



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.: 003

September 11, 2014



From the School Director's Office

We are quickly approaching the end of the month and it is that time of the year that we are expecting a school visit by the International Baccalaureate (IB) consultant who will spend two days at PHSA determining areas of improvement for the school authorization process. He will spend the two days meeting with students, faculty, parents and administrators to understand the school and its functions. He will correlate his initial observations with the school action plan that was submitted last year as a requirement of its initial application for consideration as an IB school. The action plan was developed to help ensure the school meets the IB standards before successfully being accredited to teach their program.

The school action plan promises that there was involvement of the stakeholders. The areas it covers are:

1. Philosophy
2. Organization
3. Resources and Support
4. Curriculum
5. Collaborative Planning to Support the IB Curriculum
6. Written Curriculum
7. Teaching and Learning
8. Assessment

On the first day of the consultant's two day visit, he will meet with the Chairman, Senior Administrators, and especially the school's IB coordinator to discuss the school's commitment to the IB program, before he takes a tour of the facility and physical resources. The consultant will spend extensive time with the curriculum coordinator to discuss the alignment of the curriculum, current curriculum tasks, and forward planning in preparation of the school's desire to meet the IB standards. There will be meetings with the CAS coordinator (Creativity, Action and Service) and Theory of Knowledge (TOK) faculty. These are two of the programs that are mandatory core components of the IB philosophy.

On the second day, the consultant will start his day by meeting many of the parents of the prospective IB students, followed by a meeting with the prospective students to determine their level of understanding of the IB program. **I hope that many parents will take this opportunity to meet with our special guest so that they may ask questions and encourage their students to enroll in the Diploma Program (DP).** The rest of the afternoon will be spent with the librarian, and faculty of English, foreign languages, social studies, science, mathematics, and the fine arts. He will use this time to review curriculum documents and faculty lesson plans to determine how well prepared our teachers are at this stage to implement the program.

The consultant's role is really to help the school understand its commitment to the IB program. Universities abroad welcome IB students due to the rigorous academic training foundation of the program. Many of the IB graduates will begin their university career with an added advantage as they get credit for the IB subjects that they mastered in high school when starting their four year college program. Potential IB students need to understand the required rigor expected of them as they plan their coursework for the DP that includes:

- **Extended Essay**, a 4,000 word guided essay on an approved topic which the student chooses
- **Theory of Knowledge**, a 100 hour class which covers epistemology and critical thinking and is completed with a 1,600 word essay.
- **Creativity, Action, Service, CAS** is intended to help the student's personal growth through social or community work to help them become responsible members of their community.

We look forward to this new phase in our school's curricular development!!



From VP's Office

Hello PHSA Community,

This week has been a very motivating and inspirational experience. I have had a chance to visit most classrooms while in session. It was such a pleasure to watch faculty members conduct their courses, and to see the students interact with teachers. Our teachers work with a great deal of passion and care. Each lesson requires a massive amount of planning and preparation. This is why I felt it necessary to highlight my perspective regarding our classrooms and overall learning environment.

Many of our morning assemblies have featured different announcements by our faculty members. Mr. Hannu has reminded us to focus on a different aspect of the PHSA Learner Profile each week. Mr. Perry and Mr. Rodriguez are spearheading our "Push-up" challenge in order to amass 10,000 push-ups before we break for the upcoming Eid Holiday.

Ms. Jessica, our School Counselor, has announced Operation Care. This is where all homeroom teachers take a moment to distribute slips that tell the students how to carry out their "random acts of kindness". This program is to ensure that we remain a caring community. There are times when everyone needs someone to talk to. We are all surrounded by fellow PHSA members who care for one another. We thank Ms. Jessica for kicking off this awesome campaign that re-enforces our sense of community.

Mr. Sam, our Librarian, has made some amazing changes to our PHSA Library. We now have Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) installed for our use. It allows students to look-up and finds books within 10 seconds. In addition to the systems updates, all books have been categorized to assist students and teachers in their research and reading activities. Mr. Sam will also manage the PHSA "Drop Everything and Read" program. In this program everyone in PHSA will read for 30 minutes on Tuesdays during homeroom. Mr. Sam will begin teaching the Library Skills & Research Skills Course next week. The course will be taught during homeroom every Tuesday in the ICT Lab. The order of attendance will start from Grades 3/4 and progress to Grade 11. The purpose of the course is to enlighten our young readers on the necessary research skills required to take full advantage of the library resources.

There are many other initiatives coming to our campus to enhance our community awareness on important topics. One example is our up-coming Fire Safety Training that will be carried out by the Grasshoppers LLC. next week. Mr. Shihab has coordinated this training to ensure that all staff members are aware of the proper procedures to take in case of a fire on campus. We look forward to this training and thank Mr. Shihab for facilitating this opportunity.

With classes going strong and community members working hard to make PHSA a better place for everyone, I am very proud to be a member of PHSA. I commend the faculty, students, and staff on their efforts this week.

PHSA VS BKSP U16

On Wednesday, September 10th, Pledge Harbor was honored to host the BKSP U16 football team for a friendly match. It was a hard fought game with both teams playing extremely well. BKSP started strong and went into half-time up 3-0. In the second half, the Panthers showed a lot of determination and heart to score 2 goals. The final score was BKSP-5 Pledge Harbor-2.

I was extremely proud of our team and coaches. Many individuals stepped up as leaders as the game progressed; more importantly, the team as a whole never gave up on each other. Our team played as hard and as well as they could until the final whistle. As Athletics Director, I could not be prouder. The evening was capped off with the BKSP team sharing dinner with our boys, who acted as excellent hosts and representatives of our school.

Please join me and the coaches in wishing our swim team the best of luck as they compete at the AISD Swim Meet this weekend!!!!



Photo Curtsey: Mr. Mizanur Rahman and Mr. Matthew Holman



Introductory Message from Mr. SAM

“Children are not useless, but they are used less”

I am happy to be the part of PHSA family. Prior to coming to Bangladesh I worked in Beijing, China as Library Manager where I set four digital libraries for different grade levels from grade 3 to IB DP. I was born and brought up in India where I got two master degrees in the field of Library and information science.

I started my carrier as Chief Librarian in Chinmaya International Residential School, an IB school in India where I worked 11 years from 1996 to 2006.

Achievements as a Librarian:

1. Set 14 digital Libraries in seven countries including India, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangkok, Vietnam, China and now in Bangladesh
2. Two times “Best Librarian award” from China and India

Hobbies: I read books, listen to music and I love to travel to different countries to learn their culture, heritage. I respect everyone.



Introductory Message from Ms. Lisa Holmes

My name is Lisa Holmes. I am from Ontario, Canada. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Human Rights and Law, with a minor in French from Carleton University and have recently completed my B.Ed. from the University of Ottawa. Two years ago I came to PHSA as a volunteer, helping out in the library, in the classroom and during study hall. It has been great to be back as a classroom teacher to see all the progress both the school and students have made over the last year. As a teacher, I love it when students suddenly “get it” and watching them grow and change as the year progresses. I believe that children have a very important voice that sometimes goes unheard. I hope to give my students as many choices and opportunities to make decisions on their learning as possible. I like to spend my spare time reading, travelling, playing soccer and spending time with friends and family.

September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27