



Pathways School Noida

From the Director's Desk...

After the winter break it has been good to come back to the progress in the school building. The

and cold. I would be interested in hearing feedback from parents on this.

Please remember that we revert to an 8am start on Tuesday 1st February.

Meanwhile teachers were hard at work before students came back to school on

the 17th. There were planning meetings, workshops on assessment, new student orientations and all the classroom preparations required before pupils return. There was also a day of fun at Aravali as part of the ongoing communication among all the Pathways schools, and you can read about that elsewhere in this newsletter.

After school classes

Meanwhile in this semester, we are launching a number of new initiatives. We plan to offer sports practice and music classes for some instruments after school. These are optional and students will need to make their own transport arrangements for the days they stay back. You will be receiving details of this early next week.

We are also in the process of scheduling the school camps/ trips for students from Grade 4 upward. As per the calendar, these will take place in March and are a wonderful opportunity to do field studies, interact with local inhabitants and develop an enjoyment of being away from civilisation and their comfort zone. These are compulsory for all students and parents will receive full details of location, facilities and support structures once all these aspects are sorted out.

Open House & Facebook

For the various people in the city not quite clear about the international programme and the International Baccalaureate from Primary to Senior level, the School is holding an Open House on Saturday 12th and 25th February. If you have any friends or colleagues who would like to know more about the Pathways curriculum or the IB, please do let them know so that they can attend. Details and registration are available on the school website.

As part of its intention to create an awareness of the wonderful range of work our students do, Pathways Noida now has its own Facebook page and blog. Please do visit this and view or add to events and activities.



PATHWAYS
SCHOOL
Learn • Work • Play • Think • LIVE

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Special points of interest

- ☺ 1st February 2011—
School at 8 am
- ☺ 9th February 2011—
Modern Language Festival
- ☺ 12th February 2011—
Working Saturday :
Open House
- ☺ 18th February 2011—
Primary Grand Parents
Day
- ☺ 19th February 2011—
PTM & Sports Fiesta
- ☺ 26th February 2011—
Non Working Saturday

Parent Teacher Meetings & Schedule Change

Our next academic review meeting of students progress is on Saturday **September 19th** and not 26th as in the diary. This change is necessary as many senior school teachers will be attending an IB meeting on the 26th. Please mark your calendars.

Shalini Advani



field is miraculously green and outdoor PE lessons are on, the swings and slides



are in full use and the last touches are being given to the tennis and basketball courts. The late start in the morning has been wildly popular with students who are grateful for not needing to tumble out of bed while it is still dark

Noida staff & the Chairman's Meet...

PATHWAYS ARAVALI: JANUARY 2011

It was barely a few months back when all the new teachers and staff from Noida and Gurgaon met at Aravali. The energy of the flagship school left us all breathless - its systems and its vision enveloped the whole school and we were immersed in it.

On January 16, the teachers of Pathways School Noida walked through the scenic and serene pathways of Aravali and it felt like our first day of school. At the admin building, in the lobby we eagerly waited for all buses to come in one by one to warmly greet our friends, familiar faces with whom we shared great memories.

The lush green periphery of the atrium and tinkling of the waterfall made the perfect setting for encouraging and warm words of welcome from our Chairman, Trustees and Directors. Each and every member of the audience was truly in sync with the vision of the school, we all gath-

ered as people who may be at different places but we all believe in shaping the future of our children and our nation in the highest possible manner.

To most of us at Noida School, the day was about connections; connecting with old and new, the mentors from the Aravali school, the Jain



family and our noteworthy directors. We re-connected with the child in us and participated in games we remember playing as children, getting our hands dirty and faces muddy, shouting in glee, sometimes defending our team and at other times rooting for them. We realised that for a minute there we all got a bit too competi-

tive - we reconnected with the little child in us and the little devil that wants us to win, always!

The true purpose of this meet, to most of us was an awareness of how other schools are shaping up and how we all can learn from each other. This kind of interaction is very unique to our Pathways family - we network, share resources and ideas willingly. In our busy schedules, we often don't find time to realize how truly talented we all are or appreciate the rich resources we have around. This day was a great chance to interact with teachers we had met during our various workshops, discuss strategies and learn from each others' experiences. Pathways world school had brought our worlds closer together, making us realize that despite our different locations, the Pathways family has one common goal - to be the best, together.

Bhavya Bhatt
Middle School English Dept.

Senior School Principal

"Winter either bites with its teeth or lashes with its tail!" And don't we all in Delhi quite agree with this! The weather this winter seemed so unapologetic, unsympathetic and unrelenting that even our quotidian life was rather disrupted and displaced. While we are still recovering from its frosty and numbing grip, we are of course resuming normalcy with our efforts focussed on making up for the lost time in the school calendar.

As we teachers fret over the extended break, am not surprised to know that most students thought it to be an unexpected windfall!

The first step towards resuming our normal schedule therefore is to go back to our original school timings. In that, from 1st Feb 2011, classes will start at 8 am, instead of the current 9.45 am.

And so, our dear students will need

to gear themselves up for getting back to the grind soon!

Back from the break, the children and the staff seemed rejuvenated and ready to be on the go. Yet, the first thing we did was to reflect on the students' performance in their recent midterm examinations.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that reflection is necessary to complete learning

and therefore education. At Pathways, we understand that each individual has their unique learning curve, and thus it is essential to give honest academic feedback and observations, not just report cards alone which state grades and percentages. While as parents you may have worked with your wards on the steps that need to be taken to achieve their academic goals, I, as principal, in conjunction with my teacher colleagues have worked with each Grade 9 and 11 student to review his or her performance,

assess strengths, understand their predilections, chart out goals and roll out a stage wise, time bound plan to reach acceptable academic standards. This exercise was a top-down process where the students actually made a slide presentation which started with their eventual goals and the step wise plan to overcome challenges in each subject, thereby attaining their academic targets. This was certainly a systematic approach to help children take stock of the situation and make them

aware of their academic responsibility. Yet, here again I will be quick to add that we at Pathways are always beside them and guide them at every endeavour- this is our duty as teachers to education itself.

I am also happy to share with you that two of our students, Partha Sharma and Srishti Mehrotra participated in the interschool quiz competition at Amity School on 27th Jan 2011. They finished in fourth place out of 11 schools participated in the contest. They have proved

themselves to be tough competitors and enthusiastic, learning and keen participants too in the event. Well done students! You have brought to the fore, the Pathways signature healthy competitive spirit!

Well, not only do students bring rec-



ognition and appreciation to our school, but even our teachers are widely appreciated for their academic intellect. Last week, our geography teacher, Dr. Ravindar Kaul, was invited by the television channel, Gyan Darshan, one of the many offshoots of Door Darshan network, to share his views and answer various subject related doubts and queries of CBSE grade 12 students from across the country. This indeed is matter of great esteem to Pathways as well, to have with us such a meritorious teacher on board. Congratula-

tions to Dr. Kaul and may he receive much wider recognition and honour in future too.

We continue to bring to our children multiple avenues to experiential learning- a hallmark of our school's teaching. And therefore, in keeping with this principle, we have taken our students to the National Science Centre on 28th Jan 2011 to allow scope for their bright and sharp minds to also focus on higher and broader vistas of learning- exploration, invention, discovery and even research of new or even old existing knowledge. We do sincerely hope that they take back with them not just the memory of the visit but the cognizance, consciousness and discernment of the wonder of learning and thus knowledge itself.

Well, finally, this new term we do have with us our new French teacher, Mr. James Kilpatrick, a native speaker of the language and one who has huge enthusiasm for teaching the same. A very warm welcome to him and we wish him the very best in his new professional innings.

With goodbye to one term of the academic year, we are all fuelled with abundant zeal yet again to engage with our dear students in the process of learning! Here's wishing each of them good luck for the new term!

**Warm regards,
Umar Jaffar**

Middle School Principal

"I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn". -

Albert Einstein

This is what we try to follow at Pathways. We provide our students an environment conducive to learning and the learning happens. It is evident from the events of second semester. Term began with first subject assembly, a Math Assembly! We will follow up with many other subject assemblies. Form 8 student presented a play on the life of Ramanujam, one of the greatest Mathematician this world has seen. The play was researched, scripted and edited by the students themselves. Form 6 students and teacher presented math tambola thereafter - a good exercise to work on their Mental Math.

Math assembly



Form evening was another event where parents were given an insight into curriculum and its delivery methods. Students gave glimpse to the parents of 'what they loved to learn' in each subject through various presentations.

Form Evening

This week the students of middle school will visit National Science Centre. A worksheet has been designed on the models present in the Science Centre.

Thus at Pathways learning never stops. Even our teachers are on the path to learning through various workshops every Thursday. This Thursday, Mr. Umar Jaffar, our senior school principal, conducted a workshop titled 'Learning to learn' for the secondary school teachers.

- Sunanda Sandhir



National Science Centre

On Friday, students of grades 6 to 11 had a fascinating visit to the National Science Centre, Pragati Maidan. In fact it turned out to be an eye opener as we saw intriguing aspects of science/math in the form of live working models! The trip was divided into two parts - a preliminary visit and investigative study. In all there were seven different galleries. All students were given a worksheet outlining the synopsis of the concepts/models displayed at NSC.

Students were very excited to see some of the models from science especially the one which gives information about the amount of water in

various organs of the human body. The scientific magic show conducted by the supervisor at NSC was awesome. Children found out the amazing applications of Liquid Nitrogen and how it does the trick for magicians! There were various other models on Physics, Chemistry, IT etc. The mathematical model on Pythagoras Theorem was praised by everyone. The Elliptical Carom turned out to be a real jigsaw as children tried hard to figure out the mathematics behind it. All children got almost lost in the Mirror Maze - an applications of the Physics concept.

Already further trips are being planned by individual teachers to follow up on specific learning areas of the museum. It's truly a perfect world of learning by doing.

Raju Verma
Head of Maths



Primary School Principal

Welcome back to the start of a new term and my very best wishes for a happy 2011. Judging by the stories I have heard, it seems that the Winter vacation was lived to the full and good times were had by all!

We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead of us and seeing everyone doing their bit to help move our school onwards and upwards. We welcome some new children to Pathways Noida. (we will name them)

Thank You

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Form evenings on the 24th and 21st. I hope it was useful, helpful and enjoyable.



I would like to add "If parents understood the huge educational benefit and intense happiness brought about by reading aloud to their children, and if every parent—and every adult caring for a child—read aloud a minimum of three stories a day to the children in their lives, we could probably wipe out illiteracy within one generation." This is a pretty bold statement, but one that many Early Childhood professionals firmly believe in. Reading to a child can and should begin as soon after birth as possible, as it will help with brain

development, speech skills, as well as simply bonding with the child, which will help in other developmental areas as well. As teachers we are really happy for you to record any material that the children are reading at home; newspapers, magazines, novels or information texts. It is all very useful and informs the teacher what the children have done at home. Thanks again for your continued support.

We At Pathways grab every opportunity

Most of you would have noticed that we have cordoned off the Angan for safety in the Primary school due to some construction activities. So the large partitions

are being used by the Art Department to introduce various techniques used by different artists. Each Form is working with one artist and one panel. Not only will they view a collection of the artist that they will work with but also imitate his style of work. The early learners have been listening to stories of Elmer, the colourful elephant and the Rainbow fish who was very proud of her shiny scales and so lost friends, till she met the wise octopus who showed her ways to share and make friends. In both these stories is show cased a large number of the learner profile that we wish to inculcate in our students, so they are listening to the stories, watching them on screen and creating wonderful illustration along the ply wood

used for partitioning. Some of you might have noticed the work of children in progress. This is Pathways, practical and flexible even with our curriculum, yet the students are challenged in every sphere of their learning inside and outside the class rooms.

Special Assembly For The Republic Day

It was fundamentally conducted by the senior school but as always Primary had a space for recitation.

Thank you Srijan, that was a good



piece of recitation. Besides the children were exposed to a variety of inputs from Debate to Desh Bhakti song and reflections on where India stands after 63 years of Independence.

Parental Concerns

Every parent that I spoke to at the form evenings was very happy and satisfied with the progress and innovative styles used by teachers during lesson times across all forms.

Many of them wished to know more specifically how could they make a difference in their child's life.

All parents want their children to develop a strong sense of self-confidence. But how do you go about it? Many parents use praise as their primary confidence-building technique, but there's a much better strategy you can use to boost their confidence.

Encouragement is a more powerful confidence-building tool than praise and it doesn't have the adverse side effects of demotivating children or promoting sibling rivalry.

The differences are slim but important. Encouragement focuses on the process of what a child does whereas praise focuses on the end result.

Here are five ways to encourage your child:

1. **Focus on improvement in any skill:** "You really have picked up on your reading."
2. **Highlight their efforts:** "I can see you really tried hard to get it right."
3. **Comment on their contribution:** "I really appreciate your help with cleaning the house. It makes my job easier."
4. **Focus on enjoyment they get from an activity:** "It's great to see you enjoying your Indian dance."
5. **Show your confidence:** "I know you can do this. You've tackled hard stuff like this in the past, and you can do it again."

How many of these encouragement statements do you regularly use? If you aren't a natural encourager then pick one of these statement types and challenge yourself to use it at least five times a day for a week.

If you do this encouragement will become automatic in no time.

Usha Lamba
