

# Wellington Weekly

November 2023



## Master's Voice

Dear WCI Pune Parents,

Hello and I hope that all's well.

It is wonderful to reflect upon our opening half-term at Wellington and to gaze upon all the progression in the school. As a community we have all come a very long way since Friday 15th September and the opening day of the school! Well done to all – pupils, parents and colleagues. Of course, we all recognise the journey ahead and the work remaining; however, it is so fulfilling to witness the cultural foundations that have been laid and, genuinely, how happy the pupils appear to be. It is essential to tap into that encouraging mindset and ensure the remaining weeks of Term 1 are as productive.

On this note, the Open Morning on Saturday 4th November was a most enjoyable occasion and it was fantastic to showcase the school. The learning environments appeared resplendent, across all the schools, and the families in attendance were clearly impressed. As our facilities grow, sporting as well as academic, we look forward to developing these occasions for prospective families. Furthermore, thank you to all parents who will join me on Wednesday 22nd November for the initial PTA meetings; it will be excellent to outline the path forward in this regard.



I hope that all pupils, families and colleagues enjoy an excellent Diwali break. This week WCI Pune has embraced the traditions of this period, with amazing displays and performances across all the schools. In addition, the Diwali connection has been further represented with the lights shimmering on Block A as the sun sets. A very fine sight indeed! Over the break, it is so important that all associated with WCI Pune gain an opportunity to rest and recharge the batteries for the last weeks of an important Term. There is still much for pupils to experience and accomplish before the end of Term 1, on 15th December, and I have no doubt that they will return raring to go after Diwali!

For the present though, I hope you enjoy reading about recent Wellington news in this exciting edition!

Thank you and we look forward to seeing families again when school returns on Monday 20th November.

With best wishes,

Dr Murray Tod

---

## Head of Early Years



Dear Families,

A happy, involved child is one who can experience the world at its fullest, and high levels of involvement coupled with high levels of wellbeing is the perfect recipe for deep learning and development. We are continually thinking about creating exciting learning experiences for the children we work with, by collaborating with each other and offering different perspectives on the day's events, and at the end of each day, the class team gathers together to talk about the day and what they observed. Ensuring that we are able to respond to each child's emerging needs and questions about the world around them, being able to extend their learning even further. A commitment to listening to children and consulting with them is core to our curriculum thinking, development, and practice within our setting.

As you may have noticed all around the Early Years, our documentation of the children's learning is growing and displayed proudly, ensuring that we 'remark on the remarkable'. As part of this process, we document and systematically record learning through a range of media resources including photographs, videos, journals, and audio recordings of what children are showing us through their representations. It is with this aspect of the process and methods of listening to our children that allow them, our educators, and our community to form a new and deep understanding of:

- How children learn and construct meaning;
- The amazing ability and potential of children
- Ourselves as adult learners and our interactions with children and with each other; understanding of:
- The cultural importance of our families and community

We encourage you to continue to share, reflect, and engage with the documentation and our Wellington Early Years Community during your next visit to our school.





## Head of Senior School

Wednesday, 1st November saw the introduction of our 'Fireside Learning' lecture programme, a series of fortnightly talks delivered by teachers, parents and thought leaders in industry, leadership and academia, designed to help nurture a climate of scholarly discourse and intellectual discovery in our students - a key academic priority at Wellington.



Dr Murray Tod was our first guest speaker, and he gave a fascinating talk on 'History at the Coalface: Marginalia.' He explored three key themes - where does one gain insights into the past, how do we know what really happened, and how do we know how people interpreted matters 500 years ago. Students were incredibly engaged throughout, making notes in their journals, and they asked some really insightful and pertinent questions. They were left with 3 big questions to ponder - do we always have to return to original documents/sources to know the 'truth'? Can we ever gain 'windows' into peoples' (late-medieval) thinking (hundreds of years after they lived) and is History a 'live' subject...always open to new thinking and reinterpretations? It was great to witness their enthusiasm and we are very much looking forward to the next lecture to be delivered by Mr Hekala.



Please get in touch if you are willing to come in and deliver a talk on a topic of your choice. One parent has already lined up a business partner to speak to the students about 'electric cars,' which promises to be really intriguing. Thank you in advance for your support of this initiative. May I take this opportunity to also wish you a very happy Diwali. I hope that you have a wonderful break and look forward to seeing the students on their return.

---



Music CCAs have started with a bang and are growing week to week. What started off as a single student practicing at lunchtime has turned into a lively Music block more often than not. Students are regularly engaged with both practicing instruments from home as well as working in groups to improve their abilities and develop parts for ensembles.

As to the ensembles, the all-school Band has been rehearsing their first work, Sly and the Family Stone's Thank You. Band members have been learning to play not as individuals but as a cohesive unit, reacting to and expanding on musical impulses provided by other members. The Seniors are also exploring the world of the blues and improvisation with jam sessions soon to come.



Our all-school choir has expanded almost on a weekly basis with new members joining regularly. The focus here has been first and foremost on good vocal technique with extensive warm-ups, exercises to promote vocal control, and learning fundamentals of performance as a singer. Our rehearsals are now concentrated on preparing our first small programme with a line-up of four songs including American Spirituals, Canons, and African traditional songs.

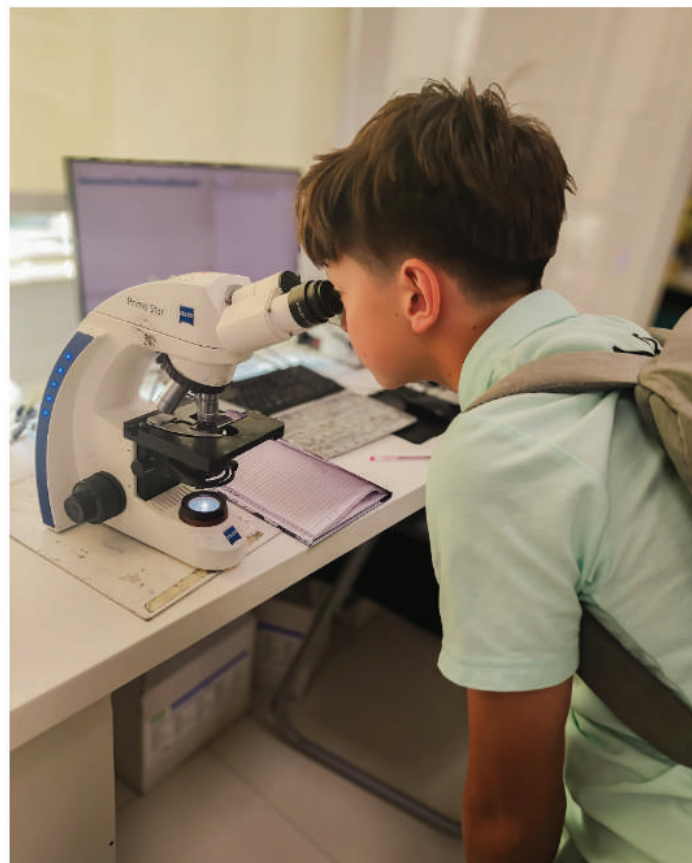


The Music Department looks forward to more participants and hopes to showcase some of our talent soon. Just a reminder, those not involved with CCA are also welcome to perform! Please approach Mr. Hekala with your ready to perform work for a short audition with feedback at any break.



## Trip to Manipal Hospital

On Wednesday, 1st November, we embarked on a small educational field trip to Manipal Hospital. We gained an opportunity to learn about the components of blood, its storage, identification and the centrifugation process in a real-world medical setting.



This field trip was meticulously organized as an integral part of our science curriculum, aimed at enriching the students' comprehension of the captivating realm of biology and the complexities of the human body. We take immense pride in our commitment to experiential learning through real-world settings, which we believe instils in our students the invaluable skills and mindset of lifelong learners.



# TAISI Educators Conference in Bangalore

Saturday, 4th November

At the core of effective practice in education lies a clear understanding of the development of children and the knowledge of how best to support their transition points throughout their educational journey. Mr. Conrad Botha, Head of Early Years, recently attended the Taisi Educators Conference in Bangalore exploring the topic of 'Bridging Learning Gaps in Primary and Middle School Years'. Through his participation, he was able to share the pioneering practices Wellington College International considers impactful during key transition points in a pupil's educational journey and how the college uses pupil data to inform any rationale for adaptations whilst ensuring progression and curriculum coverage of the individual. Collaboration with organisations such as Taisi is fundamental in creating a platform for Wellington College International Pune to continue learning, growing, and contributing to education on a global scale.



## Open Day - 4th November 2023

Our first Open Day at Wellington College International Pune brought together an enthusiastic community of parents who met with Dr Murray Tod, our Founding Master, Senior Leadership Team and teachers, fostering meaningful connections and having invaluable interactions. The parents explored the school with an exclusive guided tour of our exceptional learning spaces, showcasing our commitment to an enriching educational environment.





## Diwali at WCI Pune

As part of the Diwali celebrations at WCI Pune, our pupils have been busy preparing displays and entertainment for the classrooms.









## Upcoming Event



The Wellington Early Years way to achieving excellent outcomes for all pupils:

## ASSESSMENT ELEMENTS AND REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

Please join us as we explore how we make use of the Wellington College Early Years assessment strategies to support us responding to children's learning.

**Date : Friday, 1st December, 2023**

**Time : 08:30 - 10:00 am**





WELLINGTON  
COLLEGE  
INTERNATIONAL  
PUNE

Happy  
**Diwali**



Connect with us



**Realise**  
your **potential**