and the processes and conditions for admissions. As she shared with us her understanding, what is becoming more and more evident is that students must be 'well-rounded' in their profiles, in that, they must not singularly focus on excelling in academics alone to gain admissions. But they must build their 'self' to bring forth a 'balanced profile' and a multi-faceted personality to the college. They must engage in many more socially relevant and constructive activities, explore new venues/ programmes, enhance their culture awareness and build their skill set. This will be possible, as we have mentioned before, if and when they participate in various summer programmes, which are

in the offering, like the Global Young Leaders Conference, the NASA trip and the community service programmes held by Pathways Aravalli. Since these are events and activities planned for the summer vacation, I would urge each child to take part in these programmes, so that it will help them not only in enhancing their profiles; but also, enrich their personal experiences and learning.

We are midway through our Pre term Session with our new batch of students entering the IBDP. Our efforts to achieve our objectives of familiarizing the children with various aspects of the IBDP and of providing adequate guidance to them to make their subject choices do, in fact, born fruit and therefore it makes us feel very glad to see students responding to the session in a very positive, appreciative manner. I was also happy to see the preterm students have become part and parcel of the school; school assemblies they have put up in the recent past is the evidence. We have gathered through our survey that the new set of students savour and relish much the Pathways ambience, student-teacher interactions and of course the uncommon, yet, effective methods of teaching.



Pre term students participating in Earth Day assembly



Earth Day Quiz

Some of the parents have also written to us acknowledging that they notice changes in their wards in their thinking skills, perceptions & interpretations and their inclination towards research and related skills. This is of course heart warming and very motivating for us as teachers to continue providing the best for our children.

And of course, it is the Exams Season- a time most dreaded by parents and students alike! Well, I would like to mention that there will be no extra/ special portion/topics covered in the last week before the exams begin. Revision will happen as part of class work and home work.

While I do understand that exams are important, I would advise my students to not let their stress override them because it can limit their performance and functioning. Instead, they must learn to manage their time better, work on their study schedule, organize their study environment, use effective memory strategies, and maybe try some relaxation techniques as well! Needless to mention, we teachers are here to always to guide you!

And so, with that, I wish my students the very best for these examinations!

Umar Jaffar

Middle School Principal

Many of us will complete a year with Pathways in a month's time. The journey has been challenging but fruitful as we all worked together to achieve a part of our vision. As we see the students acquiring skills and developing confidence, we know that we are on the right track.

support to ensure that they provide motivation and an encouraging environment at home.

Sunanda Sandhir

It was exhilarating to watch the basketball match between Form 6, 7 and Form 8. I was happy that this match had united all the classmates! They forgot all their differences and cheered for their teams. Form 8 won but form 6 and 7 did not lose the spirit and fought till the last second.



Earth week was also fruitful as students actively participated in inter-house competitions. It was heartening to see all the pre-term students organizing and conducting events like inter-house quiz competition, debates, presentations etc.



In the middle school, exams begin on May 21, 2011. The students are being guided and everyone is working to make this process smooth and easy. Revision in some subjects has already begun. Students will be guided on study skills and methods to approach examinations. We will need parent's support to ensure

Primary School Principal

One of the greatest things drama can do, at its best, is to redefine the words we use every day such as love, home, family, loyalty and envy.
Ben Kingsley

News from the Drama Class By Kriti Verma

Throughout this year, the focus of the drama programme has been towards laying the foundations for work in drama. Skill building has been a priority and has included exercises that build vocal projection and modulation, physical movement and expression, improvisations and play building.

As part of the UOI on journeys we used the convention of frozen images to express the exposure that journeying to different parts of the country and the world would bring to a person. The students were asked to create frozen images depicting a village and a small town. It was interesting to note that in their perception of a village the underlying theme was happiness as they all felt that people in a village would be peaceful and would rarely fight with each other as nature provides for everything that they need.

The underlying theme for a small town was sport as they felt that this is the venue that young people would be using to keep themselves entertained and occupied.

It was an interesting experience showing ample evidence of effective group work.

Sounds from the Western Music Room By Kamalshwar Verma

In the Western Music classes The Early learners have been learning drawing notes and musical instruments, putting words to make and sing songs.

Primary school has formed a western music choir and a Primary school band, along with this the children

are learning to read music notes on the staff.

We also have After School Music Programme every Wednesday (3.50 - 4.30). We have Drums lesson in western music room and Guitar lesson in the Indian music room.

Currently we have 6 students, 3 on Drums and 3 on Guitar. Very soon we are going to have a performance by all of them. Akshit is going to perform soon with his group, They have composed a song as a message to grade 3 and KG students.



A Lesson on Stepping Up and Down with Respective High and Low Notes

From the Art Room: By Pabitra Pal

In the last few weeks students have been squirting on paper using primary colours. It is a playful activity where they displayed abstract shapes using colour squirt guns. Playing HOLI on paper was fascinating for PYP kids. After squirting students used pastel colours on top and created different compositions on paper. Spontaneity and outbursting of emotions was the main objective. It is an activity where they use only three shades and express maximum. They experienced the making of secondary colours through mixing primary shades. This is a step towards teaching the colour wheel and mixing of shades.

Students had to judge how much to squirt on the paper. Overflow of colours could result in unpleasant effect or untidy work. All young kids are innate artists and very talented, the problem is channelizing and controlling paper.

From the Librarian's Desk:

Title: Save Floppy!

Reviewed by **Sana A. Khan**

This wonderful book is written by Roderick Hunt. The book is about 2 kids, Biff and Chip who were worried about Floppy, their dog, who got stuck on an island. Biff is a very responsible girl and Chip is full of ideas. This amazing story book has wonderful illustrations which are easy for younger children to understand.

My favorite part in the story was when Kamar finally came to rescue Biff and Chip. I liked this book because it almost looked that Biff and Chip won't be successful, but suddenly help arrives. I found this book very interesting and would recommend it to someone who is interested in fantasy or likes animals.

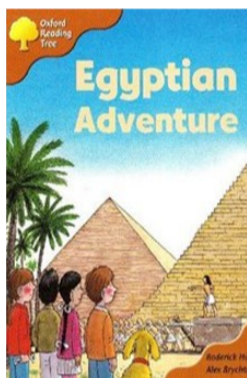
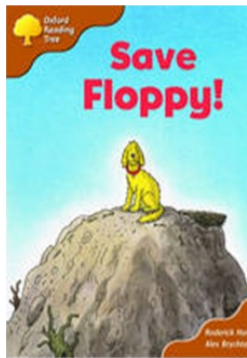
Title: Egyptian Adventure

Author: Roderick Hunt

Reviewed by **Rohan Bhalla**

This book is about some children and a dog named Floppy. The children were all making models and while constructing it, some magic happened and they all reached Ancient Egypt. The main character of the book is Floppy. He is a silly, golden colored dog.

My favorite part in this book was when the Egyptians changed the concept of a Sphinx and made a Sphinx of Floppy! Even though it had some interesting parts, I found this book a bit low for my level; but I would recommend it to a 7-8 year old child or a smart 2nd Grader who likes dogs and wants to know more about Ancient Egypt.



*My Art is no art
Without my
mind's simplicity.*



*My Art does not
want
To subscribe to
the view
That unhappiness
Commands the
world.*

Health Department Bulletin

Dear Parents,

Summer is here and we have been getting a number of nose bleed cases . So, here we are to give you some tips on how to handle nose bleeds.

Most nosebleeds look worse than they are. In other words, nosebleeds are messy, a little uncomfortable, and sometimes even scary, but they are usually no big deal.

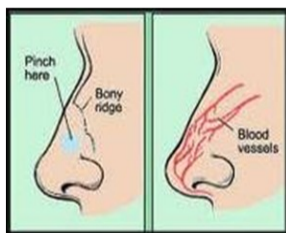
Children can get nosebleeds once in a while or more often. The nose-bleeds that are most common in children usually occur near the front of the nose, on the wall separating the two sides of the nose (the septum), and usually start from just one nostril.



Sometimes nosebleeds start further back in the nose, but this is rare and occurs mostly in older people or those who have high blood pressure or injuries to their nose or face.

What Causes Nosebleeds?

Most nosebleeds occur when little blood vessels that line the inside of your nose break and bleed. These blood vessels are very fragile and lie very close to the surface, which makes them easy targets for injury.



Common reason are

- nose picking or sticking something up the nose
- a cold or allergy, especially with sneezing, coughing, and nose blowing

- dry, heated, indoor air (often occurring during winter), which causes the inside of the nose to become cracked, crusted, and itchy You need to focus on what causes nosebleed in summer or with high temperatures in India.

- Less often, injuries to the outside of the nose, face, or head can cause nosebleeds. If this happens, you need to see a doctor right away. You can help prevent these types of nosebleeds by wearing protective gear, such as helmets for hockey, football, and baseball and any other sport or activity that requires them.

Sometimes nosebleeds may be due to a problem with the blood's clotting system, but this is rare.

If You Get Nosebleeds

You know that you should see a doctor if nosebleed was caused by an injury, such as a punch. But what if it just starts bleeding on its own?

Follow these steps:

- Don't lie down. Sit up or stand.
- Use tissues or a damp washcloth to catch the blood
- Tip your head forward (don't lean your head back; this can make blood run down your throat).
- Pinch the soft part of nose together (just below the bony part of nose) and breathe through mouth. Do this for 20 minutes. Make sure you hold the pressure for 10 minutes without stopping. It seems like a long time when you actually do it, so having someone check the time may help
- Do not pick, rub, or blow your nose — this can cause your nose to bleed more
- If your nosebleed doesn't stop after 10 minutes of pressure, pinch it for another 10 minutes.

If it still hasn't stopped, your mom, dad, or another adult should speak with a doctor.

Here are some other cases when you need to see the doctor or visit the emergency department

- You feel dizzy, weak, or faint (like you might pass out).
- Your nose is bleeding fast or you seem to be losing a lot of blood.

You have other symptoms, such as unusual bruising on your body.

Nixing Nosebleeds:- To reduce the number of nose bleeds you can advise your children not to pick nose or stick anything up the nose. Also, avoid blowing nose too forcefully and if your child has allergies, see a doctor to get them under control. When the inside of nose feels dry and itchy, it can be tempting to pick it, so you can use one or two of these strategies to keep it moist:

- Use a saline (saltwater) nasal spray or saline nose drops two or three times a day.
- Ask an adult to place a small amount of antibiotic ointment on the end of a cotton swab; insert the swab into nostril and gently apply it to the center wall of nose. Only the cotton tip should be inserted. Using a fingertip to apply the ointment works well, too.
- Ask to use a humidifier in your bedroom. Humidifiers send a fine mist of water into the air and this keeps the air from being too dry. When the air is damp nose is less likely to feel dry inside. In fact, one doctor said a humidifier is "like a vacation for nose"!



Santosh Sharma

Senior Nurse