

NEWSLETTER

Pledge Harbor International School Newsletter, Issue No. 37, Vol. No. 03



PLEDGE HARBOR
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

A Concern of Viyellatex

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AIM HIGH
FEBRUARY 29nd
2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **DP authorization visit**
(Date 26-28 March)

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Midterm exam 2/Mock Exam —7th-10th March**
- **Parent-Teacher Meetings/Student-Lead Conference—7th March**
- **Spring Break—18th-26th March**
- **Independence Day—26th March**
- **Easter—27th March**
- **Mock Exam 2—28th-31st March**



Mr. Ian Whiteman
Principal
PLEDGE HARBOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Principal's Message:

Thank you for the support with the cancelation of exit weekends. Most parents realise the need for the increased focus on the academics and residential life of PHIS. There are still many parents sending emails and requesting student leave for weekends due to all sorts of reasons. Many requests were based on a previous calendar and were based on this weekend as it was notified as an exit weekend. In most cases I granted the leave as it was an error on our part and you made plans accordingly.

In the coming term, from the end of Spring Break until Summer Break, there are no free weekends. We have planned a main activity each weekend and, of course, the Support lessons will also continue. As such I will rarely be allowing any release from the campus except to attend weekend and school related activities. We intend to publish a monthly calendar containing a run-down of the events and activities. This will be published on Managebac which I hope you are finding easier to use now that you have a greater understanding of how it can be used to best advantage.

Continued in page 3

Dorm Life



Hello dear readers, I am Mahfuza and I am the only girl in Grade 8. By this statement I am trying to make you understand the solitude that I experience in the dorm.

There are only three girls in the dorm and they live in three different rooms.

It's a great thing to own a room all by myself, but sometimes it can be really depressing when loneliness strikes.

Continued in page 4



Mr. Soumyabrata Mukherjee
Curriculum and IB Coordinator
Designate DP

Greetings from the Curriculum Office!

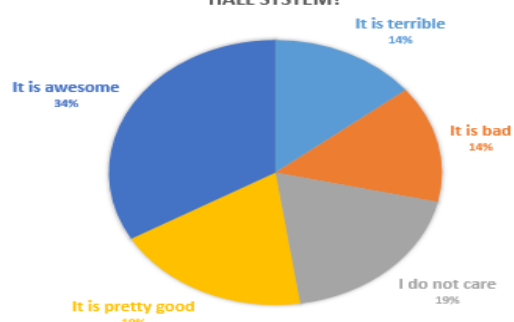
We have an interesting month ahead of us with examinations round the corner followed by the spring vacation. The mid-term 2 examination for Grades 6-9 will start from 07 March and will end on 10 March. However, the students of grade 10, 11 and 12 will be appearing for their first of the probable three mocks examinations starting from 07 March. Many thanks to the teachers for spending extra time with the students to prepare them for the upcoming exams. The High school students will have bulk of their Board Examinations in the month of May.

Continued in page 3

Voice of the Students



STUDENTS' POLL: HOW DO YOU LIKE THE NEW STUDY HALL SYSTEM?



PYP@PHIS

Neeti Tripathi, PYP Coordinator

You all are aware that PHIS is an IB PYP Candidate school and our official candidacy period has started. The students in the PYP section are really enjoying the PYP curriculum and the methodology. It has an inquiry-based approach and our young inquirers are becoming lifelong learners. In IB world, it's not only the students, but teachers are also lifelong learners. Our head of the School, Mr. Ahmad A. Shah and a few PYP teachers have recently completed the PYP category one workshop from IBO.

In the PYP section, regular language-o-mania activities are conducted to enhance the language skills. Recently we have conducted the ***Spell Bee round two***, and here are the winners:



1. **Anagh Tripathi , Grade 3 – Winner**
2. **Dhrubo , Grade 5 – Runner up**

At present Grades 3/4 students are inquiring about prehistory and early man and Grade 5 students are learning about the various government systems around the world, including Bangladesh. As a part of this we are conducting an election for a PYP leader, where the teachers and students for Grades 3-8 will vote for their favorite contestant from Grade 5. All the students from Grade 5 have chosen their symbols and have presented their agendas in front of the teachers and students. In the next issue of the newsletter, we will present our PYP leader for you. On 17 March 2016, the PYP section will have their first **SLC (Student Led Conference)**. You will receive an invitation for the same. Please visit the various classrooms and workstations and witness the students' portfolios and take part in various activities which are being planned. It will be a great motivation for the young learners. Thank you so much for your constant support and encouragement.

previously learned concepts from algebra such as logarithms and quadratic equations in preparation for their upcoming exams. And his eleventh graders are learning about indefinite integration in calculus. Mr. Sharad has also implemented a daily math problem challenge for the school where students can try to solve a problem he posts outside his class. Successful students are recognized during the Thursday assembly.

The eighth graders from Mr. Horner's class have been studying algebraic manipulation and using both substitution and elimination methods to find the values of two unknown variables in two different equations. They have also been spending time on IXL.com. The students are able to earn class cash and house points from Mr. Horner for their achievements, time, and effort spent on the website. IXL is a great way to practice multiple school skills, but it is more than that as well. If a problem is answered incorrectly, a mini-lesson is shown for students to learn how to solve the problem. The eighth graders are enjoying their time on IXL.

Math Department

Mr. Horner



The math department consists of Mr. Mubin (head of the math department), Mr. Zubair, Mr. Sharad, and Mr. Horner. All of us have been working diligently to help our students master the challenging math skills that are necessary for them to succeed in their upcoming exams, as well as to find ways to apply the skills they are learning in their lives, thus adding intrinsic value to an often frustrating subject.

Mr. Zubair's grade 10 Additional Maths class is currently showing how to do integration, definite and indefinite integrals, application of integration along with differentiation in finding rate of changes, approximations and kinematics. Integration covers finding the area under a curve and intersecting lines.

Mr. Mubin's tenth graders are investigating the sequences of fractions by using fractions within fractions in their investigations which is part of the IGCSE exam. In addition, they also investigated on how to use graphic display calculator (GDC) to plot quadratic and cubic equations along with finding roots and intercepts of curves. His grade 9 students investigated Pythagorean triples that follow the Pythagorean rules. They also learnt how to prove the similarity of two triangles and find the unknown length, area and volume of similar shapes. The eleventh graders finished their probability and statistics for AS level. They used the normal distribution model for practical solutions and used it as an approximation to the binomial distribution for finding probabilities of events. In Pure Maths, they are studying vector properties, perpendicular and parallel vectors.

Mr. Sharad is covering multiple topics over several grade levels. His sixth graders are studying time the 12-hour and 24-hour clock systems. The ninth graders are researching calculating the area and perimeter of figures in a coordinate plane. Grade 10 is reviewing

Principal's message (continued from pg. 1)

The team from the International Baccalaureate will come to the campus for the verification visit in the week following Spring Break. Students will not be inconvenienced during the visit but please ensure all the children return on time.

When the students return from the Spring Break please supply them with a water bottle with their name written on it. As the temperature increases we want to ensure every student remains hydrated. By having their own water bottle and maintaining their hydration level we can prevent several possible health problems and improve academic focus.

Another item students should bring is a helmet if they intend to ride their own bike or borrow a bike to join our cycling group. No helmet – no bike riding is a rule designed to decrease the amount and severity, especially of head injuries.

Please remember the Sundries Account should be maintained with a positive balance to allow students to be included in all activities occurring outside the campus. Sport, cultural and educational field trips all incur a cost which varies depending on what we will do on the trip and what we hope to achieve.

In closing I would like to thank the students. They have made a very strong, positive impression on visitors to our campus. I have received several compliments on the way our students are presenting themselves. Teachers also report the students are much more focused on their academics. This is a direct response to the extra support they are receiving from every staff member and the emphasis put into learning techniques of how to study and better organise their study time. It's not just about the knowledge, it's also the preparation.

See you on March 17th for our Parent Teacher Meeting where you and your child get the chance to talk to every teacher about their progress and future plans.

the College acceptance rates at American Schools- http://web.wis.edu.hk/public_html/IB_University_Acceptance_Rates.pdf

What the DP offers students:

- have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge
- flourish physically, intellectually, emotional and ethically
- study at least two language
- excel in traditional academic subjects
- explore the nature of knowledge through the programme's unique Theory of Knowledge

(Source: <http://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/what-is-the-dp/>)

Some links to consider:

Community Service in IBDP: <http://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/what-is-the-dp/community-service/>

DP Curriculum and Subject briefs: <http://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/>

DP news (continued from pg. 1)

DP Verification visit: 28-30 March 2016

We are going through an important phase in our Authorization process and we have a Verification Visit coming up towards the end of this month. On behalf of the entire school community I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Verification Visit team members, Ms. Jasmine Madhani [AV/EV Team Leader, IBO] and Mr. Mohd. Zawid Nasseem [AV/EV Team Member, IBO].

Continued professional development and collaboration:

It has been an exciting month with teachers attending various IB workshops and sharing their learning with the IB community at school. I recently attended a Career Counseling workshop in Singapore and shared my learning from the workshop in one of the weekly DP meetings. Mr. Suraj attended a Subject Specific Seminar on Extended Essay in Bangalore and looking forward to share his learning during the next DP meeting. Mr. Mubin and Ms. Dinithi have almost completed their online workshop they were enrolled for. Best wishes for them as well.

Please take some time to look into

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH



6th—Al Amin

11th—Shirley Vincent-Rose

13th — Wesley Davies

14th—Abrar Dekelver



Teacher Feature

Jabir (Grade 11)

Mr. Sharad Detha is from Rajasthan, India and has recently joined Pledge Harbor as a math teacher for IBDP. He has been teaching for last ten years in different curriculums. Prior to Pledge Harbor, he had been teaching at Indus International School, Bangalore. For the teacher feature column of this month, we had the pleasure to take an interview of him.

What do you want to be doing in ten years?

I will say, in ten years, I will have my own school. I started planning well in advance.

What personal strengths do you find helpful in teaching?

I respect each student’s dignity. I am always unbiased to my students. I don’t judge them on their color, countries, languages. What I always see is their knowledge.

What do you like most about teaching as a career?

Meeting new students and communicating with them. Because every time I meet a student, it brings new energy to my life.

Why do you want to teach IB?

I taught CBSE for ten years, but I found it teacher-driven, whereas IB is more student-centered, where the students try to find out the reason behind everything. It encourages me to learn more and deliver it in a better way.

What is your least favorite aspect of teaching?

My least favorite aspect of teaching is completing a syllabus.

Describe your teaching style.

In one term I will say it is very democratic. Each student gets equal opportunity in my class. I try and involve humor in class, not sarcasm.

What is the most difficult aspect of teaching today?

Assessing any student based on an exam paper. I think that is a kind of injustice.

What would you tell your incoming class in a "back-to-school" letter at the start of a new school year?

I want to say this to all students, there are very crucial years like grade 10 or 12 in school life when students should be focused to achieve good grades and complete all other requirements for admission to good colleges which will help them to become better people. The most important thing for students is to enjoy learning; that is what a lot of students lack.

Panther Pride

Ilham (Grade 12)

Panthers’ Pride is a program promoting self-appreciation and acknowledgements for meaningful student accomplishments based on the works that they have done and they



are proud of. The program seeks to promote the students’ work that their peers may have not had the chance to know or notice. Students who are chosen to present range from Grade 3 to Grade 12, they are divided into three different presentations given weekly as the PYP (Primary Years 3-5), MYP (Middle Year 6-10) and DP (Diploma Programme: 11-12) The work may not receive a perfect score or an amazing show of value in the mass’ perspective, however, the student who presents their project feel prideful in their own way in what they are presenting in the Panther Pride program, hence making it more meritorious. The students who presented their work in the month of February are:

- Grade Creche¹, 3, 4, and 5: JM, Anagh, Assad, Dhruvo, Shovik, Towfique, and Sami
- Grade 6: Sakif
- Grade 8: Minhaz
- Grade 9: Sanim
- Grade 10: Meftah and Rafi
- Grade 11: Jabir
- Grade 12: Ilham

Creche: class containing students below primary level.

Dorm Life (continued from pg. 1)

Being the youngest female occupant in the dorm, I often receive support from my female seniors Farheen Apu from Grade 10 and Kate Apu from Grade 11.



It is fortunate that there is no bullying in the girls’ dorm, however, I became envious of the fact that the boys are getting more facilities than the girls in the dorm. They’ve got their very own ping pong table there!

I know most of the girls don’t like sports that much, but some extra facilities wouldn’t harm us.

In my last article about dorm life, I talked a lot about how I learned many things from my roommates, but now I have no other option but to miss them so much since now I am left with no roommates.

¹Apu: A Bengali honorifics system symbolizing a calling of a younger female to an elder female who are not very far apart in age.



Valentine's Special

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer



“We first met at a community volleyball game. Tony was new, and got put on the same team as me. I made some kind of comment to him, and he blushed. I spent the rest of the night teasing him just to watch his face turn red. Had so much fun, I tried to get on the same team as him after that. We became friends and then later, even better friends.”



Mr. Sam and Mrs. Saratha



“We love the sea”

Marriage is a memorable experience

Words of Advice: Life is a Prepaid Card with limited validity. Be happy always and read more books

Mr. and Mrs. Rose

How did you meet?

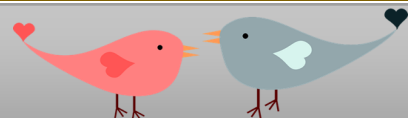


Her: “We met in a chat room on AOL. Beau sent me a message and asked me where I was a teacher because he was looking for a job. I told him that I taught in Midland and he replied that he had not taken a job there because it was not full time. I called him an IDIOT in capital letters and the rest is history. Oh, btw, he stood me up on our first date.”

Him: “On-line 2004, she called me an idiot.. I was smitten. “



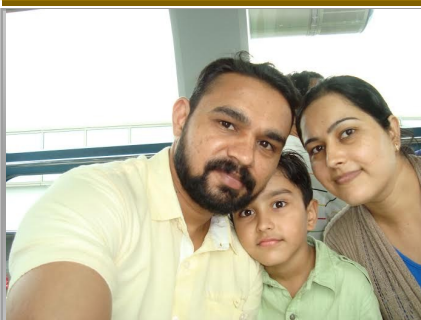
Mr. and Mrs. Detha



We met in college

Words of Advice: Love is the most beautiful relationship, which grows on land of "trust" and bloom in the air of "personal space".

"Hamein tumse pyar kitna" is a special song to both of us



Heath and AJ Horner

“We were both living in South Korea and began chatting online in September 2012. After a couple weeks of chatting, we decided to meet. I went to watch her sing with her Filipino band at the Haeundae Grand Hotel in Busan, South Korea. She, her friend, and I went out for the entire night. Her friend went home and the two of us finished our date sitting on the sand at Haeundae Beach watching the sunrise.”

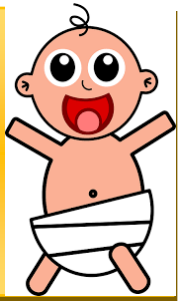
Words of advice: “Look for someone loyal. Look for someone who would stick by you through thick or thin. A person's beauty won't last forever, but a loyal heart will never waver nor falter. “



Mr. and Mrs. Tripathi

Ours was a love marriage. My full life is memorable with him...It's difficult to choose one but still, if I need to, it is the day our son was born.

Words of Advice: You can definitely get married...it's not bad. LOL...



Mr. Vivian

"We met when we were 11"

Words of Advice: Stand on your feet before you mingle

Picture from: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/>



Mr. Suraj

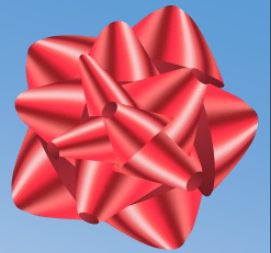
Our most memorable experience is our Trip to Bali & to Singapore on New Year's Eve 2014

Words of Advice: "It's not about what we are, but it's about what we do will define ourselves".



Coach Wes and Mrs. Mie

We were married in Kyoto, Japan and we have one son named Tristan. We met while on Christmas vacation in Bali, Indonesia. We flew all across the world so that we could see each other for just a couple of days. It was probably the most expensive date in history!!!!!! But she was worth every penny. Our most special day is December 31st because that is the day our son was born. There were no days before that, and there will be no better days after that one magical day.



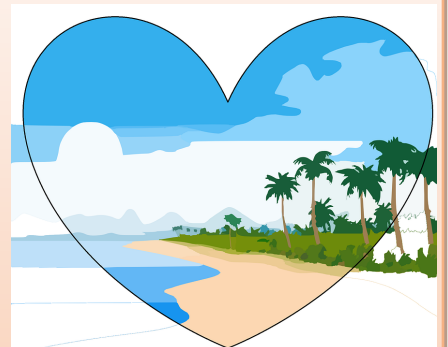
Mr. Whiteman

When we first met I was a bearded, long haired environment loving surfer and football player. What Neva ever saw in me I do not know. What ever it was I am so pleased and thankful everyday that she saw something. She gives me a reality to life and for that I will always be thankful.

We have two beautiful children. They were both adopted from Cali, one of the main cities in Colombia. Yuli, our daughter is 22 years old and has Incan ancestry. She is studying at Macquarie University just west of Sydney. Mateo is 18. He has Afro-American ancestry. He is about 6 foot tall and teaches children aged 2 to 3.

Neva's brother and I worked at the same school and shared a three bedroom house. We met when Neva came to stay with her brother one weekend. That was in 1980. It was love at first sight as far as I was concerned. Neva and I have always worked together to solve any problem. When we adopted our children we have always thought that the four of us could take on the world and defeat any problem.

We have different tastes in art, music, furniture and most of the "things" that people crave.



What we have in common is a love of simple things - hugging our kids, laughing, keeping things in perspective, making sure we think of others before ourselves, being honest, talking and listening to each other, respecting the other person and enjoying the little things in life because lots of little things, when they are all put together, mean you have experienced a wide range of things whereas 1 big thing is just that - 1 thing.

I love my wife dearly and miss her every day. My favourite time lately has been listening to her tell me about what has been happening at home in Australia.

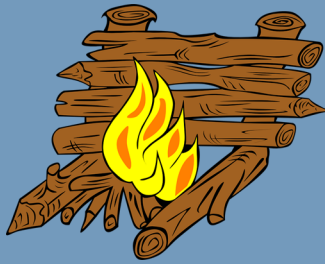
Cook Out

Zubair Rahman (Grade 6)

This month we had a special event. It was the cook out which happens in every wonderful year of Pledge Harbor. The Cookout was on Friday February 5th. It started on 7:00pm. When everybody came down, we were divided into groups. After that, we all headed outside to the football field. In the football field, everybody was getting cold so we were called to the fire place. It was very warm there and everybody was relaxing. Soon the teachers in each group told to put more wood logs on the fire and we did. Some people were seeing the fire or putting hands above the fire to get warm. Then one of the teachers told everyone that there was a table in front of us and on that was chicken pieces with spices on it.

One by one people from the three different groups carried the sticks and put them above the fire. Everybody was roaming around until the chicken was cooked. Soon there was a line and people were taking their dinner. The most special food was the fried chicken which smelled delicious. We were sitting on the chairs eating our dinner. It was pitch black and nobody could see anything.

After that all of the people gathered in the middle of the football pitch where a big campfire was lit. Then one of the teachers announced that it is Al-Amin's birthday and we celebrated it together. After cutting and eating the cake, few of our teachers and students were dancing.



Gong Xi Fa Cai

(新年快乐.)

Ilham (Grade 12)

The Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival is an international event that originates from China and has spread throughout the world. The festival is celebrated from the day of the New Year (8th February 2016) to next following day.

There are various differences between each country on how to celebrate the occasion. Often family members gather for the annual reunion dinner for the family feast. Houses are cleaned thoroughly to sweep away ill luck. New clothes are worn. The decorations consist of red and other colorful papers placed on ceilings and written with Chinese characters symbolizing good fortune, wealth, prosperity, and happiness for the following year. At the end of the day family members give away red envelopes known as "Angpao" for the unmarried members, containing money in various amounts.

Pledge Harbor International School family would like to extend you a Gong Xi Fa Cai or Happy Lunar New Year!

Sources:

Holloway, April. "The Origin of The Lunar New Year." *Ancient Origins. Ancient Origins*, 31 Jan. 2014. Web. 2 Feb. 2016.



Weekend Activities

Zarif (Grade 8)

I am going to write about the activities we do in the weekends to pass our time here in Pledge Harbor International School. We work hard five days a week and enjoy some time off in the remaining two. It is not compulsory for us to play sports on the weekend and we don't have study halls on Thursday and Friday.

On Friday morning, the breakfast is served with waffles and sausages as a special weekend meal. We don't have any activities for Friday and we get to do whatever we want, but most of us go to say our prayers at noon in the nearby mosque. After breakfast, we have various activities on Saturday. Walking, publishing and indoor-sports are the three options that the students are given to choose for Saturday morning. When we go walking, we basically take a hike around the campus and relish the temporary freedom of getting out of campus. In the publishing activity, some students interested in English writing, write about the relevant events taking place during that month. The option of playing sports in our indoor playground provides a wide range of choices for the students who are reluctant to go hiking. Coming back from



the activities, the students get some free-time and they have lunch later. Immediately after lunch the students go to their assigned activities.

For Saturday afternoon, we can either attend extra art sessions or go biking. The art session is taken by a professional art teacher and is a good method of improving someone's drawing, painting or sketching skills. The bike riding club is a very enjoyable way to keep fit and it has fewer chances of injuries as everyone wears safety gear. Returning to the dorm, we have some free-time and shower-time. Then the fun is over and the students must get going to their study halls.

