



August 2016

Editor: Tanha Kashfia Kate



NEWSLETTER

CONTENTS

Tree Plantation

Day School

Creativity, Action & Service (CAS) Update

Spanish Classes

Basketball Tournament

New Students' Feature

★ HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ★

August 12 Zara Khan

August 15 Asaad Dekelver

August 31 Abrar Ishat Safi

MESSAGE FROM CURRICULUM COORDINATOR



We have started this academic year with an aspiration of making this a successful year in all aspects. There is a saying 'morning shows the day'. It has been an eventful period of five weeks. I would like to emphasize

that our first cohort of IBDP students have commenced their IB journey and will appear for the final examination in 2018. Since the beginning of the academic session we are trying to inculcate the aims and objective of IB education amongst the entire community. I would like to reiterate that the IB philosophy revolves around creating a global citizen, a person who is a lifelong learner and has attributes best described by IB Learner profile which are as follows: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced and Reflective.

(Continued in page 4)

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE



Hello Everyone. Heartfelt greetings to all the members of PHIS community.

After the summer break campus has come to its new life with the presence of our sweet children, teachers and all other staff. In this season, the nature of PHIS has shaped in a paramount beauty. As well our children also in the new academic year, they have started their journey with new vigor, zeal and enthusiasm.

(Continued in page 4)

Tree Plantation

Adnan Chowdhury, Faculty

I am very excited to share that the students of PHIS led by our Grade 12 student Tanha Kashfia Kate had their first ever Organic Tree Planting activity on July 1st, 2016. The area chosen is adjacent to the Girls Dorm area beside the Perimeter wall. The students along with some teachers, Mr Mukherjee, Mr Bimol, Mr Tahmid, myself and others were also present during this activity working along with the students. We all planted 6 seeds of Terminalia Arjuna, commonly known as Arjuna or Arjun tree. It is 'kamrangah' in the local language. It grows to be medium sized (18-25 m in height) and gives rise to beautiful, scented flowers and fruits which ripen between November and January. Also, Arjuna bark has medicinal properties, especially effective for cardiovascular health and as such, holds a very important place in Ayurveda practice.

We also planted 2 lemongrass and 1 tulsi plant. This is part of our student led initiative where PHIS students would like to grow their own organic vegetables. The students notably, Mahfuza, Najeeba, Jabir, Hamza, Humayed, Dhruvo, as well as others used shovels to clear designated spots and then proceeded to plant the trees. Our very own, Mr Suhel also assisted the students.

A special thanks to Mr Bimol, our resident tree planting expert who sent pictures of how the plants look now, 2 months after planting. We need to continue with this initiative and plant more trees because as Kate so eloquently put it that "starting the year on a green note sets the tone for a sustainable year", needs constant effort and dedication from staff and students alike. GO GREEN !



CAS REPORT

Farheen Zaman

Our first DP batch has started their first project this month focusing on educating the local community. Recently we have made an one year project deal with the local school named "Singherdighi High School" located near our school campus where the grade 11's gets to teach a selected group of local students. Our classes are organised every Tuesday in the Singerdighi campus and also every Saturday in our campus.

By the end of the year our goal is that:

- 1) The students will be able to use basic functions of laptop.
- 2) The students will be able to use Microsoft word, power point, excel, access etc.
- 3) They students will be able to use basic media functions of laptop.
- 4) They students will be able to use internet facilities such as google, Facebook, wikipedia etc

We are focusing on technology lessons for now but besides that we are eager to add varieties of subject such as language, music, arts and crafts in coming future.

15th August

Shuvojit Saha



15th August is the day of national mourning in Bangladesh. It's a day when all beings of Bengal, even nature, joins in mourning. Because on this day of August, back in 1975 was similarly rainy whereupon the bloody execution of Bangabandhu took place. The weather appears to represent the sky crying out of extreme injustice.

On the crucial night of August 15 in 1975, some dissatisfied and exaggerated army officers killed Bangabandhu and most of his family members at his Dhanmondi, Road-32 residence in Dhaka.

We started this day a rally, followed by a minute of silence to commemorate the loss of a National leader. After that we started the programs with our national anthem 'Amar Sonar Bangla'. Students of Grade 09 shared a presentation about this day. Then after that we continued with various songs and dance performances. Some of the students congregated to share in the concurring celebration of the Independence Day of India by performing the song 'Lukka Chupi'. Our program ended with the singing of the National Anthems of Bangladesh and India. This Programs was led by Mr. Abir and Ms. Surovi.

Pledge Harbor & its Spanish flavor

Basabi Chakraborty, Faculty



The little baby Shaan of KG who didn't even receive Spanish lessons wished me **Hola, Buenos días** in Spanish on August 31st with a smiling face along with other children of Primary. All children of primary, even young adults of MYP and IB started wishing all the teachers in Spanish



and this is our school **Pledge Harbor**. We are committed to nurturing students into young-adults, who are aware of the vitality of their senses, emotions, mind, and will, who are in touch with the world outside, and through their sensitive empathy toward others, experience the breadth of their own individuality which makes them global citizens and finally global leaders.



When children learn the names of the animals they call me **mona** (monkey) as I address them **monos** (monkeys) in order to teach them the gender and singular and plural in Spanish. We try to keep the classroom



environment and the whole ambience of the school a happy one so that they learn more not only in the classroom but also in their daily life. When students learn about nature and surroundings,

the class is never held inside a classroom but outdoors within the environment. And so the two mingle the classroom and life, enriching their learning and giving them a deeper understanding of the language and its relation to our surroundings.

Rabindranath Tagore once said: **Don't limit a child to your own learning; for she/he was born in another time**. We the teachers of PHIS never forget the advancement of time and technology. Students keep watching Spanish videos and also are taught with Power point presentations to enhance their learning. We are constantly evolving the ways we teach in order to provide the right stimulus for minds of this era that grow more sophisticated by the day. We evolve ourselves with knowledge of the inevitability of change, with the intention of teaching skills apt for this age and day.

Here at Pledge Harbor we strive for a future that instills in children the most important lessons of life regardless of which subject being taught, lessons that will turn them into young adults who believe in the positive potential of life and of humanity.



Day School Inauguration

Surovi Jahan, Day School Coordinator

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to share this joyous moment of the opening of "Day School"

This memorable occasion of inaugurating 'Day School' allows Pledge Harbor to look back on its past achievements and at the same time to open a new door for its future success. The Day School concept adds a new color and spirit to the students of the Primary Year Program as well as other Pledge Harbor Panthers. I can feel how excited the teachers and the students are along with the local parents of this region as they move into it. Day School improves not only the school's physical environment but also its learning culture. But this exclusive initiative of our chairperson, Ms. Zareen Kaniz alone cannot infuse the vision and passion that will guide the school to its development but it is the human spirit and interaction between teachers and students which will make the difference and ensure the goal of the Day School

Education is a life-long pursuit for all our young learners. These students of Day School are sparking with such an enthusiasm that leads the Pledge Harbor Panthers to head to the mission and vision of the school as well

We started our journey with 27 students and hopeful to increase more within a year. We could realize and feel how we are growing with our little steps to our success.

To prepare our young endeavors to meet future challenges, our education system is followed by PYP curriculum along with the efforts of all dedicated educators including those who are present today, even who are delighted to see positive changes in our primary section. Our students will acquire a broad knowledge of PYP Learner profile as well as PYP attitudes through the reflection of IB expectation. I am optimistic for making them responsible citizens with a sense of national and global identity.

I blessed all my students to carry out their best work and be the model for the future endeavors.



MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE

In the boarding school, the residential life plays a vital role on the young mind set. So as a Head of Residential Life, my main focus is to maintain a healthy environment in the dorm. We are thankful to our respected Chairperson for her relentless support in making the children's life most comfortable. Support staff working day and night to ensure safety, security, health and hygiene of the children in the campus.

We consider the students as our own children. Respected parents have given us a very sacred responsibility to develop them holistically. Our prime focus is to make our children good human beings besides achieving good academic results, so that they can face the challenges of 21st century and become global leaders. All our teachers and staff continue to put their relentless effort in attaining that goal. Teachers are participating in after school activities with the students graciously.

Our children should feel their school as their home. The challenges in the boarding school is to meet the parental treatment of the children. In our system we have the Dean of Students and housemasters to take care our children the way their parents do. In addition, our faculty members are also staying in the dorm as 'night parents' to give our children a better feeling and ensure decorum in the dorm.

We have observed 'National Mourning Day' on 15th Aug with due solemnity and respect. There had been a rally and stage performances being participated by all students, teachers and staff. An art competition for the day school students and collage making activity for the boarding school were also held on that day.

Weekend activities are designed to make the children enjoyable and also meaningful. Besides having swimming, sports, meeting with the parents children are also participating in various clubs/societies. In one of the weekends, the children went for a short trip with their Dean and housemasters.

I feel PHIS has got its due momentum in its long journey. As our motto goes 'Aim High', so our expectation is sky limit. As a team definitely we will achieve our goal.

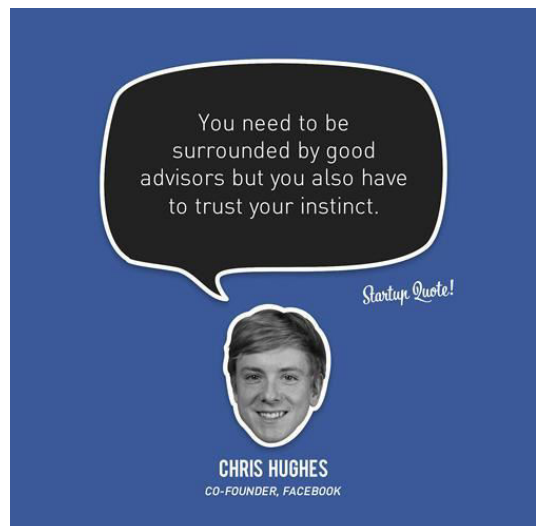
Wishing everyone a good health and prosperity.

MESSAGE FROM CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

The IGCSE and the DP students have selected their courses and are working hard to meet the grade level expectations. The DP students are enjoying their CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service) experiences. Mr.Keshab (CAS Coordinator) and Mr.Tahmid (Asst.CAS Coordinator) are guiding the students to make their learning more meaningful.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Master Nasif Rahman for obtaining five A* and two A in his IGCSE examination. I believe his performance is going to inspire other students to give their best.

A Big Thank You to all the teachers for their continued support and guidance.



After School Activities

Muhammad Masud Dhrubo

Our after school activities start at 4:30 and the activities are very enjoyable

In Sunday we have an activity called “Leisure and Leadership Studies” or you can call it as LnL. There are four clubs in LnL including music, save the nature, graphics and the last but not least board games. Students have selected their preferred option and will continue this until the end of semester

Then starting from Monday, our after school sports start where we can play any sports that we like which include football, cricket, basketball, badminton, hand ball and tennis

A well-liked option for summer is swimming. It’s a special sport for all of us students and teachers to wind down and immerse in the blue after a hard day’s work. The swimming activities are separate for girls and boys and take place on alternate days. Teachers are assigned to supervise the swimming sessions

The sports end in 6:00, whereby we head back to our respective dormitories to freshen up and get ready for Study Hall

An interesting event organized by the school community was the basketball tournament

So that’s all folks bye!

Into the Woods

Farheen Zaman

Last weekend was fun and filled with warm adventures. It was our exit weekend and most of our school mates went home. A group of about 11 students were staying in campus and we were delighted to have the opportunity for a field trip supervised by Mr. Abir

On Saturday 27th August we went to a spinning mills factory (Hajee Islam Uddin Spinning Mills Ltd) owned by Hajee Islam Group. It took us almost an hour to reach the destination which is situated at VANNARA, MOUCHAK, in the main road of Dhaka-Gazipur Highway

Adjacent to the mill there was a beautiful green forest and a colossal pond side. A facility for fishing was arranged and we encountered sportive fishing adventures. The caretaker of the mill also gave us a tour of the internal area of the mill and briefly explained the processing. After all the fun and tiring adventure we had a delicious traditional lunch and the food was finger licking good

The day was well spent and the weekend was less lonely despite the absence of most of our mates. We are looking forward for our upcoming weekend trips. We are also very beholden to our head of residential Mr. Tabib for granting us the leave for the trip and our school mate Ayas Ibne Islam for arranging the location facilities



The Basketball Tournament

Imtiaz Ahmed, Faculty

The first ever in school basketball tournament was played this August, titled “PHIS Summer Cup Basketball Tournament”. It a 3 on 3 tournament & was played in double elimination format. The tournament was played from 23-25 August 2016.

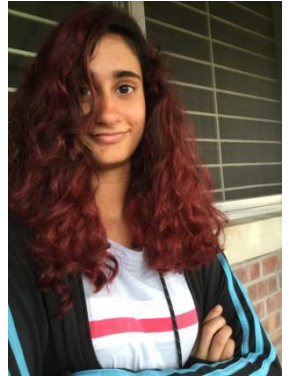
There were 4 teams from the students and a team from the teachers. The players of the teachers’ team were Col Tabib, Mr Mukherjee, Mr Vivian & Coach Imtiaz. The students teams were BBMS led Sirhan of grade 10, Chicken Curry was led by Ayas of grade 11, Zone was led by Yuma of grade 11 and last but not the least H2O was led by Ashik of grade 10.

Total 9 matches were played in the tournament. H2O and Chicken Curry qualified for the final. H2O beat Chicken Curry quite comfortably and became the champions. The MVP of the tournament is Ashik of grade 10 for his fantastic leadership & performance. The top scorer of the tournament was Nafis of grade 10 and the Rising Star of the tournament was Humayed of grade 7

Our heartiest regards to Mr Adnan for volunteering himself and doing the refereeing and special thanks to the teachers who took part in the tournament.

NEW STUDENTS

Zenab
Grade: 8
Previous School: William Carey Academy
Interest(s): Basketball, writing
Future Ambition: Business
Favourite quote: "Ignore the naysayers"



Farhan
Previous school: Ideal School & College
Grade: 04
Future Ambition: Doctor
Interests: Football
Favorite Quote: "Live to Eat"



Humayed
Previous school: DPS STS School
Grade: 07
Future Ambition: Graphic Designer
Interest(s): Basketball, graphic designing
Favourite Quote: "Fly like a butter fly, sting like a bee"



Najeeba
Previous school: Sunbeams
Grade: 04
Future Ambition: Pilot
Favourite Quote: "If I'm louder, would you see me?"



Khan Zara
Previous school: Shoboj Kanon
Grade: 05
Interests: Badminton
Future Ambition: Doctor
Favourite Quote: "When life bring you down,
turn the radio on"



Fariyad
Previous school: Peace International School
Grade: 07
Future Ambition: Engineer
Interest(s): Football
Favourite Quote: "Never give up"



Rifat
Previous School: IBISC
Interest(s): Cricket
Future Ambition: Engineer
Favourite quote: "I fail so I learn, don't
judge me by my failures"



New Students II



Nahid
Grade: 8
Interest (s): Racing
Future Ambition: Street racer
Favourite quote: "Quite people have the loudest minds"



Ryo
Grade: 11
Previous School: In Japan
Interest(s): Travelling
Future Ambition: Business maybe, undecided



Aamir
Grade: 10
Interest (s): Music
Future Ambition: Undecided
Favourite quotes: "Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations"



Ali
Grade: 08
Interest(s): Tennis
Future Ambition: Tennis Player
Favourite quote: "Live like today is your last"



Hamza
Grade: 11
Previous School: DPS-STs school
Interest(s): Japanese anime
Future Ambition: Accountant
Favourite quote: "Do not procrastinate"

Shahidul
Grade: 10
Interest (s): Cricket
Future Ambition: Business
Favourite quote: "Simple in face, dangerous in heart"



Summer Vacation

Humayed Chowdhury



We all long for Summer vacations. After a long year of classes, studying for the exams, the long hot days, everyone looks forward to the vacations. Most of us start our countdown by the end of March. In school we always discuss where we all are heading for our summer vacation

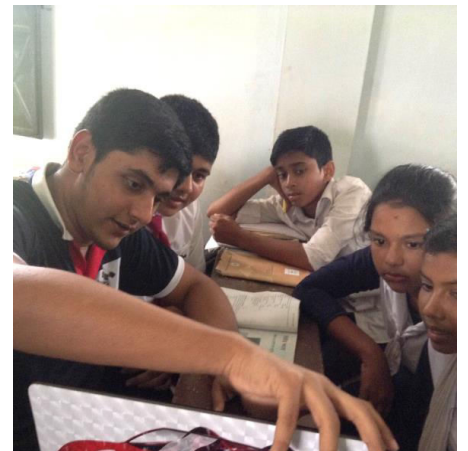
I myself was going to a historical place - a place where people have lived for centuries and their houses are still preserved. The place is Heidelberg, Germany. Heidelberg is situated on the river Neckar in south-west Germany. My dad was having his 30th High School reunion with his friends and I decided to join along. It was a 16 hour plane ride with one transit in Doha, Qatar. When we landed in Frankfurt airport, my dad's friends were there to pick us up. Though I was the only child, they were extremely kind. His friends were from Germany, India, England, USA, Japan, and Canada. The experience was very international.

The host of this event was my dad's friend who lives in Germany. His name was Uncle Wolfgang. He was very gracious and kind. He showed us around Heidelberg and I learnt a lot about this amazing, historical town. We visited the Heidelberg castle, built in 1214 and it was simply breathtaking. But the walk up the hill was very tiring. It took about 45 minutes to get up the hill and reach the castle. When we arrived to our destination I was burned out from the long walk. The scenery from the top of the castle looking down was something amazing. Since it was on the peak of a hill, it overlooked the entire town! We could see the river Neckar and the houses from a very clear perspective. We hired a tour guide to show us around the castle and she dressed up as the Queen of Heidelberg. The whole tour was very educational as well as interesting. We learnt about kings who once ruled over the castle and stories about them. My encounter in Heidelberg was something I will never forget.

After 2 weeks in Heidelberg, Germany, we left and went off to the city of Frankfurt. Unlike Heidelberg, Frankfurt was a very busy city. We traveled by train and it was a one and a half hour journey. German trains are amazing – clean and efficient. We visited Frankfurt town square to just venture around. Frankfurt was just a walk-and-eat trip. The main city doesn't have a lot of residential areas, instead there are tall office buildings and commercial markets. Since it was a lot of walking my dad bought me a penny board, which is a small skateboard, for my birthday. Skateboarding in Frankfurt is ideal and simply amazing. There are lots free and empty areas and not that many people to run into. After a few days in Frankfurt, we returned to Bangladesh.

My trip to Germany was a dream come true. The memories of staying with a German family and meeting my dad's old friends will be with me forever. I feel that this summer was probably the best summer I've had. Why, you ask? Well, I met new people from all around the world, walked around medieval castles, and visited modern cities and places only people dream of seeing, not to mention spending quality time with my dad. I want to thank my dad and mom who have made all this possible for me

Spotlight



Movies this month:

- Warcraft
- The Purge: Election Day
- The Secret Life of Pets
- The Legend of Tarzan



Film Club

Tanha Kashfia Kate

What is it?

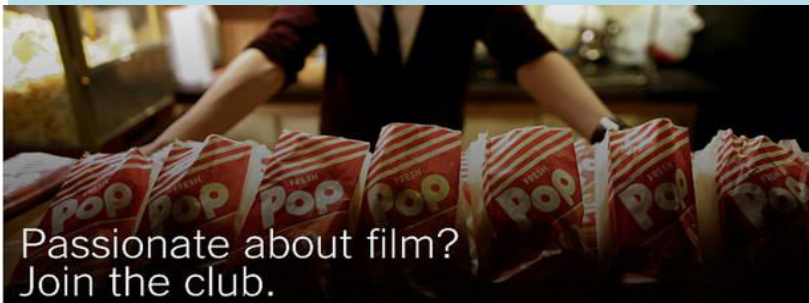
The film-learning programme was started by collaboration between educators and film professionals to engage children aged 5-19, allowing them access to the vast film content in today's world and providing a platform to effectively and openly discuss relevant issues. Though UK-based, we have taken the initiative to arrange the club within school premises. The film choices are categorized by topic and by age, so we have flexibility in terms of appropriate viewing

Why Film Club?

I stumbled upon Beban Kidron's TED talk and was thus introduced to the FILMCLUB initiative. Since then I have been very interested to start a film club in our school. In light of recent events, such a club would offer an interesting platform to engage the students (who come from diverse socio-economic, religious and political backgrounds) and explore challenging ideas, learn more about ourselves and our place in time and history and hence cultivate a very necessary sense of empathy. What do we do? Along with discussions and other interactive activities, students are also encouraged to write reviews if they wish to, which can be shared on a global platform

Future Plans?

We hope to continue watching films that we like and which we can learn from. As we go forward, we plan to bring in guest speakers who are involved in the local scene, explore areas of film-making and theatre and engage in film projects of our own



Senior Book of The Month: *The Palace of Illusions*

Hamza Chowdhury

The Palace of Illusions, written by award-winning novelist and poet **Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni** in 2008, is an Indian epic, The Mahabharat told from the view-point of Princess Panchali

“A smart, resilient, and courageous Panchali, born of fire, who marries all five of the famously heroic Pandava brothers, harbours a secret love, endures a long exile in the wilderness, instigates a catastrophic war, and slowly learns the truth about her mysterious friend, Krishna”

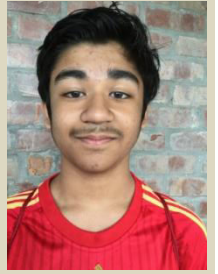
A wonderful read for seniors to try and embark upon the magical world of Hindu mythology

(Booklist, 2008)

Dorm Life

Sadman Fariyad

I'm Fariyad from Grade 7, a new member of the Imperial Dorm



Over the last month, I have come to realize that there are many pros and cons of living here. While living in a dorm can be an adventure at times, there are numerous challenges

At first, I would like to start with the good sides. In the dorm, we get to meet new people and try out things those we either never thought we would want to try, or never thought we would get the chance to try. In our dorm we are bound to maintain schedule and that schedule makes us punctual. Dorm life is strictly maintained. We have to wake up in time, do our personal work on time and most importantly we learn to take care of our self

Most of us are missing home, family and our previous friends from other schools, but in Pledge Harbor, we find a new family and countless friends. We learn from each other and grow with each other. Our housemasters take care of us. If we face any problem, they are there to solve them.

The rooms, bathrooms and toilets are very clean and hygienic. We have tables to study and wardrobes to keep our clothes

Staying in dorms helps us to be responsible and respectful. In conclusion the dorms are extremely reliable and in my experience, there is no doubt about it

