

Wellington Weekly

1st December 2023



Master's Voice

Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds everyone well.

With the end of Term 1 now looming, it is sobering to reflect on all that the pupils have achieved since mid-September. Academic achievement and, indeed, learning simply for the fun of it!, should always be at the very core of our school operations. Thus, I wholly commend the discernible progression on so many fronts, across all schools, and I am sure this will be represented in assessments and the forthcoming end of Term reports too. Well done to all pupils for their concerted endeavours over the past few weeks!

discernible progression on so many fronts, across all schools, and I am sure this will be represented in assessments and the forthcoming end of Term reports too. Well done to all pupils for their concerted endeavours over the past few weeks!

Of course, in tandem with academics, the end of Term 1 ushers in the allure of Christmas and I'm excited to experience Wellington's first festive period. I know that all the schools have exceptional events planned and, as always, it will be enriching to have the whole community involved.

I must also take this opportunity to thank all the parental involvement in the nascent Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and newly formed Executive Committee (EC). We are very grateful for all the contributions and look forward to working closely with the Executive Committee. The founding members of the EC are as follows:

1. Chair: Master
2. Vice-Chair: Ms Kim Provo
3. Secretary: Priya (Master's EA)
4. Joint Secretary: Mr Ajay Malhotra
5. Teacher Representatives: Mr Olav Hekala and Mr Ross Burrows
6. Parent Representatives:
 - Mr Ralph Borde
 - Ms Mabel Sowatei
 - Ms Virginie Bonhomme
 - Ms Anika Degan

Similarly, we will write next week with details for the first Friends of Wellington meeting, a separate parental group that will play an equally instrumental role in developing the culture and outreach of the Wellington community. Exciting stuff.

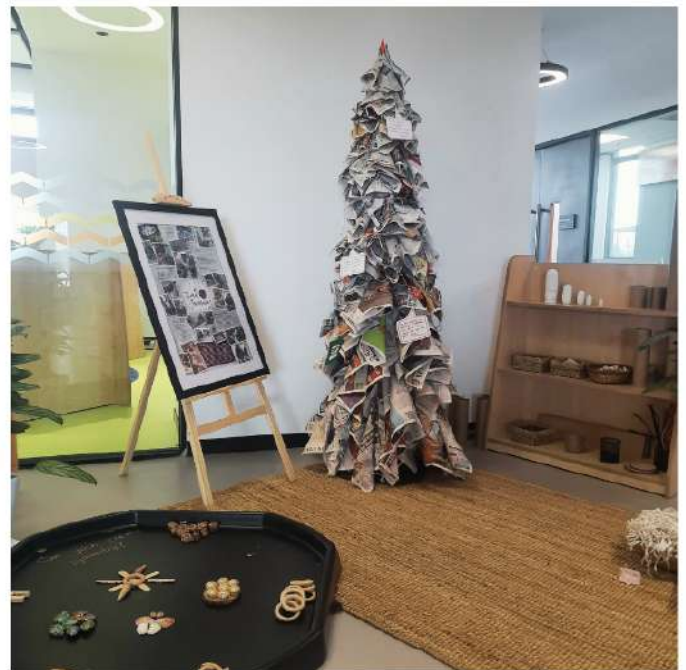
Thank you, as always, for your support of the College.

Dr Murray Tod

Head of Early Years

“Nature is seen as the fourth teacher. From nature, we learn both limits and possibilities, we learn the principles, processes, and patterns that sustain ecosystems, and we learn about the ingredients of healthy living, the dynamics of changing living systems, and the ever-evolving natural world.” – Fundamentals of Learning, WCIP EY Curriculum

As we begin our Christmas celebrations and explore the joy it brings to our children and communities around the world, it is also an opportunity for us to reflect on our work towards a sustainable future for Wellington College Early Years Pune. Sustainability in the Early Years is referred to by The Curiosity Approach as “The ability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”



We see our responsibility beginning with teaching our children about the importance of protecting the natural world, while at the same time driving our Wellington values and tradition of service forward through the daily opportunities we offer. This year we are fortunate to collaborate with the Nirankar Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Foundation, an orphanage with 20 children it cares for on a permanent basis, and we were delighted to host them to learn more about the work they do, the children that live there, and their vision to creating a better future for themselves. We are also excited to be working with our children and families as we gather valuable resources for them this Christmas. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to you for your participation and contributions and we are looking forward to making our first Christmas one that we will remember far into the future.



Head of Junior School

Dear Parents,

I had a slightly later return than most following the Diwali break. Not an extended holiday (I promise!) but a trip to Bangkok to attend their first Festival of Education and a conference for Heads of Wellington schools around the world.

Our parent school, Wellington College in the UK, host an annual 'Edfest', which brings together around 5000 teachers and school leaders with inspirational speakers and educational change makers. The Glastonbury of Education as these festivals are known, are a key part of the Wellington philosophy: thought leadership, progressive education and outreach. They now happen across the world in Shanghai, Washington DC and most recently, Bangkok. It was a thoroughly inspiring day.

It was also a chance for Heads of Primary from all Wellington Schools across the world to finally meet in person. Although we are online together frequently and visit each other's schools when time and visas allow, it was great to all be in one room, spending time ensuring alignment in values, approach and quality across the group. We are looking at lots of opportunities for our pupils to collaborate with their Wellington family around the globe.



Back here in Pune, we have a very busy final few weeks. Details and reminders will follow but please mark your calendars / save the date for the following activities:

From Monday, 4th December: House fitness challenge

Children will have a daily exercise to complete during the school day to gain points for their House. This can be done in normal uniform.

Monday, 11th December: Junior School Assessment and Reporting for Parents (Coffee Morning)

Join us for a mince pie and hear about how assessment works in the Junior School and understand your child's report and grades.

Wednesday, 13th December: Rocking Around the (Global) Christmas Tree, 3.30pm, Multipurpose Sports Hall

Parents are warmly welcomed to join us for festive songs led by the choir and band. A dance performance will be provided by the Dance CCA group and parents can take part in a festive ukulele masterclass, led by Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.

Normal uniform is worn this day.

Wednesday, 13th December: Children's Christmas Lunch

Children will be served a festive lunch. Normal uniform is worn but children are encouraged to bring in festive headwear (Santa's hat, Christmas themed hair band, crown or creative hairstyle!). Junior School Term 1 Progress Report will be shared with parents.

Friday, 15th December: House Singing Competition

School will finish at the normal time and holidays will begin!

Please do keep bringing in your old newspapers to help sculpt our sustainable Christmas tree!

Head of Senior School

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are well. I am delighted to write to you to introduce **Beyond Wellington** - the Academic Extension, Higher Education and Careers department at WCI Pune, which is designed to help your daughters and sons navigate the myriad of exciting options available to them after they leave the College and to help them best prepare for their futures.

Year 9 Students will have an assembly in January to introduce the team and to inform them about the opportunities available to them in this final year of KS3. We will be launching Morrisby with Year 9 this year – a Careers advice and guidance online platform. We do not expect the students to be selecting university courses or careers at this early stage, but the platform allows them to explore possibilities and, more importantly, to chart their acquisition of skills and developing interests from the first year right through to the point when they are making their post-18 applications. The running record this provides is a useful stimulus for conversation with their tutors, subject teachers, and Head of School so that they are able to make the most informed decisions at each stage of their time at the College – IGCSE options, IB choices, and options for further study and employment.

The key features of the platform for Year 9 include:

- Recording – self-reflection about all activities focused on the skills gained which will be useful for future study and employment
- Exploring pathways – personality quizzes, career and subject profiles. An introduction to Morrisby for parents can be found here <https://www.morrisby.com/parent>

We will be doing further work with Year 9 and their use of this platform during tutorial time in Term 2.

All students and parents will receive the termly Beyond Wellington Bulletin which details the key upcoming events as well as opportunities to apply for insight days and futures-related competitions.

US Universities

The US universities presentation for Year 9 Parents, 'What to do now and what to do next' will be in Term 3. This presentation will provide an overview of the US universities system and application process and how it differs to the UK system. Advice will be given on useful things students in these year groups can do now and over the coming years to prepare for this route of study if it is of interest to them.

Julia Sutcliffe will be in touch with more details about Beyond Wellington in due course.

Richard Shorter Talk

Building Resilience in our Children

On Tuesday 28th November, Richard Shorter, the author of the book *Non-Perfect Sporting Dad*, gave a fascinating online talk on how we can nurture greater resilience in our children. He has worked closely with Wellington College UK for the last four years alongside leading sports organisations such as Manchester United and Manchester City football clubs, England Hockey, England Cricket and England Rugby. He gave some insightful tips on how we can as parents manage difficult conversations with our children when they encounter challenges, focusing on the car journey home after a sports match or arts performance or after an assessment or exam. He spoke about how we can ease some of the pressure on our children and empower them to take greater ownership in dealing with bumps along the road. I would thoroughly recommend you watching the recording of the talk which will be sent early next week - he is a quite brilliant speaker.

Year 1 visit to Yoo Villas

The main categories of clays in India are Alluvial, Black, Red, and Laterite. Among these, alluvial is the most extensive clay in India. Where does clay come from? Are there different kinds of clay? How do I know where to find clay? Clay materials collected from different places of India is being studied extensively by our children in Year 1 and this has been the drive behind the children's research as they develop the skills to read, interpret, understand and use maps to investigate geographical landscapes and identify different categories of clay.



As part of building their capacity of map skills, the children recently visited the 3D model of Wellington College International Pune, located at Yoo Villas. Through this experience, the children learned about maps and cardinal directions. The aim was to make real-life connections to the theoretical concepts of maps and cardinal directions. By inviting our transportation expert, Mr. Dilip Kawad, Director of Administration and Compliance, into the project the children were able to learn about road safety firsthand. Upon reaching Yoo Villas, Mr. Kawad took on the role of 'Project Engineer', explaining the physical features of the 3D model of the school. This included landmarks such as the Mula Mutha River, the front gate, and the parking area.



Visit to Early Years Literati Symposium

Conrad Botha, Head of Early Years, recently participated in the Early Years Literacy Symposium hosted by The Healthy Planet TGA Early Years in Noida, Delhi. During the session Literacy development in the Early Years was extensively discussed by experts in the Indian Early Years sector with a focus on Cultural, Language, and information Literacy.

“It was a privilege to share the work that we do with Literacy at Wellington as the foundations for reading, writing, communicating, and socialising and we can learn from schools around the country to enrich our programme further.” – Conrad Botha

A Memorable Experience at the Festival of Education in Thailand

Wellington College International School Bangkok recently hosted the inaugural Festival of Education, an event that has garnered significant acclaim at Wellington College UK. For the first time in Thailand, this festival provided a unique platform for educators to engage, learn, and connect. With the ethos of “Where those who inspire find their own inspiration,” the festival was a vibrant space for sharing innovative ideas, engaging in insightful discussions, and participating in activities that fostered creativity and collaboration.

Ms Ramya Vijayan, Head of Marketing and Admissions at Wellington College International Pune, had the opportunity to visit the Festival of Education in Bangkok, which was both enlightening and inspiring. The festival conducted over 30 sessions of workshops and discussions with invaluable content to immerse yourself in a sea of innovative ideas and collaborative spirits.

As Ms Ramya noted “I am so happy to be part of the Wellington Family of schools, meeting colleagues at such inspirational events and having the opportunity to network in amazing Wellington settings!”.



Events Gallery

Assessment Elements and Reflective Practice

In the Community Information Session on Friday 1st December, hosted by Ms Rashmi Dixon, Early Years Class Teacher, we explored the role of our educators and how they work through holistic assessment approaches to extend and deepen children's ideas and theories. "Through careful observation, documentation, thoughtful questions, and deep reflections, our teachers work in partnership with the children and their families to negotiate curriculum, extend thinking, and develop explorations. Assessment serves children's learning and our curriculum."



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