

NEWSLETTER

Pledge Harbor International School
Issue No. 38, Volume No. 3



A concern of Viyellatex

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Principal's Message

Important Dates

- Graduation Ceremony: 28th May
- Last day of the school year: 4th June
- Mock Exams: June 2-4
- AS & A Level Exams: May 31, June 2, 8, & 10
- IGCSE: May 31, June 2, 3, 6, & 10.

Thank you for responding to our requests so far this year. This month we also have a request about the food (tuck) being provided to the students. When you visit on Fridays please ensure any food you bring can be consumed in the Teacher's Lounge either as a family, or as a treat for the students to have there with you. There have been some instances opened food containers and packets being left in dorm rooms. This only encourages vermin to enter the building and brings associated health problems. We have also had glass containers brought in and these can be extremely dangerous if they are broken.

Water bottles, showing your child's name should be supplied.

Our International Baccalaureate verification visit was the first week after Spring Break. To the parents and students who met the team, we send our extreme gratitude. The team's response to the meetings was very positive and they saw our excitement at the prospect of IBDP being offered and that the level of understanding was quite high from many involved. The comments were very useful. We are now happy to announce that we are officially designated as an International Baccalaureate World School offering the IB Diploma Pro-



Mr. Ian Whiteman
Principal

gramme next school year. As we come towards the close of this academic year please be assured we are working hard to improve our school and I believe it is really starting to be inspirational academically and culturally.

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Curriculum Department Message

Mr. Soumyabrata Mukherjee, Curriculum and IBDP Coordinator

Congratulations to the entire team at PHIS!!

We are very happy to share that PHIS is now an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School authorized to offer the Diploma Programme from the next academic year. Thanks to all of you

who were involved in the process of DP authorization either directly or indirectly. Special thanks to the Board members, the Senior Management and the parents for their constant support. I would like to extend my cordial gratitude towards the teachers for their deter-

mined focus and commitment. How can I forget our beloved students? Thanks for attending the post dinner sessions which focused on understanding the IB Philosophy and the DP requirements.

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Happy Holi/Holy Week By Mr. Horner

it is important for us to recognize and demonstrate open-mindedness towards those traditions and beliefs that are different from our own.

Two of the biggest holidays for two of the world's largest religions happen just days apart this month. PHIS is lucky to host both Hindu and Christian staff and students. On 24 March, the Hindu faith will celebrate Holi. Three days later, on Sunday, 27 March, the Christian faith will celebrate Easter. While the PHIS community is predominantly

Muslim and Bangladeshi, it is important for us to recognize and demonstrate open-mindedness towards those traditions and beliefs that are different from our own.

Holi is a springtime holiday in India and Nepal, but it has spread throughout much of the globe as a fun holiday to celebrate love, camaraderie, friendship. Holi is known as both the festival of colors and

the festival of sharing love. You may have seen images of crowds of people walking through the streets covered in a rainbow of different colored dry powders. All people, regardless of race, age, gender, or status are equal during Holi. People playfully fight with the powder. The array of colors are broken only by wide eyes and joyous smiles.

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Spring Break *Ilham Akbar (Grade 12)*

Spring Break around the world occurs between the end of winter and the beginning of spring. It includes the first day of spring in the duration of the break as well. For Pledge Harbor International School students' spring break happened during 16 April 2016 to 26 April 2016. The date of the spring break themselves differ in respective schools and it can also change from one year to another due to the changing timeline of the years. The usual spring break usually goes on from 9 to 15 days. The short duration of the break and the events that occurs in the break makes the break unique than many other student breaks such as the Winter Break and the Summer Vacation.

The short duration of the Spring Break makes students, especially those who are studying away from their parents to form up and went on an adventure all by themselves. Road trips and raves are common occurrences that open up opportunities for students to explore and discover themselves. It is also a partial donator of many teen related incidents that occur due to the students letting loose and having fun with little to no supervision.

The spring break however also holds part in one of the world's largest religious festival, the Easter Sunday. The holy day of Easter Sunday is congregated and celebrated by Christians around the world, Protestant and Catholic. It is the holiest day of their religious calendar.

International Turkish Hope School Badminton Invitational

Abrar Haq (Grade 8)

On the weekend of April 9th 2016, 11 student badminton representatives were sent from Pledge Harbor International School in order to participate in an inter-school badminton tournament hosted by the International Turkish Hope School.

There were six primary school representatives and five middle school athletes as well. They departed from the school's front gate to Turkish Hope International School starting from 6:30 in the morning and reached there at around 8 o'clock. The indoor was crowded with students practicing for the match inside the court and also off on the side.

There were more than 160 matches that went by as they witnessed them as players and as spectators. As two representative groups, they both respectively played 15 matches in total. The junior dream team--Sami and Towfique from 5th Grade--were quite the star players in the junior matches. They reached up to Semifinal until they were finally defeated by the opposing team.

The seniors, even though have given their best effort, were cut short early on in the match. They left International Turkish Hope School at around 4:30 PM on the same day and head straight for Pledge Harbor.

When they reached Pledge Harbor, they were neither sad nor disappointed that most of them lost their matches. They were joyful that they have learned new lessons and took this failure as a scope for betterment.

From PYP Section: Journey So Far...



Neeti Tripathi

IB PYP Coordinator

We are also a part of South-Asia IB PYP network, where PYP schools from Bangladesh and Pakistan share the best PYP practices getting implemented in the school and showcase the students work.

On 19th September 2015, PHIS submitted application for candidacy for the International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools' Primary Years Program (PYP) completing the consideration phase of the application process. School officials were notified on December 1st 2015, that PHIS is recognized as an IB candidate school for the Primary Years Program. An IB consultant from India was assigned to guide and support the school in its endeavor, on March 1st, 2016. She will visit the campus in the academic year 2016-17 for two days, but until then, she will electronically guide us in implementing the PYP curriculum in the school. Not only

that, but teachers have been also given access to the Online Curriculum Centre (OCC), where teachers can obtain electronic versions of IB publications and teaching materials. Access to the OCC also gives the faculty the opportunity to participate with IB practitioners worldwide in online forums on program-related topics. We are also a part of South-Asia IB PYP network, where PYP schools from Bangladesh and Pakistan share the best PYP practices getting implemented in the school and showcase the students work. Students are fully enjoying their PYP journey and loving the new child centric approach. On the teacher's front regular

professional development sessions are getting conducted in the school which is helping them a lot. As per IB requirements the IB trainings are mandatory and PHIS is fully committed to provide its teachers with IB trainings. Recently our principal Mr. Ian Whiteman completed his PYP CAT 1 training on "Introduction to PYP Curriculum Model". PHIS will continue to implement PYP practices by writing, teaching, and reflecting upon more Units of Inquiry. We will continue to put into action the PYP standards and practices as well as the policies of IB. We are thankful to each and every stakeholder of the school to provide us with continuous support and cooperation.

Something Old, Something New

Prior to the Spring Break in Pledge Harbor International, our beloved English teacher; Mr. Hemayet Ferdous experienced issues that caused him to not be able to arduously tutor the students of Pledge Harbor. After his resignation, however, our previous English teacher who was on hiatus for a few months came back to save the day; Mr. Adnan Chowdury!

This article is a bit belated to

welcome his re-arrival to the PHIS family. However, this article also serves as more of a "Hi" or "Hello" but to represent the appreciation of the exam taking students of PHIS on being there for us in the time of need. Mr. Adnan has taken over Mr. Ferdous' previous classes ranging from Grade 9, 10, 11, and 12. With the AS, A and IGCSE exams coming up, and the absence of a teacher during a certain period of time, Mr. Adnan's arrival could not have been

more remarkably timed.

We thank you for your return Mr. Adnan for you are surely the light in the darkness and the guider in a frightful path for us who were on the verge of despair, as lost as a lamb without a sheppard. For Mr. Ferdous, we wish you all the best on your departure from PHIS. Your contribution to this community will surely not be forgotten.

Curriculum Department Message continued...

What is Diploma Programme?

The IB Diploma Programme (DP) is an academically challenging and balanced programme of education with final examinations that prepares students, aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond. It has been designed to address the intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being of students. The programme has gained recognition and respect from the

world's leading universities.

The curriculum contains six subject groups together with the DP Core: Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS); the Extended Essay (EE); and Theory of Knowledge (TOK). This is illustrated by the Diploma Programme model.

Candidates studying for the full Diploma select six subjects from the subject groups. Normally three subjects are studied at higher level (courses repre-

senting 240 teaching hours), and the remaining three subjects are studied at standard level (courses representing 150 teaching hours). All three parts of the core—extended essay, theory of knowledge and creativity, activity, service—are compulsory and are central to the philosophy of the Diploma Programme. Please visit the curriculum section [under The School tab] of our website. IGCSE and AS/A Level Examinations:

It has been designed to address the intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being of students. The programme has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities.

Happy Holi/Holy Week continued...

Holi celebrates the victory of good over evil as well as the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

Similarly, Easter celebrates Jesus Christ's victory of life over death. Easter is the holiest day for Christians as it commemorates when Christ was resurrected from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion.

Many devout believers celebrate for

an entire week prior to Easter; a period called Holy Week.

Though it has now become another commercially dominated holiday, like Christmas, Easter and Holy Week are still times when family comes together and celebrates. Many countries also align their Spring Break from school during Holy Week making it a peak travel week. The most famous American tradition for Easter is the

painting and search for Easter eggs and baskets filled with candy.

Regardless of your personal faith, may you enjoy a wonderful time of color, joy, and hope as Winter is now finished and Spring is finally here. Happy Holi and Happy Easter!

BIRTHDAYS THESE MONTHS

Meftah Zaki- 11th March

Sameer Ahmed- 20 March

Benazir Newaz Khan- 22 March

Ayaz Ibn Islam- 28th March

Maheen Rahman Safwan- 7th April

Tanha Kashfia Kate- 9th April

Irtisham Mansib- 24th April

Syed Rashik Sirhan- 1st May

Md Ashrafuzzaman Sami- 11 May

Abrar Haq- 12th May

Rohan Ahmed Khan- 14th May

Md. Saif-Al-Razi-Rabeeb- 17th May

ZM Ashiqullah- 18th May

Shuvojit Saha- 30th May



Heat Stroke

Heatstroke requires emergency treatment. Untreated heatstroke can quickly damage your brain, heart, kidneys and muscles. The damage worsens the longer treatment is delayed, increasing your risk of serious complications or death.

Heat stroke occurs when the body becomes dehydrated and is unable to cool itself enough to maintain a healthy temperature. If left untreated, this can lead to heatstroke, which is a life-threatening medical emergency.

Prevention is the best way to avoid heatstroke.



Preventing Heatstroke

Suggestions for preventing heatstroke include:

- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Reduce activity and avoid exercise in hot weather or try to avoid the direct sun exposure.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing made from natural fibers like cotton, and a wide-brimmed hat & sunglasses.
- Taking cool (not cold) showers at least 2 times a day (In summer).



Pledge Harbor International School
Organic Farming (a part of CAS)

Pledge Harbor International School as an International IB boarding school, engages students in a wide range of activities that facilitate experiential learning. PHIS students started organic farming (agricultural production systems that do not use genetically modified (GM) seeds, synthetic pesticides or fertilizers) on the March 16 within the campus compound. Organic agriculture promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil-biological activity.



The total farm is divided into four groups of students for farming different categories of fruits and vegetables like papaya, banana, cucumber, chili, eggplant, and others. PHIS also started the process of composting - which is a key ingredient in organic farming.