



Pathways School Noida

From the Director's Desk...

Two weeks into the new term, the school has begun to feel like a well established institution. At our weekly assembly Grade 11 focussed on the momentous changes taking place in Egypt and the ethics of radio-tagging Indian stu-

we bring the world into our school. The secret of a successful education in today's global world lies in being as familiar with Cairo as Hyderabad, hearing the echoes between flamenco music and gazals, enjoying paella as much as pulao. Not through reading about them in books but in actually experiencing them.

Adventure Camps

As part of our ongoing focus on experience in education, the annual adventure camps for all students from Form 4 upward are being planned, beginning 9th March. Grade 9 & 11 will go to Rajgarh near Solan in Himachal. Grade 4 to 8 will go to Sitlakheth near Almora and Ranikhet. There they will experience the adventure of sleeping in tents, trekking, route-mapping, interacting with

villagers and learning about plants and birds. Our trips are organised by professionals who have had experience with taking out students from Pathways Aravali and we lay out strict conditions to meet safety and hygiene demands. We will be sending out specific details separately.

After school Activity

Also, please fill in the form for Afternoon activities if your child wishes to stay back for sports coaching or musical training. Sports are cricket, tennis, basketball and soccer. Music classes are in violin, guitar, percussion and Hindustani vocal.

PTM & Sports Fiesta

Meanwhile please remember the Parent-Teacher Meeting followed by the Sports Fiesta on **Saturday 19th February**. The PTM is from 8.15 to 10.30 and Principals will send out in-

formation for you to book time. Please do stay for the Sports Fiesta which follows at 11 am: to participate and try your own skills in your



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Special points of interest

- ☺ 18th February 2011—Primary Grand Parents Day
- ☺ 19th February 2011—PTM & Sports Fiesta
- ☺ 8th March 2011—Whole School Science, ICT, Maths, Art Exhibition



dents in California. The secondary school Modern Languages department brought alive the culture of France, Spain and India, inviting everyone to sample bocadillas, gazpacho soup, paella, samosas, cheese and mock-wine. The highlight was the live performance of Flamenco music by our music Head Mr Ignacio and his wife Belin. Over the week, 13 college admissions officers from colleges and universities in the USA came to tell students of Form 9 and 11 about the admissions opportunities and programmes at their institutions. These are all samples of the ways in which



Sitlakheth Camps, Uttranchal

child's House, cheer our children as they participate in inter-house skill events and to enjoy the tennis courts, basketball courts and field which are coming into use. Students may leave with parents at the end of the Fiesta. **Buses leave at 1pm** so please ensure your child is picked up at this time.

Academic Exhibition

Students right across the school have been working on their exhibits for the Science, Maths, ICT and Art exhibition on **Tuesday 8th March** from 11 - 1pm. *Please do mark this date and bring families and friends.*

Shalini Advani
School Director

Senior School Principal

"Language is the archives of history and culture- the soul of the intellect." - Anonymous

And what a beautiful thought that is and yet an undeniable truth of our very existence and human evolution. Often, as a teacher, I have heard and seen language getting 'lost' in the din of achieving excellence in academics. And often I have wondered, why such an intelligent subject as language and here I mean any language, so profound, intense, discerning and yet indispensably 'everyday' must always be so inferior to other disciplines like the sciences?

It is because we cannot undermine the all pervasive, penetrating and over arching influence all languages have on us as humans (to who complex language construction is exclusive as a species), we as an international school, seeking to motivate students to bridge cultural and human differences, celebrate all languages in their grand splendour. Hence we held our Modern Languages Day as well as the Hindi Diwas to promote the national tongue of India. We witnessed in these events children participating in varied activities such as poetry recitation, debates, discussions, exploring different music compositions and international cuisine to name just a few. Well, this did provide some fun and entertainment for the students but it brought to the fore that language elevates, enriches and strings together the three realms of culture, intellect and emotion of an individual and it reflects how varied and yet so similar these realms are

in the vastly diverse peoples of the world, speaking different tongues. Most certainly these events contribute to the core IB philosophy of 'developing international mindedness'.

Also last week, the Student Council had its first Leadership Session along with the Director, the Principal and the student council coordinator. While the chiefs of the meeting were the student members of the council itself, we were beside them to see these young leaders putting forward the best in them to discuss the council's core values, the immediate academic and non academic targets for the students, plans to achieve the same and identify their respective and collective responsibilities. I must add we were so inspired to watch these young, talented people work so hard, that it makes us contented and satisfied that we have chosen (electorally, I must mention) a great team of young leaders to chart the way forward for the school.

While our students polish their academics and leadership skills, our teachers are not way behind! The IB teachers are all geared up to attend the Job Alike sessions slated for 26th Feb. In this session, teachers from all schools in the region teaching the same subject will meet to share and discuss best teaching practices, ideas and strategies so as to deliver the best to the students. Mr. James Kilpatrick, our newly appointed French teacher will also be attending an IB regional workshop from 12th to 14th Feb. This is, again,

an evidence of our commitment to ongoing professional development!

We had the first spell of college/university visits this week. On 9th



Feb, we had admission officers from a US University and 11 US universities on 10th Feb. While this is important for Grade 11, it is equally important for Grade 9 since they require this exposure to 'groom' them-



selves for the application and admission processes. Parents are welcome to attend these sessions. The details of the university visits have been sent separately.

While students are preparing to fulfil their dreams in their future not so far away, I would like to share with them a thought that once my teacher shared with me- Learn everything you can, anytime you can, from anyone you can - there will always come a time when you will be grateful you did."

**Best Wishes,
Umar Jaffar**

Middle School Principal

With the fading winter chill, festive mood began as we as we celebrated



Modern Language festival in the school on February 9, 2011. Besides music and dance food was also a part



of celebrations. As we all savoured delectable dishes from France, Spanish and India, we

learnt from the dish labels that double "LL" is pronounced as "y" in Spanish! Language learning commences in the middle school and builds basic skills that serve as the foundation for advanced language study.

Reading and Writing skills is going to be our focus in this semester. Students will be encouraged to write journals and book reviews as part of the process. Our director Dr. Advani, who is also a subject expert, takes one session every week with Form 6 students to give them the right direction. Parents as well as caregivers are critically important in motivating children to read. Here are some suggestions to get the process started:

1. Talk to your children. Read to them and with them. Encourage



them to give their opinions on different books.

2. Keep books, newspapers, and other printed materials around the house. Let them see you reading. This will show them that it is an enjoyable and important activity.

3. Look out for good books! A well written book will get your child interested. It will either make him laugh, arouse curiosity or take him into another dimension.

Happy Reading!!

Sunanda Sandhir

Primary School Principal

The school is back to normal timings and our children are deeply involved with their learnings in and outside the classrooms. The play field is green and very inviting, specially as the weather is at its best at this time of the year Besides PE, I've also witnessed reading lessons in the sun. The children have visited the Science Museum to study various aspects of their units and some have been interviewing doctors to further their inquiry on human systems. They are now looking forward to visiting Anish Kapoor's art exhibition.

The rigor of academics is evident in the intensive research work I see happening across the Primary school. You get a glimpse of this while reading through news letters sent by Form tutors. applying research skills, students detect what the key information is from written text and then formulate that information into their own work. This skill takes time to develop. Our students are developing their research skill by:

• **Formulating Questions** to help them search for the information that is relevant

- **Observe** by using their different senses
- **Plan** what resources they will use
- **Collect** the data and information
- **Record** the data in a way so that they can present the information in their own words.

This develops our students to be inquirers who are knowledgeable in their communications .

Students from the 5th Form are learning about the human body. Each student has taken one system for example, the circulatory system followed the above steps to collect and share with other colleagues, all the information about that system. They then, present to their classmates the entire circulatory system; They are also ready to answer any relevant queries that they or the teacher may have. Similarly, each student has presented one system leading to a complete understanding of the human body. Here, they have used 'text' from books and journals and internet. In their resource plan, they had planned to visit a practicing Doctor who could further their knowledge from the text. So, they visited the Cardiologist and the Orthopedic Surgeon from Max Hospital, Noida. Their reflections after the trip indicated that they have learnt a lot more about the Systems than they had researched through print media. They also got to view a real heart of an old woman through the computer which has excited their learning and driven their inquiry and interest further. They were equally excited by the fact that babies had more bones than adults which they gathered from the orthopedician .

Research in Maths: Form 4 while studying the universe googled for sizes of various planets and made a model of the universe to scale

Research through usage of material: Form 3 students have been working on water and they have been engaged in making a snowy model from which Ganges emerges

and they realised if the water added was too little, the POP cracked while if it was runny there was no mountain left the following day. So very systematically they worked out the consistency of water needed to add to the POP to keep the snowy peaks up and.....the picture tells it all.....



Research readiness in our Nursery: They have been looking at the day and night and have observed and



recorded the night sky for a week to see the moon change its shape. Our Kindergarteners are learning about plants. They have been experimenting with germination which has led to various questions. They have been observing the changes every day.

They have been introduced to a variety of books, fiction and non-fiction on plants from which they have gathered certain facts about plants. They are recording data of growth of their plants and representing the information through bar graphs (through use of wooden blocks and multi links.)

Usha Lamba