



# Pathways School Noida



**PATHWAYS**  
**SCHOOL**  
Learn • Work • Play • Think • LIVE

Volume 1, Issue VIII

25.03.2011

## From the Director's Desk...

A warm welcome back to everyone after the mid-semester break. I hope you all had a happy Holi with all its joy and madness.

We ended the term before the Break with a burst of activity. Thank you to all of you who attended the Academic Fair, giving so much appreciation to all the hard work done by our



students and teachers. As many of you pointed out, it was wonderful to see the clarity and confidence with which students explained scientific phenomena or mathematical systems. It is this confidence and the communication skills, which makes students of Pathways stand out. The Art exhibition was a phenomenal explosion of talent. It was good to see the inspiration our students drew from the work of some of the world's greatest artists - Picasso, Van Gogh, Matisse, Klee, Anish Kapur. The exposure they have

had in their art classes was transformed by their own creative energies.

### Adventure Camps

The first Adventure camps which students from Grade 4 upward attended were a roaring success, introducing children to living far away from their customary world dominated by electricity, cell-phones and laptops. On the trips students learnt to pitch and live in tents, cook outdoors, orienteer and find their way through the jungle, rock climb and rap-

pel. It was education at its most varied, even more so for the senior school students who conducted a preliminary river study. Most of all by building in reflection, learning about the landscape and people of the area it transformed learning into the holistic real-life experience which we value so much at Pathways. You can read some of the students' own account elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Planning for the hot months

As the weather begins to

warm up we are moving to the last leg of our current academic year. The focus will be very much on the academic programme in the coming months and secondary school students will be taking their first end-of-year examinations in May. Details and schedules of these will be sent out next month. Meanwhile we are re-structuring the timetable from April to have PE classes in the first part of the morning. Our airconditioning will also be functional in the first week of April.

### College Applications & Introduction to IGCSE

An introductory session for parents and students on the process of college applications is being held by our college counsellor Puja Rao on 1<sup>st</sup> April. On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March, parents and students of Form 8 have an introduction to the IGCSE programme where you can meet teachers and make a decision on the subjects you want to opt for.

### Staff Professional Development

Meanwhile our commitment to professional development remains strong. The senior school Principal Mr

### Days to Note :

- ☺ 26 March: IGCSE Introduction
- ☺ 26 March : IB Open House
- ☺ 1st April :Intro to college applications
- ☺ 9th April: Working Saturday
- ☺ 22nd April : Good Friday Holiday
- ☺ 23rd April: Non Working Saturday
- ☺ 30th April : Working Saturday

Umar Jaffar attended the IB Regional conference in Melbourne. The Head of ICT, Ms Geetanjali Dewan and I attended a training on podcasting which we will be introducing students too.

### Calendar Change

Please note that the Good Friday holiday is incorrectly printed as 1<sup>st</sup> April. Good Friday holiday will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> will be non-working and instead we will work on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Shalini Advani  
School Director

# Form 5 students on their trip to Sitlakheth

## Srijan Mehrotra

On 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011 (Anmol's birthday) grades 4-8 of Pathways school Noida went on a Youreka camp in Sitlakheth in India. We had to reach school at 7:45. From there we went to the railway station by buses.

## Mehak Dewan

The big day was near, I was having second thoughts, second thoughts about going, leaving my house, leaving the luxury life and most of all leaving my sister! Should I go??

My heart was beating rapidly when it was time for just one thing, 'goodbye'. I was just about to cry when Anjali came & called me. I went, but longingly kept thinking about my sister. People told me to keep my luggage in the bus. I hugged my sister & put my luggage. I bet if I would have looked back at my sister once more she would have cried.

We started a bus journey - Anjali and I were sitting together. We talked continuously, sang and played loads of games too! We got off the bus once we reached the Old Delhi Railway Station, where we waited for a long time as the train was delayed.

## Srijan Mehrotra

When we reached the railway station we got to know the train was about 3 hours late. We had to wait for a long time. While waiting we were bored but later we started having fun and playing games

## Anmol Kaul

When we reached Uttaranchal the next day, we took a van and stopped once for eating lunch because we were very hungry. All teachers and

students ate lunch at COUNTRY INN. Afterwards we sat in the van again and our journey to the camp started. Then we reached our camp after a long time.

## Akshit Anubhav

The scenery of the camp was really good there loads of trees, some mountains covered with snow and a lot covered with trees. The food was really good and the best dish was Pahadi chicken. The best event was Talent hunt I imitated Eminem in that, I even remember some things done by other people jokes, play, poda, songs etc.

It was a good experience for me living in tents. The activities and tasks were rock climbing, valley



Rock climbing

crossing and treasure hunt. The most fascinating thing was rock climbing and I enjoyed all the activities.

After doing the nights chores we went in our tents which just had a dustbin, shoerack and a lamp which hardly worked and the base was so hard! We laid our sleeping bags & tried to sleep.

## Manav Khurana

On the first day after we settled down in our tents, we made a big circle to exercise and also to give

our introduction. While doing hiking, two wild dogs started running behind us thus creating a chaos. Then we all got a scolding and sir told us the rules like:

- We have to blow our whistle when we are in a problem
- We don't have to run when a creature comes
- Always be behind the leader
- Listen to the leader

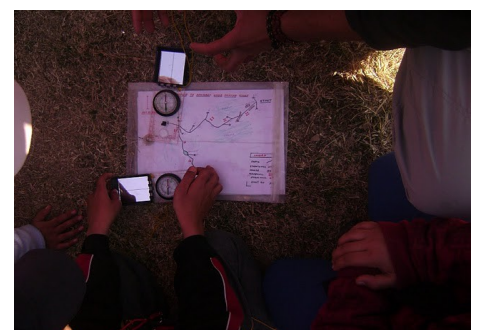
## Anmol Kaul

We all had to build a survival shelter if it rains so we tried courageously. After half an hour Tara sir taught us the right way.



Children building survival shelter

We had to go for a treasure hunt. I was holding the map and Srijan and Dhruv were given the work of com-



Students finding their way to treasure using a compass and Map

pass We took a break near a broken house. I was given a clapping because

I was telling them what to do and where to do. It was the turn of the girls to hold the map. But, they didn't get a clapping. So, there was a bad luck for girls.

**Mehak Dewan**

He then said something really surprising! That there IS a treasure! He told us to look for it! We all spreaded around the place hunting for it vigorously. In fractions of seconds we found it! There were 11 chocolates!



*Celebrating the Treasure*

**Manav Khurana**

When we finished eating we did rock climbing (most fun activity). After the rock climbing we went back to the campsite. When we reached the campsite we took a shower (the only time). Then we had to practice for the talent night and most of the time was gone in that then we had milk, and went for the talent show.

When we came back, we ate yummy yummy dinner and had a talent show the starting wad of grade 4 & 5 in which we were doing a drama and the



grandfinale was the 'Bikram Ki Javani' it was like what's my name , my name Bikram Biram ki Javani...

**Srijan Mehrotra**

After the talent show we had our campfire and dinner. -

We all went back home sadly. We were sad because we left Youreka. :-( But we were also happy coming back :-)

**Mehak Diwan**

But this journey surely left a deep mark in my heart & left me proud & brave throughout my life. I would love to go again!

*Talent Show*

**Health Department Bulletin**

Our Medical Room has seven rooms- including an isolation room and two observation (Boy & Girl) rooms.

The school keeps the medical records provided by parents. Most intervention so far has fortunately been limited to first aid though we have had a couple of cases where adults have required more drastic help.

We are equipped for the most common medical emergencies. Equipment we have includes a suction machine, nebulizer and oxygen cylinder, glucometer and BP apparatus. We have a tie up with Max hospital, Noida to attend to any incident within school.

**Santosh Sharma  
Senior Nurse**



*Santosh examining Aryaman*



*Santosh examining Palak*



*Amina examining Drishya*

# Senior School Principal

Cricket is more intoxicating than opium, at least in India! It is here, cricket is quite literally a religion and all our dear cricketers therefore, by default become Gods! So when it is the ICC World Cup season, we expect nothing short of absolute delirium gripping the entire country!

And despite the cricket scenario seeming to be so enthralling, it is very encouraging and heart warming to note that the attendance of the senior students at school has improved and is more than satisfactory. We teachers deeply appreciate this and definitely will continue to extend our support to them to keep their motivation high.

As we progress further into this term, yet another remarkable element of the students has begun to emerge - responsibility. Often as a principal, I do have many individual sessions with each student to understand his/ her goals, to chart out a plan to meet those targets and how to compensate for a 'slip' in performance i.e., sanctions- for academic or non academic aspects. What is increasingly taking precedence in every child's character development is, 'restitution.' In that, children are voluntarily taking charge of compensating or in a sense indemnifying for a certain lapse in their duties/ actions/ behaviour. The fact that these children act on their own will, at such a tender age, to provide for reparation is certainly laudable. I, at the same time can see the philosophy of the school succeeding in guiding them towards self discipline and responsibility and thus, obliging finesse into their moral fabric. When such synergy exists between the school's vision and its team of students and teachers, excellence in education is not a matter of competence or resourcefulness, but only of time.

In an era, where there is so much

information deluging, cascading and simply avalanching on us, change is the order of the day. Our thinking is also going through a continuous metamorphosis and as a consequence of this, our education systems need to also keep pace with these overwhelming and bewildering developments, innovations and transformations of knowledge. In an IB Educators' Conference in Melbourne I attended last week, it was brought to our notice how deeply involved the IB is in making academics more relevant and meaningful to the changing times. Apart from performing school reviews every five years, it also does curriculum reviews every seven years in order to leave out nothing that has significantly modified in the interim period. The IB is also going to shortly introduce new subjects for detailed study in the IB DP course such as World Religions, World Studies, Sports, Health and Science and IB Career related Certificate to mention a few to be in line with the evolving, fluctuating and diversifying world. When such is the vision and philosophy of the IB , both the teachers and the students will be more than profited intellectually and morally who in turn will help build a world that will allow for true freedom of human thought, spirit and action, guided by a moral compass.

I shall conclude with a famous quote from one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s many speeches- Peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal. This is the very end towards which we strive today in the world, and no other way can we achieve this but by the true education of our children.

**Umar Jaffar**



# Middle School Principal

We are back after a refreshing break. Camping - which I accompanied students to - was an exhilarating experience. This was a fun time



with no rules, but a lot of learning. You can see this in their accounts



Another important activity that has been organized is extending the reach of our students to their coun-

terparts from other countries. This has been done through program called 'Penpals' and the beginning has been made by students from Form 5 and 6 with 'Penpals from New Jersey.' . They communicate with them through e-mails and recently one



group used 'Skype' to have an audio chat too. This kind of communication will help them to learn about different cultures and they will be able to share their own experiences .

While we continue learning through different environments, our focus on academics has also stepped up keeping in mind the final exams. These exams help students to experience and get ready for high school examinations. A set of sample papers and marking schemes will be

shared with all the students.

While at school we will continue to provide emotional and educational support, it is also important for the parents to provide a positive and motivating environment at home. In my next communication I'll share some tips so that all of us can work together to make the examination experience as smooth as it can be.

**Sunanda Sandhir**

# Primary School Principal

Welcome back after the short mid-term break.

*"I celebrate myself, and sing myself,  
And what I assume you shall assume,  
For every atom belonging to me as  
good belongs to you."*

Our Form 4 and 5 had a combination of great learning and fun at the Adventure camps.

The routine and the rigour of academics are already visible in school. The weather is getting warm so we are rescheduling The PE Time Table so that students get to play in the mornings before it gets too warm.

Besides good weather it's an interesting time of the year for we receive many visitors, some for admissions and others for inquiry. All interactions lead to reflective questioning and I get to pick on ideas which might be of interest to you. I have often been asked by parents, "How can we help our children build up self confidence/esteem?"

Virginia Satir wrote a poem called "My Declaration of Self-Esteem". This poem begins with the statement "I AM ME" and continues with the following; *"In all the world, there is no one else exactly like me*

*Everything that comes out of me is  
authentically me*

*Because I alone chose it - I own  
everything about me*

*My body, my feelings, my mouth, my  
voice, all my actions,*

*Whether they be to others or to  
myself - I own my fantasies,*

*My dreams, my hopes, my fears - I  
own all my triumphs and*

*Successes, all my failures and mis-  
takes."*

It concludes with the statement, "I own me, and therefore I can engineer me - I am me and I AM OKAY."

Children learn to love and appreciate themselves by discovering just how important and wonderful they are.

One of the most important ways children begin to build self-esteem is by setting and achieving goals. Ask your child to think of a goal, such as making their bed every day or reading a book each night. You may encourage them by sharing a goal you have for yourself. At the

end of the week recap how many times they made their bed and then celebrate together each small or big success.

If, for some reason the goal was not achieved, ask what might be done to achieve it. (No bribes)As you may have noticed, we lay a great emphasis on setting goals and reflecting on them in school..

**Usha Lamba**



*Busy hands..*



*Walking in a line*