



PHSA Newsletter

School Director and Principal : Dr. John Jenckes
Vice-Principal : Mr. Christopher Manning
Office Administrator : Dewan Saifuddin Ahammad 09632000000 Ex. 201
Mob: **01764364305**
Office Administrator : Hasib Zaman Khan 09632000000 Ex. 213
Mob: **01766686923**

Issue No.: 002

September 4, 2014



From the School Director's Office

Congratulations to Martin Mai, the founding school director of Pledge Harbor School and Sports Academy, who is now the high school principal of Nansha College Preparatory Academy (NCPA), China. We wish Mr. Martin Mai the very best in his new endeavor.

As we begin the third week of school next week, teachers are beginning their assessments to check for student learning and understanding. We often think of an evaluation as taking place at the end of the year, bringing closure to the year and the course. However, Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) works with schools throughout the year in preparing for the examinations. In October, CIE will contact PHSA for an estimate of the number of candidates who will sit for the different exams offered. This is especially important in performance subjects as this estimate allows CIE to dispatch early exam materials before the final deadline, to prepare the students for the assessment. Key material is received well in advance and this allows teachers to work with the students, preparing for the assessment. If the school fails to submit to CIE the estimate number of students who will sit the exam, the candidates may still take the exam; however, they will not benefit from the early preparation time.

The estimated entry is important at PHSA in all our performance areas. Last November, the school received pre-release materials in drama which helped Mr. Bishop prepare his students for the examination well in advance. Student performances were videotaped and evaluated by the instructor before they were dispatched for external examination.

Physical Education also videotapes student performance throughout the year for those students taking the external examination. Skills in certain sports such as cricket and soccer are recorded via video so that the learning objectives can be revisited and reviewed by Mr. Perry as part of the examination.

Team skills and individual skills are recorded for the purpose of the examination. However, only those students who are taking the exam may be involved in the videos sent for the examination. These video recordings require the teacher to determine quite early whether the student will be taking the examination.

The process of examination for the IGCSE and A levels is quite complex as it includes more than just multiple choice questions. Students are being prepared by their teachers, at this early stage, to read and respond to actual test papers from past years. Research and analysis are important components of external testing and we are making every effort to provide a strong foundation for our students at PHSA.



VP's Message

Hello PHSA Community!

There have been many community driven initiatives carried out this week. One of the most important aspects of a community is the culture and norms. There are many PHSA events, programs, special days, and celebrations that all contribute to what PHSA has become over the years. This year PHSA experienced major changes in the senior administration. This will undoubtedly have an effect on the organizational culture. However, we intend to carry on many of the great traditions that members of PHSA worked so hard to establish. Some things will be seen in the same form as previously experienced, while others will be re-introduced in a different fashion.

Student Recognition

Student of the Week is a great recognition program that everyone loves and appreciates. We have re-introduced it as Student of the Month. Having two students (junior and senior) recognized for an entire month adds to the positive re-enforcement of good behavior. It also allows the exceptional performers to be recognized for a longer period than a week, and increase the significance of the award. There will only be 10 winners each year (in each category). These 10 students will compete for the Student of the Year award.

Cultural Clothing Day

Cultural Clothing Day will occur on every other Thursday. This way everyone has a chance to wear their cultural dress at least twice in a month.

Wednesday Night BBQ

This event will occur on the first Wednesday of each month. The BBQ will be positioned outside with music and celebration. There will be a study-hall after the BBQ instead of Coffee House. PHSA will now have an annual Talent Show that will happen once a year. In this event students will have a chance to show off their many talents in a more controlled and appropriate fashion.

Students might have already noticed that there is an increased focus on Study Hall and Dorm Life on campus. Study Hall is a chance to interact with teachers and spend special time on re-visiting topics discussed in class. Homework is done with the help of fellow students and without distractions.

Dorm Life has been re-organized in more of a family styled setting. The Dean of Students, who also resides in the dormitory, is there to ensure that discipline, routine, safety, security, and proper hygiene is ever-present. This routine provides security and decreases the chance of incidents such as bullying or isolation. Everyone has a chance to participate, and no one is left on his/her own. This requires special attention and a high level of dedication. We thank Dean Richard for his love and care of our students in their PHSA home-settings. He and his House-Master staff are invaluable members of our PHSA family. This increased focus on study hall, dorm life, and community culture will provide a balanced atmosphere for all members of our community. We will continue to build on the hard work that preceded us, and will work to ensure that PHSA does reach its full potential as school, home, and community.

Campus Visit (24 Hour's Notice Required)

Parents are requested to contact Mr. Dewan at dewan.ahammad@pledgeharbor.org or +88 01764364305 to visit the campus with their friends or family at least 24 hours before.

Weekly Home Visits

Thursday : Bus departs from campus 3.30 pm
Saturday : Bus departs from Uttara 3.30 pm

AISD Swimming Meet

For Middle/Upper grade 6-12

Venue : AISD, Baridhara, Dhaka
Date : September 13, 2014

List of Participants:

Name	Grade
Rohan Ahmed Khan	7
Mohammed Asif Alam	7
Safat Bin Salauddin Sarker	7
Mahadi Rahman Arian	7
Wasi Rehman Bukuno	6
Syed Samin Siam	6
Tarek Chowdhury	5
Ajmain Hyder	5
Muhammad Bin Masud	4
Ilham Akbar Alfatihah	11
Ishtiaque Mahmood	8

Coach: Julian Rodriguez



Introductory Message from Ms. Samantha Linehan

Hello everyone! My name is Ms. Samantha Linehan. I originally come from a small town in Wisconsin, USA. I received my Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education with a double major in English Literature and French language from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. For the last four years I have been teaching middle school English/language arts in Tucson, AZ.

I have been fortunate to have had a couple of shorter international placements so far in Cape Town, South Africa, teaching grades 7-9 English, and China, Greece, teaching all ages ESL.

My main goal as the First Language English teacher here at Pledge Harbor is to help students learn the skills necessary to pass either their IGCSE or A-level exam. My second goal is to hopefully help foster a love of reading in students. By pushing themselves to read frequently, students will be helping themselves to increase their vocabulary, improve spelling, increase their awareness of various grammatical structures, as well as provide students with an opportunity to open their minds to a world outside of their own. Reading is the key to so much success!

In my spare time, I enjoy swimming, especially teaching swimming lessons! I also love to play volleyball and I look forward to helping the current coaches with the PHSA volleyball team!

I'm very excited to be here at PHSA!

Pledge Harbor Sport Eligibility Policy

At PHSA a passing grade is a 60% or higher. Any mark below a 60% is considered an "F", or failing grade. In order to compete in tournaments and sporting events for PHSA, a student may not have more than one "F". Students who are failing two or more classes are not eligible to participate in sport activities and be on PHSA sports teams until their grades improve.

August/September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

BBQ Night



Photo Courtesy: Sumon Sen