



Important Dates

- 13th February:**
Pohela Falgun
- 21st February**
International Mother
Language Day
- 22nd-25th February:**
Annual Spirit Week
- 25th February**
Annual 10K Run

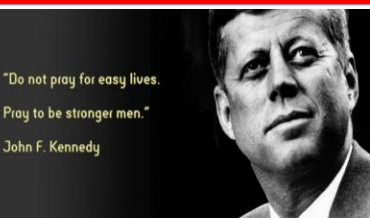
Announcements:

Publishing Committee

Calling all writers, students and teachers alike. Is writing your passion? Are you waiting for a chance to get published? We at the publishing committee are waiting for your submissions. Send us your work:
publishing@pledgeharbor.org

PYP Spelling Bee

The PYP students from grades 3 through 5 are beginning their spelling bee competition today, 28 January. Good luck to them as they study and demonstrate their knowledge of the English language and the new vocabulary which they are learning. This is the first round only; more updates to come.



Principal : Mr. Ian Whiteman
Editor-in-Chief : Ilham Akbar (Gr. 12)
Faculty Advisors : Heath Horner
Shirley Vincent-Rose

Pledge Harbor International School Newsletter, Issue no. 036, Vol-03



Mr. Ian Whiteman
Principal
PLEDGE HARBOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Principal's Message for January Newsletter:

Fog and cool mornings welcomed us back to the campus. This has had some effect on our schedule. Before School Activities are finished for the duration of winter and we finish After School Activities earlier.

By now you have all seen your child's complete report and so have the teachers. The pleasing thing is almost every student improved in some subjects. Teachers could see the overall grade achieved and whether students who maintained their Progress Test grade had actually improved their mark. In almost 100% of cases, each student had managed to better their performance. This is a credit to the students and teachers. It also indicates that our increased academic focus is having a beneficial effect on students and results.

Continued in page 3 Column 1



Message from the Curriculum Office

Mr. Soumyabrata Mukherjee
Curriculum and IB Coordinator
Designate DP

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you all after the winter vacation. The students have settled quite nicely and looking forward to an exciting yet academically rich quarter ahead of them. There have been some changes in the students' after school schedule, and the evening preps are now being held in the academic building. The teachers are having extra support classes for Grade 10 students and adopting all measures to prepare them for their upcoming IGCSE examination. The students have realized the importance of concentrated attention and are working hard to meet their goals.

DP News: The entire DP team is very excited with the upcoming verification visit scheduled in March and is working very hard to prepare for the same. We are meeting twice a week to collaborate and share the documents we have prepared. As of now, teachers have drafted subject outlines, course sequence, course at a glance and unit planners. All of these documents are shared with each other in our weekly meetings.

Please go through the following link to read the full speech and watch the full video of Selina Leem, an IB Diploma Programme Student at UWC Robert Bosch College in Germany. She recently went on a discussion with the world leaders at the 2015 United Nations Climate Conference (COP21) where she discussed the effects of climate change on her home environment and her cultural heritage

<http://www.climatechangenews.com/2015/12/14/marshall-islands-18-year-old-thanks-un-for-climate-pact/>

The IB learner profile is the IB mission statement translated into a set of learning outcomes for 21st century learners. IB learners strive to be: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open minded, Caring, Risk takers, Balanced and Reflective.

International Mindedness: A recent study among DP schools in Australia, China and India found that international mindedness can be categorized as a tool for individual gain, an orientation towards shared understanding and a way to push boundaries for changes. [Facts & Figures: The Diploma Programme: Around the World]



A Concern of Viyellatex group
Aim High
January 31st
2016

Student of The Month

Zarif bin Azim - Gr. 8

Congratulations to Zarif, Grade 8, the PHIS Student of The Month for January 2016. Zarif has exhibited a 180 degree turn in attitude, scholarship, and behavior. His effort to emulate the IB Learner Profile in his school and personal life is to be commended.

Zarif is working day-by-day to be the kind of student Pledge Harbor International School is proud to claim.



Dorm Life

IMPERIAL

Hello everybody! I am Zarif, from Grade 8. I am writing about the dorm life in Pledge Harbor International School. There are plenty of good sides of living in a dorm along with the bad ones.

The good side of living in a boarding school comes with discipline. In our dorm, we have a scheduled and organized life. The students have to do all their work on time which makes them punctual and efficient in time management. In an ordinary school, where you don't live, you get to spend a lot of time with family, but less time with friends. At Pledge Harbor, or any other boarding school, you have the chance to build a bond with friends and eventually make them like your family. Plus, when you're living in a boarding school, you don't have anyone to look after you all the time. You are on your own, and you have to take care of yourself.

You have to become self-dependent in order to survive in a boarding school; it prepares you more for the tough reality which you are about to face in life.

Continued on Page 3 Column 2

PYP Poem Project !

Name Poem-

TAZ

Never hesiTate to take responsibilities

Always Aware of danger

Try to Zoom my mistakes

Limerick Poem

There once was a boy name Fique

He always acted like he was sick

His friend is Sami

Who needs his mami

He always say fique, stick, trick, pick

By Sami

Sister

Sisters are very loving and caring

I love my sister very much

Sometimes they'll be mad at us

TiTly is my sisters nick name

ShE is sometimes irritating to me

SisteRs are always there with us

By: Dhrubo ☺



Cinquain

Tornado

Wind, Eye

Blowing, Tossing, Flinging

Sucking cows into the air

Twister

Tanka

Moon

Shining mighty orb

Panting the land in silver.

Looking down us.

Sometimes half and sometimes full,

The moon is always with us.



Haiku

Now the bell will ring

Students will go to tiffin

Eating and chatting.

By Towfique



Message from the Bangla Department

Grade 10 Bangla and Bangladesh Studies preparation classes for IGCSE/O level exams have begun. They have learned about responding to critical thinking and analyzing questions. They have been introduced to the O-level exam schedule and their responsibilities. They have also been practicing past exam papers. Extra classes and coaching are offered during weekends for a better preparation on the O-level exam.

Grade 9 has been studying a short story named ‘Subha’ written by Rabindranath. Also, the students are learning how to use figurative language and new or unknown words in a sentence or during conversations. Along with these, they are learning elements of a story, such as plot, setting, characters, conflict, climax, resolution, and moral of a story.

Grade 8 has been studying a novel translated from English literature into Bangla. The novel is a fictional autobiography of a young man named Robinson Caruso, who dreams of going on sea voyages. As well as that, they are learning how a narrative form of writing attracts readers and delve deep into the subject in a literary manner. Students are improving their summary writing skills and are excited explaining a text related to different aspects and point of views.

Grade 6 has been studying Bangla idioms. Idioms are a part of figurative language. Idioms make a language sound very creative and can also get others to think about what the person using the idioms means. Students are using idioms in their writing, improving their language skills and accepting the meaning when someone else uses idioms in their speech.

Grade 5 has been reading poetry named “Songkolpo” and recognizing multiple types and styles of poetry. The students are responding in writing to the poetry as well as reading poetry fluently with expression. They are also determining the meaning of the poem by analyzing the author’s word choice.

Grades 3 and 4 have been investigating rapid changes in the earth’s surface caused by natural disasters. Students are eagerly learning how to help when disasters occur. They enjoyed learning about the importance of planning and the consequences of poor planning. They are identifying various types of natural disasters. Explaining whether natural disasters are weather or geology related.

Mr. Abir

Bangla Department Chair



PHIS "Pitha" Festival



Pitha occupies an important place in our culinary culture. For Bengalis it has been a long tradition to make many types of pitha, mostly during the winter. Almost always, grandmothers make pitha while the children await eagerly, mostly in rural area. As busy city-dwellers do not have the time to make pitha, they have to make a stop at a pitha shop on their way home. There are many types of pitha such as Pakon Pitha, Shahipuli, Puli Pitha, Nakshi Pitha, Khejurer Pitha, Poa Pitha, Bhapa Pitha, Chittoi Pitha and many more. Most pithas are often eaten at small meals, but there are some pithas which are eaten as breakfast or dinner with beef, such as the Chittoi Pitha. Pithas still attract many people’s attention even in the urban areas especially in the winter and it will probably continue as there is nothing that could replace it.

On Monday, 18 January, 8th grade members of the cultural committee organized a pitha party during the morning tiffin. Mr. Ian shared a few words about the value of celebrating various cultural celebrations and how food is an integral and enjoyable part of all cultures. Mahfuza, Ishaat, Minhaz, and Abrar then made a PowerPoint presentation about the history and significance of pitha in Bangladeshi culture. Finally, the students, faculty, and staff all celebrated by eating Chittoi Pitha, Puli Pitha, Teler Pitha, Bhapa Pitha, and chocolate brownies together. It was a very enjoyable and delicious event.



Message From the PHIS Infirmary

Helminthiasis also known as helminthic infection or worm infection is any macro parasitic disease of humans in which a part of the body is infected with parasitic worms (helminthes). These parasites are broadly classified into tapeworms, flukes, and roundworms. They often live in the gastrointestinal tract of their hosts, but may also burrow into other organs, where they induce physiological damage.

Morbidity and symptoms: Morbidity is related to the number of worms harbored. People with light infections usually have no symptoms. Heavier infections can cause a range of symptoms including intestinal manifestations (diarrhea and abdominal pain), general malaise and weakness, and impaired cognitive and physical development. Hookworms cause chronic intestinal blood loss that can result in anaemia.



Preventive Measure:

- Prevention of helminthic diseases usually requires:
- Maintain the personal hygiene properly
- Frequent washing of hands. (Before eating food & after using toilet, both are mandatory)
- Ensure safe drinking water
- Periodic anti-helminthic medicine intake (Deworming campaign)

Deworming program in our school

To prevent helminthic infection to our community (PHIS), we periodically arrange a deworming campaign in our campus. This month on 12th & 13th of January, we successfully arranged our deworming campaign from the infirmary department. We ensured all student participation in that campaign.

PHIS Superstars.



This month we have two superstars, Farheen Zaman (Grade 10) and Sameer Ahmed (Grade 9), have voluntarily submitted their phones to their housemasters after the winter break. We applaud your exemplary behavior and believe that you both have proven yourselves to be principled and respectful. This is the kind of positive attitude we want to encourage in our school and that is required of you to become true IB students.

The first thing teachers were asked to do when they saw the completed tests was to analyze it and identify specific areas of need for each student. This enables every teacher to individualise the support being provided and ensures the weaknesses identified are being overcome.

Extra support classes, especially for Grade 10, have started. Prep and weekends include extra study time and support classes so they highlight academics as our main focus. Evening study and lights out have also been reviewed, especially for Grades 10, 11 and 12 as they approach their exams. We wish them well and are here to support them in their endeavours.

We have successfully carried out all the activities associated with our PYP and IBDP application process so far. Now it is time for the MYP application to take centre stage. This will mean our school is an entire IB World School when all three programs are in place.

Finally, in response to requests from teachers and some parents we are planning two extra Parent-Teacher Meetings before Spring Break. These meetings are to impart some information to you and also receive your feedback about what is happening on campus. The dates of the three PTM’s will coincide with each month’s exit weekends. The dates are January 29th, February 26th and the one already scheduled, March 17th. There will be individual invitations sent regarding each of these days.

Winter Break

By Zubair Rahman (Grade 6)

Winter break is a time when Pledge Harbor students go home, and as a bonus there is also Christmas coming up. Everybody is ready to go and have fun. School finished on the 10th of December allowing students and teachers to go back home and meet with their family members and friends. The two important events in Winter break are a snowy Christmas and festive New Year.

During this Christmas, there has been very foggy weather. From morning to evening the mist covers the entire city of Dhaka, however, during afternoon, the mist clears up and the bright sun is shining in the sky for all the citizens of Dhaka.

Christmas in the Philippines however is very different. Mr. Horner said that Filipinos celebrate Christmas enthusiastically. They stay up late until midnight waiting for Christmas Eve and celebrate it using fireworks and cheerful screams of joy.

One of our senior students, Ilham Akbar, went to Indonesia this Christmas. He and his friend went to a Night Mass at a church, which is a celebration of sacrament in Christianity. It runs from 6pm to midnight.

In this wonderful New Year, another year passed by, so this means that half of the school year has finished. Students are enjoying their lives while they are in Pledge Harbor. One of our foreign teachers, Ms. Dinithi, stayed the whole Winter break in Bangladesh. She went to Chittagong and came back after one week to Pledge Harbor. When she returned, she was hoping to see fireworks from the villages around PHIS. Unfortunately, the fireworks never happened.

Winter Break is over and we are happy that everyone is back happy, safe and sound.

FEBRUARY 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

Like the good sides, there are also some negative aspects to life being brought up in a boarding school.

The worst thing that can happen to a student is being bullied. In a day school, if you are bullied, it ends with the class time, but in a boarding school, you are being bullied in your home. The way to get rid of bullying is becoming tough emotionally and reporting it to the counselor or a member of the faculty who can deal with the situation. Sometimes, some students are better off with education in a day school, because in a boarding-school they may get side-tracked and do not tend to do well in studies as they are too busy with friends, playing sports or other distractions.

In short, although living in a dorm has got some negative sides to it, it is helpful for most of the students, especially those who are struggling to get back to a stable life.

This is why I love my school so much.

Teacher Feature (Mr. Wesley Davis, P.E) By Syed Sirhan (Grade 9)

PHIS, one of the most unique schools in Maona, is also home to the most diverse teachers in Bangladesh. So, I went to interview Wesley Davis, a PHIS P.E teacher, and get his opinion on the school and share a little close information about him.

When were you born?

I was born on February 8th, 1979. So that makes me 36 years young.

Where were you born?

Toronto, Canada.

How many siblings do u have?

Two

Who is the smartest of your siblings?

I am...and the best looking, and the most charming, and the most intelligent.

What inspired you to be a P.E teacher?

I was a high school football...I mean, the star of my high school football team.

Are you sure you weren’t the bench warmer?

I was the waterboy.

I’m sure you were the best waterboy in town.

Best waterboy in Toronto! And then, I played on my university team and I have loved physical education ever since. So, then I got my teaching degree, it was the only thing I’d be interested in teaching.

How was China?

China was awesome. I love China. I love Chinese people because they’re honest about who they are.

I heard that they can be racist. Are they racist?

They’re a little racist. They’re rough around the edges, but they don’t care, which is why I love them.

Do you like Pledge Harbor?

I love Pledge Harbor. It’s the greenest school I’ve ever worked in. I’ve always worked in city schools. So having this kind of facility is amazing.

What superhero would you be?

I think I would be a superhero that feeds all the orphan children of Bangladesh.

How about an existing superhero?

Uh, I would say the Incredible Hulk.

How does the Incredible Hulk feed all the children of Bangladesh?

Because he smashes everybody and feeds them their remains.

Who is your favourite basketball player?

Sirhan.

How about your favourite football player?

Tom Brady.

This concludes the interview for one of the most diverse teachers out of many others who we will interview as time goes on. He was a joy to interview and, like many other teachers at Pledge Harbor, deserves recognition for being the best in the world. We will come out with more exciting interviews in the future.

