



MESSAGE FROM THE ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Hill Spring International School!

HSIS was Back to School in July 2023 with animated voices of greetings and meetings. Numerous stories were exchanged of exciting travels and holiday adventures.

Homeroom soft boards and corridors on the different floors were being decorated artistically by the teachers to welcome their new learners to a year of exciting learning modules.

It was a unique experience to watch the Grades 1, 6 & 11 enter their new classes on different floors and wings of the School. One noticed how they suddenly seemed to feel bigger, smarter and very important. Physical learning spaces, many new faces of classmates and teachers had changed.

A new Academic Year had begun. Many events, activities and celebrations were planned for the months of August & September 2023.

The theme for 2023-24 "Embracing Differences by Bonding" was innovatively woven into the various curricular and co-curricular programmes.

***My warmest wishes to each family,.
Nalini Pinto***

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Hill Spring International School.

This is the first edition of "Springtimes" for the academic year 2023-2024. The theme for this academic year is 'EMBRACING DIFFERENCES BY BONDING.

The year began enthusiastically with a 'Wellness' session organised for the Teaching and non-teaching staff at school, which set the pace for the entire academic year.

This was followed by the Parent Teacher meetings which were graciously attended to by most parents and we noticed that there was healthy bonding that took place during these meetings.

The students enjoyed their "Back to School" experience as they walked into school during the first few days. Grade 1 sat for their "first school lunch," and enjoyed the experience.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (Grade 12) results were received on 5 July 2023 with 51 students being awarded the prestigious IB Diploma.

The IGCSE (Grade 10) results were declared on 16th August 2023 with all the students passing with flying colours.

The ceremonious "Investiture Ceremony" inducted the school Office Bearers into their respective roles and bestowed upon them the responsibilities of running the School Council efficiently.

Independence Day was celebrated within the classrooms this year and students showcased how proud they were of their cultural heritage.

The senior students participated in many Model United Nations conferences, and came back victorious from each and every one of them.

The World Scholars Club round at Doha found our students bagging many prizes, placing them in the Final round at Yale in November 2023.

The Hindi department took the students of Grades 8, 9 and 10 on an educational trip to Amritsar where opportunities were created for learning beyond the classrooms. This year the students of Grades 11 and 12 also ventured for a field trip to Varanasi creating a love for the Hindi language.

Teacher's Day was celebrated as Teachers' week with a theme for each day.

The PYP celebrated the festivals of Janmashtami and took the students on many field trips.

The Senior KG students put up an amazing performance using Gymnastics, Music, Singing, Dance and Theatrics for their Annual Concert, "CELEBRATIONS" which got us tapping our feet to 'Once Upon a Rhyme,' thus recalling a few of the Nursery Rhymes that we had learnt many moons ago.

Our youngest learners, the Nursery classes began in August and are now settling in. The Junior KG interacted with a learner from the middle school regarding a Beach clean-up.

The Enrichment Center conducted a workshop for the Junior KG learners on Sensory Play.

There are many field trips and other activities conducted daily in the classrooms and I invite you to enjoy the glimpses of the activities as you flip through the pages of this first edition of "Springtimes."

Happy reading.

**Wilhelmina Athaide
Principal**

“SCHOOLS FOR EXCELLENCE IN FRENCH” Excellence Award



On 18th of September 2023, Hill Spring International School renewed the agreement of French in Schools with the award “Schools for Excellence in French” in the presence of the Consul General of France in Mumbai, Mr. Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet.

This agreement was signed between the Managing Director of Hill Spring International School- Dr. (Mrs) Pratibha Mirashi, Director of the Alliance Française de Bombay- Mr. Stéphane Doutrelant, and the French Institute in India (represented by Mr. Prashanth Palanimalai- Attaché for Cooperation in French Language, West India).

With this accreditation, Hill Spring International School is one of the two schools in India to be awarded the Excellence Award. This 3-year agreement will allow the French Faculty to benefit from high quality training sessions organised by the French Embassy and its network. The students will benefit from the cultural activities offered by the Alliance Française de Bombay.

The expertise of our teachers will also be used to train teachers who teach French in other schools across different boards in India.

RECONSTRUCTING HILL SPRING GLORY AT WSC – 2023 Doha Global Round

Hill Spring International School reincarnated its 2019 WSC glory at the 2023 Doha Global Round World Scholar's Cup (June 22-27) which had 1800 scholars participating from 40 countries on the theme of 'Reconstructing the Past'.



Towering over them, the School's junior team of emerged victorious with the

1st Junior Team Championship rank -

Vivaan Verma, Kabir Gupta and Aarushi Shah

3rd Junior Team Championship rank -

Arham Doshi, Shivansh Agarwal and Araiya Zaveri

2nd Senior Championship rank -

Ananya Sampath, Rida Khan and Aanshi Choksi

5th Senior Team Championship rank -

Anant Bhartia, Shlok Rawat, Soham Doshi

Grade 6 student **Vivaan Verma** won the **Jac Khor Award** for outstanding performance in the Scholar's Challenge powering his team to the 1st place in the Scholar's Challenge team event. **Arham Doshi** won the **Cria Award** for best performance by a Scholar in the under-12 category.



Vivaan Verma and **Ananya Sampath** emerged as the **top School scholars with global ranks of 2 and 10** respectively.

2nd Team Championship rank -

Team Arham Doshi, Shivansh Agarwal and Araiya Zaveri won in Collaborative Writing.

All students performed commendably to win top ranks in the Debates, Quizzes and Essay writing in the Individual and Team events that comprise this immensely challenging and stimulating academic tournament.

The entire Hill Spring delegation of 33 junior and senior scholars has qualified for the **Yale Tournament of Champions in November 2023** to compete with the qualifiers from the other six global rounds.



Here is a list of awards won by students in the **Overall Team Championship Ranks:**

Rank 2: Aanshi Choksi, Rida Khan, Ananya Sampath

Rank 5: Anant Bhartia, Shlok Rawat, Soham Doshi

Rank 15: Akshat Lal, Vedant Mehta, Arham Jajodia

Rank 67: Trisha Jain, Pari Lodha, Ariana Shah

Rank 71: Zayed Zaman, Rudra Mehta, Kristen Saldanha

Rank 90: Zara Mehta, Nysha Zaveri, Aarya Shah



Overall Individual Championship Ranks:

Rank 10: Ananya Sampath

Rank 29: Anant Bhartia

Rank 31: Rida Khan

Rank 38: Akshat Lal





Rank 39: Veddant Mehta

Rank 48: Shlok Rawat

Rank 51: Soham Doshi

Rank 54: Aanshi Choksi

Rank 89: Trisha Jain

Rank 109: Pari Lodha



Team Debate Championship Ranks

Rank 8: Aanshi Choksi, Rida Khan, Ananya Sampath

Rank 9: Soham Doshi, Shlok Rawat, Anant Bhartia

Rank 18: Akshat Lal, Veddant Mehta, Arhant Jajodia

Rank 77: Trisha Jain, Pari Lodha, Ariana Shah

Rank 105: Zara Mehta, Nysha Zaveri, Aarya Shah

Rank 124: Zayed Zaman, Rudra Mehta, Kristen Saldanha



Individual Debate Championship Ranks

Rank 46: Aanshi Choksi

Rank 83: Akshat Lal

Rank 87: Anant Bhartia

Rank 89: Rida Khan

Rank 91: Kristen Saldanha

Rank 98: Soham Doshi



Team Collaborative Writing

Rank 21: Shlok Rawat, Soham Doshi, Anant Bhartia

Rank 55: Aanshi Choksi, Rida Khan, Ananya Sampath

Rank 100: Zara Mehta, Nysha Zaveri, Aarya Shah

Rank 105: Akshat Lal, Veddant Mehta, Arhant Jajodia

Rank 169: Zayed Zaman, Rudra Mehta, Kristen Saldanha



Collaborative Writing Ranks (Individual Ranks)

Rank 60: Nysha Zaveri

Rank 65: Anant Bhartia

Rank 90: Veddant Mehta



Scholar's Bowl Ranks

Rank 10: Aanshi Choksi, Rida Khan, Ananya Sampath

Rank 23: Soham Doshi, Shlok Rawat, Anant Bhartia

Rank 56: Akshat Lal, Veddant Mehta, Arhant Jajodia

Rank 77: Trisha Jain, Pari Lodha, Ariana Shah

Rank 83: Zara Mehta, Nysha Zaveri, Aarya Shah

Rank 131: Zayed Zaman, Rudra Mehta, Kristen Saldanha



Scholar's Challenge Team Ranks

Rank 2: Aanshi Choksi, Rida Khan, Ananya Sampath

Rank 11: Soham Doshi, Shlok Rawat, Anant Bhartia

Rank 15: Akshat Lal, Veddant Mehta, Arhant Jajodia



Scholar's Challenge Individual Ranks

Rank 10: Ananya Sampath (6 Gold medals)

JUNIOR RESULTS



OVERALL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP RANKS

Rank 1: Vivaan Verma, Kabir Gupta, Aarushi Shah

Rank 3: Arham Doshi, Araiya Zaveri, Shivansh Agarwal

Rank 19: Nysha Nahar, Arhaan Shah, Raha Krishna Mehta

Rank 34: Heet Burad, Avika Lohia, Shaun Mehta

Rank 37: Shubh Mehta, Anaya Bhartia, Tvisha Sud



Overall Individual Championship Ranks

Rank 2: Vivaan Verma

Rank 12: Arham Doshi

Rank 26: Kabir Gupta

Rank 32: Avika Lohia

Rank 34: Aarushi Shah

Rank 35: Shubh Mehta

Rank 49: Nysha Nahar

Rank 58: Shivansh Agarwal



Scholar's Challenge Team Ranks

Rank 1: Vivaan Verma, Kabir Gupta, Aarushi Shah

Rank 16: Arham Doshi, Araiya Zaveri, Shivansh Agarwal



Scholar's Challenge: Individual ranks

Rank 1: Vivaan Verma with 1st rank in History, Literature, Science, Special Areas

Rank 9: Arham Doshi



Scholar's Bowl Team Ranks

Rank 2: Arham Doshi, Araiya Zaveri, Shivansh Agarwal

Rank 5: Vivaan Verma, Kabir Gupta, Aarushi Shah

Rank 8: Nysha Nahar, Arhaan Shah, Raha Krishna Mehta

Rank 27: Heet Burad, Avika Lohia, Shaun Mehta

Rank 40: Shubh Mehta, Anaya Bhartia, Tvisha Sud



Collaborative Writing: Team Ranks

Rank 2: Arham Doshi, Araiya Zaveri, Shivansh Agarwal

Rank 6: Vivaan Verma, Kabir Gupta, Aarushi Shah

Rank 7: Shubh Mehta, Anaya Bhartia, Tvisha Sud

Rank 88: Nysha Nahar, Arhaan Shah, Raha Krishna Mehta



Collaborative Writing: Individual Ranks

Rank 17: Tvisha Sud

Rank 19: Arham Doshi

Rank 35: Kabir Gupta

Rank 38: Araiya Zaveri

Rank 44: Shubh Mehta

Rank 46: Aarushi Shah

Rank 58: Shivansh Agarwal

Rank 85: Vivaan Verma



Team Debate Ranks:

Rank 45: Arham Doshi, Araiya Zaveri, Shivansh Agarwal

Rank 65: Vivaan Verma, Kabir Gupta, Aarushi Shah

Rank 66: Nysha Nahar, Arhaan Shah, Raha Krishna Mehta

Rank 71: Heet Burad, Avika Lohia, Shaun Mehta



Team Debate: Individual Ranks

Rank 54: Nysha Nahar

Rank 72: Avika Lohia

Rank 99: Shivansh Agarwal



GRADUATION CEREMONY IBDP Batch of 2023

The IBDP Batch of 2023 had their Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 when their journey at Hill Spring International School culminated in its definitive moment in a poignant function at the Nehru Centre Auditorium, Worli, presided over by noted paediatric surgeon, Dr.

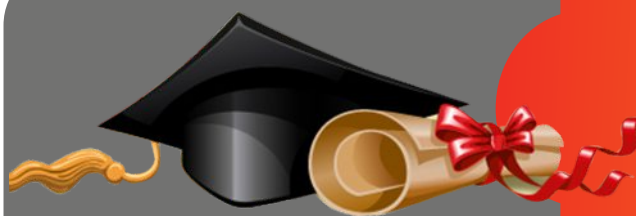
Amrish Vaidya who is also the father of alumni, Jai Vaidya, the first Hill Spring student to score a perfect 45.

In her Valedictorian Address, Academic Administrator, Mrs. Nalini Pinto recalled her fond memories and appreciation of students who have completed the PYP, IGCSE and the IBDP section from this school and spoke about her increasing

affections for the students who joined the school in the IBDP and quickly integrated and immersed themselves in the Hill Spring spirit. She urged them to imbibe an inclusive spirit and frustrate any agenda of divisiveness. She shared her advice and best wishes for parents and students as they embarked on a new phase in their lives and concluded with a prayer for them.

Teachers read out tributes for each student using DALL-E, which uses a version of GPT- 3, to generate digital images based on various art styles and artists to describe the graduating class. This was followed by the conferral of the graduation certificates on them by Dr Vaidya. After the graduation ritual of moving the tassels from the right to the left students addressed the gathering. Janhavi Munde spoke about being welcomed into the new school and the many lovely memories she had accumulated here. Ahana Sonpal, Vidisha Chopra, Krishaanu Kapadia, Nandini Kataria, Ahana Louzado, and Diya Agarwal spoke about their memorable moments and experiences in the school in the multiple languages that the School endorses as a part of its multi-lingual ethos. The Valedictorians, Pearl Shah and Sidhant Sharma, spoke about their School journey using the metaphor of learning to drive a vehicle - Sidhant as a student who studied from the PYP and Pearl as a new entrant in the





Awards & Accolades



IBDP. The student band consisting of Aadit Zaveri, Agastya Bahl, Dev Sanghvi, Gigi Pandole, Kritvee Rajive, Muskan Shah, Sakina Bhopalwala, Sidhant Sharma, Sydelle Gonsalves, Thea Menezes, Vihaan Shah and Yash Gupta enthralled the audience by heart rending farewell numbers.

The Graduation Address by Chief Guest Dr Vaidya encapsulated words of praise and encouragement and wise counsel about dealing with future challenges. He advised students to nurture their dreams, to have the courage to follow them, persevere for it, and cultivate empathy. The Day would have been incomplete without the contribution of parents who have cheered anxiously from the sidelines and provided their invaluable support to their wards. Mrs Shweta Zaveri, parent of Aadit Zaveri and Mr Nilesh Louzado, parent of Ahana Louzado, provided this perspective appreciating the tremendous effort of their children and the School towards this momentous milestone. The event ended with a vote of thanks by the IBDP Coordinator, Mr. Prashant Gohil.



BUDDING SPORTS LEGENDS AT HILL SPRING

Amira Jhaveri



Grade 11 student Amira Jhaveri, representing Hill Spring International School, has bagged a silver in U-17 category for the Table Tennis Tournament in the ISSO NATIONALS '23 at NOIDA.

ARANIS SINHA

Proceeds to the regional swimming finals



Aranis Sinha of Grade 11, came 2nd in both the 50m and 200m swimming events at the DSC & DSO Swimming Competition on Thursday 14th September. With this win he has qualified for the regional championships.



RAGHAV SHARMA'S FANTASTIC FORMULA 1 STREAK

Grade 11 student Raghav Sharma's team's amazing journey in Formula 1 culminated at the 2023 Aramco F1 in Schools World Finals held in Singapore. F1 in Schools is a global STEM competition where students design, assemble, test, and race miniature Formula 1 cars. Teams use CAD software to create aerodynamic designs and compete on a 26-meter track powered by compressed gas, aiming for precision and speed. F1 in Schools promotes STEM education, fostering problem-solving, teamwork, and innovation. Raghav's team, Infinity Racing, a rookie in the 2022-2023 season, made it to the world finals, after qualifying through the Regionals, and National Finals. They

proudly represented India in the World Finals, where they were awarded with the Chair of Judges recognition award, sponsored by Oracle Red Bull Racing as well as an exclusive tour of their garage and an interactive session with their chief head of design.

HMUN INDIA

Sweet Success for HSI at HMUN India 2023



20 students from the IGCSE and IBDP took part in the Harvard Model United Nations Conference India 2023 (HMUN India 2023) from 12th to 15th August. This four-day simulation of international relations had more than 1000 delegates representing 80 schools from across India. The delegates assumed the role of UN representatives in committees like DISEC, SPECPOL, WHO, IAEA, World Bank, UNICEF, UNHRC and in specialized ones like the Security Council. They debated on issues of global relevance like the weaponization of space, nuclear nonproliferation, vaccine apartheid, climate change and the financial crisis among others. The delegates experienced the challenges of



diplomacy first hand, and once again put up a stellar performance with 10 students bagging prestigious individual awards. Most notably the school was awarded the Best Large Delegation Award from amongst the 80 schools, thus clinching a Delegation Award for the FOURTH consecutive year! Aashi Bagaria from HSI was also selected as an Assistant Director on the DISEC to work alongside counterparts from the Harvard Secretariat. Well done delegates and well done HSI MUN Club!

OISMUN INDIA

Hill Spring leads at Oberoi International School MUN



13 delegates from HSI came together to debate and deliberate on pressing global issues at the recently concluded Oberoi International School Model United Nations (OISMUN 2023) from 9th to 10th September. Hearty congratulations and a big bow to the team for clinching the BEST DELEGATION AWARD! A huge

shout out to the individual award winners, namely, Pramit Goel, Arhant Jajodia, Parth Vora, Akshat Lal and Shubh Mehta.

Well done team HSI for securing two back to back delegation awards within a month!

CMUN 23 Mumbai

Congratulations and a huge bow to the 6 Young Delegates of the HSI for putting their best foot forward to deliberate on pressing global issues at the recently concluded Cathedral Model United Nations Conference (CMUN) 2023 from 18th to 20th August.

A big shout out to Aaryan Choksi for the Outstanding Delegate Award in the South Korea Regulatory Reform Committee (SKRC)!

Keep shining young ones as you make the changes you wish to see!



ABMUN INDIA

Once Again Hill Spring Wins Best Delegation at ABMUN!



A 17-member delegation from Grades 9 to 11 participated in ABMUN 2023 from 15th-17th September. Our delegates participated in committees discussing diverse agendas like combatting discrimination, exploring the legalization of narcotics, the violation of human rights by troops in war zones, the impact of technological advances on the global economy, the civil war in Ethiopia, the Korean War Summit, and the freedom of the press during a crisis. The well-trained and well-researched delegation won 11 awards. Heartiest congratulations to Veddant Mehta, Shlok Rawat, and Harshvardhan Agarwal for winning Best Delegate awards, and to Adidev Mittle and Aryaveer Jain for bagging

Outstanding Delegate awards. Six of our delegates were chosen for the very competitive night crisis, where the best delegates from each committee are invited to tackle a crisis on the spot without any prior preparation. A huge shoutout to Veddant Mehta for winning the Best Delegate award for the Night crisis, and thus picking up two Best Delegate awards! Well done HSI Mun Club, this is another huge feather in your cap.

TEACHERS' WORKSHOP IBDP & IGCSE Faculty

The onset of the new academic year reverberated with newer ideas and brimming enthusiasm to plunge into executing new learnings to meet the desired learning outcomes. To enable the teachers to do so we at Hill Spring International believe in accentuating ongoing professional development and sensitization.

Ms. Reetu Seth, the Clinical Psychologist & Special Needs Coordinator; along with her team, conducted an interactive workshop for the IGCSE teachers titled "Inclusive Practices and Student Success" on 25th July 2023. And for the IBDP teachers titled "Mentoring and Differentiation: Integral Tools for Inclusive Education" on 18th July 2023.

The above initiative was intended for the teachers to understand learning differences and characteristics of neurotypical & neurodivergent learners, respect classroom diversity and adopt inclusive practices and differential strategies

under the universal design for learning. This would further help them to transform theoretical ideals to meet learning outcomes and indeed meet the tenets of inclusive education as "one size doesn't fit all".



INTERACTIVE SESSION On Hygiene

Mrs. Ardeshir, Zephaan's mother conducted an interactive session on 'Bathroom Hygiene for Children and staff' with our school helpers (didis). Her viewpoints and tips were very informative and educative for the staff.



Teachers & Staff Workshop



WELLNESS WORKSHOP Faculty & Staff

At HSI, we believe that mindfulness and wellness are key components in shaping a student's mind. But it's equally important for the teachers. Recently, we had a wellness workshop for the teachers and it brought out their inner child.

Everyone was eager to dive into exploring various activities and this workshop wouldn't have been a success without the enthusiasm of the teachers.



INDEPENDENCE DAY Assembly 2023

77th Indian Independence Day Celebration –
Reflections on our Commitment to the Nation.

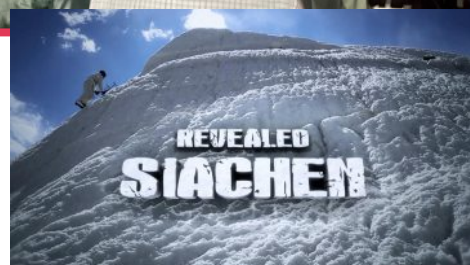
Commemorating India's 77th Independence Day, IBDP students watched the documentary *Revealed: Siachen* which narrates the story of the Siachen Glacier and the challenges faced by the Indian soldier while on duty there. On 14 August, all the grade 11 and 12 students and teachers gathered in the Learning Resource Center (LRC) to watch the 45-minute documentary. After the viewing, students were asked to write two reflections using the following prompts:

All of us may not be able to volunteer as soldiers for the Indian Army. As we celebrate our 77th Independence Day how best can love and duty for our country be expressed in other capacities and professions?

Do you think India should make it compulsory for all citizens to enroll into the defense forces (conscription) so that the spirit of love, duty, and sacrifice can be shared equally among its citizens?

Here are some of the responses from the IBDP Students.

Aranis Sinha of Grade 11 wrote, "While I do not want to volunteer to become a soldier for the Indian Army, it would be my dream to design, pioneer, and create aircrafts for the IAF/ The Indian armed forces.(...) I want to study Aeronautical Engineering in university, and hopefully come back to India (...) I



would like to work in the company such as HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics limited), or even work in a foreign company such as Sukhoi, Safran, or Dassault which is actively working with India to create Indian Air force or Navy Aircrafts."

Nitya Doshi of grade 12 responded, "...most impactful ways to demonstrate patriotism is by keeping our nation clean and pristine, which reflects our respect for our homeland and signifies our commitment to its growth and prosperity. A clean environment that promotes well-being is the foundation of a healthy and thriving society and can be achieved with the help of simple acts such as proper disposal of waste, reduction of disposable plastic usage, and participation in clean-up drives."

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION - Early Years



Learners enthusiastically dressed in colours of the national flag and coloured within the outline of the national symbols.



INVESTITURE CEREMONY 2023-2024

The Investiture Ceremony was held on 5th August. It was well attended by parents and teachers. Students who were identified by the staff were officially invested with cords and badges affirming their acceptance to be members of the School Student Council for the academic year 2023-24. The students took the oath, which was read out by our Principal, Ms.

Wilhelmina Athaide. They pledged loyalty to the school in terms of their duties and responsibilities entrusted upon them. This solemn occasion was attended by the School Academic Coordinators and presided over by our Academic Administrator Ms. Nalini Pinto, who was the Chief Investing Officer for the Ceremony.





TEACHER'S DAY @HSIS

Beautiful moments and a memorable week!

On the special occasion of Teacher's Day, the students from Grades 4 - 12, put on incredible performances, showcasing their talents in music, dance, and more for their teachers!

The hallways were filled with happiness and excitement as spirit week came to an end, during which the students saw their teachers in different avatars! Whether dressed up in colourful and glamorous outfits based on books and movie characters, costumes from around the world, or their hilarious white lies- their efforts to put together a new outfit every day was not missed by the students!

On the 5th of September after much preparation and excitement, the students eagerly put on applause-worthy performances

filled with movements and catchy songs. The teachers watched in awe as the students sang and danced their hearts out to show their appreciation for their kind and hardworking teachers. The excitement in the air was electrifying. Teachers with their cheering, applause, and laughter, and students matching that energy in their performances!

We captured beautiful moments throughout the week to remember the truly memorable week!

Kudos to our Council Members for showing their appreciation and gratitude to us Teachers on the occasion of Teacher's Day. It was much appreciated.

Mehek Agarwal - Grade 12



Applaud-worthy Assemblies

JANMASHTAMI Celebration



Janmashtami, the joyous celebration of Lord Krishna's birth, was marked with great zeal and fervor. The PYP learners danced to popular folk music and viewed short stories on 'Bal Krishna'. The highlight of the event was the exhilarating Dahi Handi ceremony, the breaking of an earthen pot. Ajit and Amey sir ensuring the safety of the participants, guided learners to take on the role of Risk-takers, embracing the

challenge of creating a stable human pyramid which requires the gross motor skills of balancing their bodies, synchronizing and coordinating their movements. The celebration not only brought the learning community together but also instilled values of being 'Open-Minded' in our young learners.



FRENCH SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM Connecting the Dots

Hill Spring International School organised the French Summer School Program in June with students of Grade 8 and Grade 11.

They were accompanied by two French teachers who ensured that they spoke in French and learned to communicate effectively throughout their stay in France. They attended

class every day for 4 hours and learned the language in a fun-filled way through songs, role plays, and a lot of listening exercises.

The afternoons were earmarked for more learning. Activities in the mountain included zip lining in the forest, a treasure hunt, learning the folk dance of the region, and a farm visit to see how cheese is made. In Paris, the children learned how to use the metro, order food, and buy groceries from the supermarket among other activities.

During their week in Paris, Grade 11 experienced living with a family as they opted for a "Home Stay". This gave them an insight into the day-to-day functioning of life in Paris, their food habits, and a chance to experience their culture. They travelled independently by metro and developed communication skills and other life skills.

Both groups came back with fun-filled memories that they will always cherish!

SPAIN TRIP ¡Hola España!

As part of the IBDP Spanish Ab Initio course, 15 students of Grade XI travelled to Spain from June 5-16, 2023, accompanied by their teachers, Ms. Anuya Naik and Ms. Shruti Shah. The purpose of this trip was complete immersion in Spanish language and culture.

CELEI, an institute based in Granada, was the centre for the students' language lessons. The frequent interactions in Spanish with natives, both in and out of class, have been a tremendous boost to the students' confidence.

The learnings of Spanish class were further reinforced during visits to cultural and historical sites such as Plaza mayor and the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium of Real Madrid FC in Madrid, the Mosque-Cathedral in Córdoba, la Alhambra, and Albaicín in Granada.

A major highlight of this trip was a 'Tablao de flamenco' which proved to be an amazing culmination of the Flamenco lessons for students. One activity of interest was a photography workshop conducted in the gardens of Carmen de los Mártires in which the students explored the gardens to improve their skills with a camera. Another engaging activity was a scavenger hunt involving the wonderful and creative graffiti artwork in the Realejo neighbourhood of Granada which allowed for a discussion on various social issues.

Food is a window to any culture and helps one learn more about the people



of a region. Spanish gastronomy is varied and colourful, made of fresh ingredients and produce, and the students and teachers had a splendid time trying various local delicacies like gazpacho, churros con chocolate, piononos,





local ice creams, assorted meats and ham (for the more adventurous foodies), and much more. For our farewell lunch, the teachers at the Spanish Institute cooked the traditional paella (with some help from our students!); it was a memorable meal.

The genial and accommodating Spanish people, the splendid natural beauty and rich cultural heritage of Spain combined with the enthusiastic participation of our students enhanced the remarkable learning experiences

BHAU DAJI LAD MUSEUM Grade 5

The students of Grade 5 visited the Bhau Daji Lad Museum as an extension of learning for the Unit of Inquiry – Artistic Expression. The students learnt about the history and foundation of the museum and were delighted by the marvellous story teller, Ms. Ulka Mayur. Through the stories, Ms. Ulka encouraged the children to think about how an artist uses art as a means to express themselves. She was able to bring across the cultural element and significance in the life of an artist through the stories.



RESTAURANT VISIT Exploration through our senses



In connection with the ongoing UOI- Senses, the learners visited a restaurant Soda Bottle Opener Wala at BKC for a sensorial experience. The visit enabled the learners to make the connection of using multiple senses to explore and interact with the environment.

PARENT INTERACTIONS Early Years

Mrs. and Mr. Bansal (Aarin's parents) conducted an interactive Fun with Science session with the learners of Junior KG. They watched an informative PPT and viewed the experiment on 'HOW FISH BREATHE IN WATER'. They used coffee, water, and filter paper to make the learners understand it. Furthermore, the learners enjoyed the craft activity of making their own fish and were super excited to take it home!



Mrs. Bhansali, Satya Bhansali's mother from Junior KG engaged the learners in a hands-on activity of creating the Earth and watching the ice melt due to the extreme heat. The children also viewed a video on Pacific Ocean trash. This activity led to a deeper understanding of the effects of climatic conditions on sea life. The learners realized the importance of our role in protecting the environment. They further understood the concept of segregation of waste and enjoyed sorting the wet and dry garbage in the respective bins.



Mrs. Agarwal, Yuvaansh's mother conducted a session on Independence Day with the learners of Junior KG. She interacted with the learners by explaining to them how each of us is different but at the same time we are all Indians. She also showed them a video followed by a presentation on why and how we celebrate Independence Day. The learners enjoyed colouring the words (Accept, Respect, and Bonding) in the tri-colour

PARENT INTERACTIONS Early Years

Mrs. and Mr. Jhaveri parents of Saisha Jhaveri from Junior KG conducted a science experiment on coral acidification. They commenced the session by explaining the properties of acids in simple terms. The learners observed the change in colour of litmus paper when they were placed in acidic solutions like lemon juice, orange juice, and vinegar. They concluded the session by explaining the impact of acidification on shells, mollusks, and crustaceans in the ocean.



Mrs. Chheda, Prishkaa's mother engaged the learners of Junior KG in an exciting experiment on the oil spill. She explained to the learners that oil does not mix with the water and hence stays on top. The learners also understood how an oil spill affects sea creatures and how it can be rectified.



Mrs. Bhamla—mother of Ibrahim facilitated an experiment, wherein learners observed how rice grains jump on a plastic film with the sound vibrations of loud music.

PARENT INTERACTIONS Early Years



Incorporating multi-linguism with a Hindi poem, the first parent session in Nursery was kickstarted by Mrs. Arya (Ved's mother). Connecting to the monsoon season, our learners heard a poem in Hindi about a boat bobbing in the ocean and had a lot of fun crafting their own little sail boats to take home.



Mrs. Suchi Agarwal (Aariv's mother) from Senior KG showed the learners a story about India's struggle for Independence from the British and thereafter discussed how despite their differences, the various communities of India bonded together and united to gain freedom, thereby understanding the school theme, "Embracing differences through bonding". Learners coloured the Indian flag and wore tri-coloured wristbands at home as a token to celebrate Independence Day.



Mrs. And Mr. Bhurat-Zaara's parents conducted a session emphasizing the need to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in a sustainable manner. They enacted a story explaining the impact of the use and immersion of Plaster of Paris idols in the oceans on sea creatures. They concluded the session with an art activity where the children made Ganeshas using glitter paper.

FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS Early Years

Mrs. Sodha, parent of Amaira Sodha from Nursery connected her Parent Session to the upcoming Ganapati festival. She introduced the little ones to the many facets of Ganpati and also celebrated diversity by doing an aarti with the children to the tune of 'Sukharta Dukharta' to seek his blessings. Our young learners were excited about eating the delicious Ladoo and then making their own Ganpati puppet to regale their parents with the story!



Nursery learners were thrilled to celebrate the festival of Ganeshotsav with Agastya Bafna's mom and grandmother (Nani). They explained the importance of this festival by reading a story on Ganesha. They shared the pictures of their last year's visarjan of eco-friendly Ganpati to bring home the importance of celebrating festivals by being environment conscious as well. Later learners danced to a Ganesha song and completed the creativity of their own Ganesha idol. They shared modaks with all the learners. Ganpati Bappa Morya!



Aarav Agwarwal's parents celebrated Janmashtami with great aplomb as they explained the significance of Lord Krishna's birth story and shared the festivities by showing a small silver temple with god's idol in it. Learners later danced to the tunes of Lord Krishna's fun-filled songs and decorated the Dahi Hand with stickers. They were thrilled to get their own decorate flutes and eating kaju katli – a sweet to mark the sweetness of the festival. They coloured a poster of Lord Krishna which they carried back home with them. Happy Janmashtami!



SENSORY PLAY Early Years

Ms. Shantala and Ms. Janhavi collaborated with Junior Kg to engage the young learners in sensory play connected to the unit of Sea World. The learners had fun exploring the different corners set up for them. They thoroughly enjoyed using their five senses while digging out sea creatures from sand and being doctors to examine them, cleaning the ocean of all the rubbish, listening to, and identifying the sounds of ocean creatures, and using their imagination to make crabs from apple slices (and of course tasting it too) and using play dough to mould and decorate the sea creatures. The crab walks into the MPH on the sensory path created was super fun too.



ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS Grade 5



The students of Grade 5 embarked upon the new academic year by inquiring into 'Artistic Expressions'. Mr. Saurin Jhaveri (Arjun's father) volunteered to showcase the impact of culture in the process of jewellery design. He highlighted that different cultures have different preferences. The students were able to build connections to how culture plays a major role in the life of an artist and his artwork. He helped the students get their thinking caps on and dig deeper into the Unit by building a conceptual understanding of aesthetics, aspirations, imagination, and creativity.

We are grateful to such resourceful parents who take time off their busy work schedules to support our young learners.

FILMIT WORKSHOP Grade 6



Grade 6 and 7 students collaborated with INTACH and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya to create films, promoting cultural understanding and empathy. The project nurtures appreciation for diverse communities and environments while honing filmmaking skills.

We are grateful towards such resourceful parents who take time off their busy work



WRITER'S EFFECT

Students interacted with guest speaker- Shabnam Minwalla to gain insights into writing short stories

schedules and support our students in their endeavors to make meaning of the world around them. We look forward to such associations with the parent community as we progress further and collaboratively provide meaningful learning experiences to fuel the curiosity of our young squad of explorers.

SCAVENGER HUNT



Students were engaged in a scavenger hunt looking to search for various ways writers begin and end their stories

STORY TIME



Students read the story, Truce in the Forest and create a book cover. Later, they justified, in writing, why they chose those particular elements for the image they created.

INTEGRATED SOCIAL STUDIES Grade 8



Revisiting the history of India. An insight by Ms Swati Patodia, parent cohort. Explaining from the reign of the Mughals leading to the advent of the British and finally independence



Learners work in groups enhancing their research skills by analysing data and discussing with their peer

FUN MATHS



Learners of grade 8 used Tangram puzzles to connect the sizes of different shapes in it using concept of fractions. This brought alive the subject by using it in practical situations.

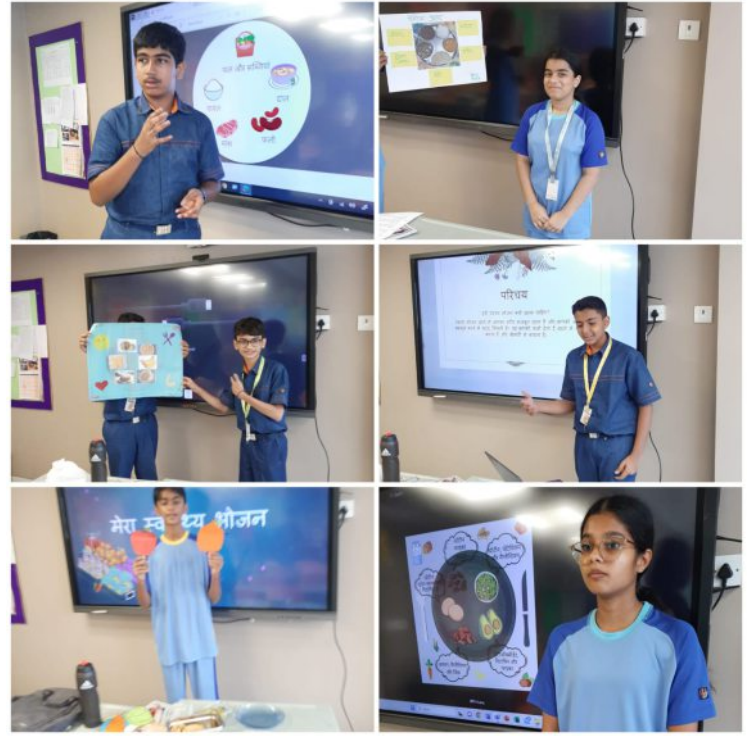


Map- Activity: During the ISS-Library session, Grade 7 students were organized into groups to analyze various types of maps and understand their practical applications in real-world situations.

HINDI

Grade 6, 7 & 8

कक्षा ७ के हिंदी के विद्यार्थियों द्वारा सोमवार ७ अगस्त २०२३ को एक गतिविधि, प्रस्तुतिकरण के रूप में करवाई गई। इस प्रस्तुतिकरण में इन विद्यार्थियों ने फल और सूखे मेवे के ना केवल फायदों के बारे में बताया बल्कि इनमें शामिल तत्वों के बारे में भी विस्तृत जानकारी दी जो कि पूरी कक्षा के लिए ज्ञानवर्धक रहा।



कक्षा - 8 के विद्यार्थियों ने शुक्रवार, अगस्त 25 , 2023 को पौष्टिक आहार के विषय में जाना और उसी के आधार पर एक पोषक नाश्ता स्वयं तैयार किया। इसके साथ ही बच्चों ने उस खाद्य पदार्थ के बारे में यह भी बताया कि उसमें कौन से विटामिन हैं व उसके क्या फायदे हैं। इसके साथ ही छात्रों ने इस बात से भी परिचित कराया कि हमें इस आहार का सेवन दिन के किस समय पर करना चाहिए।

कक्षा - 6 के विद्यार्थियों ने शुक्रवार, अगस्त 31 , 2023 को ऋतुओं के विषय में जाना और उसी के आधार पर एक चित्र तैयार किया। इसके साथ ही बच्चों ने उस चित्र के बारे में यह भी बताया कि उन्हें कौन सा मौसम पसंद है और उसका क्या कारण है।

इसके साथ ही छात्रों ने इस बात से भी परिचित कराया कि हर मौसम का एक अपना ही मज़ा है और अलग- अलग मौसम में हम कैसे रहते हैं, कैसा खाते हैं, क्या पहनते हैं।



EXPLORING THE EXCITING WORLD OF RESEARCH Grade 11

The recent guest lecture by Ms. Gitanjali Sukhtankar was a valuable opportunity for our 11th and 12th grade Biology students to gain insights into potential career avenues in research. With a background in both a Bachelor's degree in Biology, majoring in Biomedical Sciences, and her current pursuit of a Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences with specialisation in immunology and oncology from the University of Groningen, Netherlands, Ms. Gitanjali brought practical experience and knowledge to the session.



She started by discussing the distinction between the roles of scientists and doctors. Ms. Gitanjali emphasized the importance of researchers in advancing medical knowledge and contributing to medical breakthroughs. She also provided insights into her own research projects and touched upon trending areas in biomedicine, including cancer research, SARS-CoV-2 studies, and emerging imaging techniques.

The interactive session allowed students to engage directly with Ms. Gitanjali, posing questions that reflected their curiosity about the field. Ms. Gitanjali's genuine responses and anecdotes helped demystify various aspects of

MIGRATION Grade 9



Using the 'Hot Seat' strategy, students understand 'Empathy'. They narrate an incident from their lives where they wanted someone to empathise with them..

biomedicine, leaving students with more clarity to make informed decisions in their upcoming further studies.

One of the most valuable parts of the lecture was Ms. Gitanjali's detailed discussion of the diverse career options that involve research. From pursuing academia, to roles in science journalism, policy making, forensic science, and other specialized areas like biomechanics, genetics, and biochemistry, Ms. Gitanjali highlighted the breadth of possibilities awaiting those interested in the field.

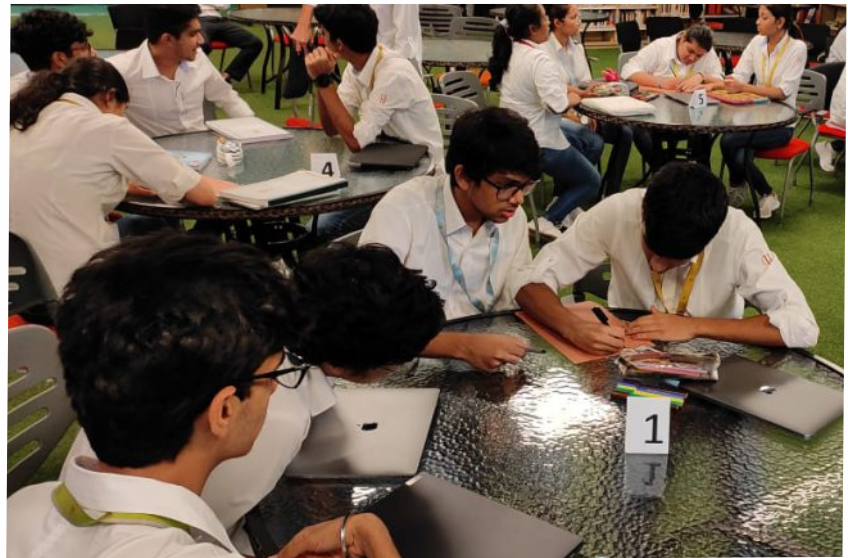
Overall, the guest lecture by Ms. Gitanjali was an enlightening experience that exposed students to the multifaceted world of research its future. We extend our appreciation to Ms. Gitanjali for her informative session, which has undoubtedly broadened our horizons and sparked contemplation about our own futures within the realm of Biology.

Nitya Doshi

INQUIRY INTO THE CONTESTED NATURE OF DEVELOPMENT

As an introduction to the topic of development that is fundamental in both Economics as well as Global Politics, the students of Grade 12 immersed themselves in an interdisciplinary collaborative group activity. Before delving into the subject content related to the different types and indices of development the students were given the opportunity to brainstorm and note down words from their prior knowledge that they thought were relevant to development. Terms like GDP, environment, living standards and poverty were common among groups. To further prompt the contested nature of development as a concept, students were given a list of 30 heterogeneous countries with geographical, socio-economic, and political variation which they had to rank in order of perceived development. The most common consensus when compared was that African states ranked towards the end because of their dwindling economic condition and deteriorating human rights. However, to this, some students argued the existence of a western bias where powerful western countries dictated the benchmarks for development. Grade 12, through this, explored the subjectivity of ranking countries as different individuals perceive development in different ways.

In retrospect, these groups realized that they gave profound importance only to economic indicators and failed to account for more composite indications of development like the environment that China would rank low in. Post this, the students in their respective groups were either given economic, environment, social or political development to explore from the perspective of diverse case studies which they would then present. The disagreements between different nations were also brought out as students learnt that based on the level of



social and economic development of a country, their standards of what a “developed” country is also evolves accordingly. Instead of looking at development from just one pillar, students found that to make an educated guess, there must be an evaluation of multiple pillars, like economic, social, political, and environmental. The students also imbibed the importance of historical socio-cultural contexts. The case studies highlighted that development is profoundly influenced by historical contexts, cultural values, and geographical factors. For instance, a group discovered that a country that ranks lower on economic indicators may excel in social equality and environmental sustainability due to its cultural values. While exploring cases of highly economically developed countries like USA, for example, the students found that the inherent trade-off was evident. While the GDP per capita may be indicative of high development, the means through which it was achieved: urbanisation and industrialisation, was detrimental to the environment, compounding into high carbon emissions. Overall, this activity gave students an insight into the complex and contested ideas surrounding development, equipping them to analyze and evaluate real world examples better in their respective subjects.

Aarav Sheth – Grade 12

Preparing DP Students for an 'Ever-Changing World'

The International Baccalaureate Program gives all students the opportunity to receive an education to get them ready to be global citizens. Apart from the fact that the program intends to develop students' intellectual, emotional, personal, and social skills we, as a school, further take on the responsibility to create a conducive environment to enable a well-balanced learner.

With the above intent in mind, the Enrichment Centre conducted an awareness talk with the Grade 11 & 12 on 17th August 2023 titled 'Life Skills and Success'.

The students were taken through an inventory to assess their levels of stress and it was found that 50% of the class population were exposed to moderate stress and 25% were facing high-intensity stress.

The 'Wheel of Life for Teens' was introduced for them as a tool to reduce stress and for effective time management to help them learn how to prioritize and allocate time to different areas of their life viz-a-viz Education, Hobbies, Physical Activity, Family, Friends, Physical & Mental



Health, and other priorities. Thereafter create a new one keeping in mind if they need to reprioritize to create the balance.

The outcome was to open a channel of communication for them to be able to reach out in case they need help to develop their coping mechanisms and upskilling to navigate through the program smoothly.



GLOBAL WARMING Early Years

Ms. Pooja from the chemistry lab conducted an interesting session with Junior KG students explaining the ocean acidification process and its impact on the corals. She supported the experiment with various interesting videos and explained the impact of global warming on sea life in very simplified language. ially designed for the learners.

CAMPUS UNIVERSITY VISITS IBDP

Hill Spring International School offers a sustained engagement with Indian and international universities to ensure its students are exposed to a range of educational and career opportunities from which they can curate their own academic and life journeys. The impressive July-August roster attended by students includes:

University of Notre Dame
Muhlenberg College
Anant National University (Ahmedabad),
Northeastern University,
Michigan State University,
University of Wisconsin Madison,
Rutgers University,
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign,
Penn State University,
Wake Forest University,
Bentley University,
Emerson College,
Bryant University,
Tulane University,
Boston College,
Tufts University,
Carleton University,
Concordia University,
Dalhousie University,
Queens University,
University of Guelph.





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