



Wellington Weekly

2nd February 2024



Master's Voice

Dear Parents,

Hello and welcome to the first February edition of the Wellington Weekly - as always in schools, it is quite amazing how quickly the time has flown since the advent of the New Year!

It has certainly been a busy few weeks, navigating unexpected public holidays and Pune 'processions', and I thank all parents for their undoubted patience on these matters. It is never

easy to plot the correct path when faced by such eventualities, however my view has always been to keep schools open for pupils wherever possible.

A Wellington education leverages upon our global perspective and approach. It has therefore been splendid to have members of Wellington College International and Wellington College Shanghai here with us this week. A favourite word of mine, a humdinger in my view, remains 'authenticity' and I believe the relationship between Wellington UK (and WCI) and Wellington Pune is an excellent exemplar of a truly authentic partnership between the Wellington schools and our collective willingness to share best practice.

In addition, we have greatly enjoyed a number of recent parental events, ranging from coffee mornings and parent-teacher meetings to a super Friends of Wellington gathering to shape the path forward. On Wednesday 31st January, it was also very insightful to welcome prospective Senior parents and students to the school, to engage with matters such as IGCSE enrolment. We will shortly be delving into greater detail with our current pupils and parents on these matters too.

I should also take this opportunity to highlight the very welcome arrival of our swimming pool facilities. It will be tremendous to provide swimming lessons from next week, in a superb indoor environment, and I'm confident all students will love the new addition to our campus! Roll on the completion of our football / cricket / hockey arena!



Thank you once again for your support of school endeavours in our opening year. We recognise the need to communicate in a timely and efficient manner and will work hard to address, and rectify, any glitches in this process. Please can I conclude with a humble request for parents to ask drivers to keep to the speed limit of 20 km/h once they enter the Yoo Villas driveway to the school; I would really appreciate this.

Best wishes for the weekend,

Dr Murray Tod

Head of Early Years

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. Play is the perfect state for children to exhibit the Characteristics of Effective Learning, as it is often during play that children have their highest levels of Wellbeing and Involvement, or what is sometimes referred to as the 'flow state'; the feeling of being intensely focussed and almost losing the sense of time passing by because they are so absorbed in what they are doing.

We are fortunate for our school to be surrounded by rich natural beauty, and inspirational local communities with access to some of the most magnificent wonders of the world. A world that reveals itself in its fullness, and we aim for our children to fully immerse themselves in a place that develops a sense of kinship and a commitment to caring for it.



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. On Saturday 3rd February, we will host the very first Welly Boots Festival, celebrating our school and community's commitment to viewing 'Nature as our fourth teacher' and we are looking forward to making this an annual event in the coming years.

Kind regards,

Conrad Botha

Head of Junior School

Dear Parents,

It has been a long and eventful January - we are looking forward to the new month ahead!

Last week I spoke with parents (who were able to brave the traffic) about our teaching philosophy, particularly High Ceiling, Low Threat Learning.



Humans by nature are challenge seeking. It's why cross words and puzzles are such popular and enduring pastimes. As adults we enjoy the deep satisfaction of struggling with something, thinking hard, getting things wrong and correcting before finally getting it right. Children get the same joy from challenging learning so we provide opportunities for all pupils to 'do the hard work' with tasks that have no ceiling.

An adult absorbed in a crossword is failing and improving in private. We may feel annoyed or frustrated with ourselves but there is no one watching us or making us feel inadequate. The circumstances are low threat so we are able to take the risks vital to learning new things. While

providing children with challenging learning, we also have to create this same feeling and ethos, where children find it easy to get started and feel safe to take risks and make mistakes (often).



To support pupils to make the best progress possible, rather than simplifying the work, we scaffold up to allow everyone access to the most challenging content.

We'd like to show you how this works in practice. If you are available, please join us for our Parent Workshop on Maths Mastery, this Monday 5th February, 3:00pm.

Regards,
Katie Byrne

Head of Senior School

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are well. One of the key aspects of a Wellington education is the focus on developing leadership skills in our students to enable them to become positive changemakers in the communities in which they operate. There is a real emphasis placed on service leadership, embodying the College values - Respect, Integrity, Courage, Responsibility and Kindness.

Leadership is an important aspect of everything that Wellingtonians do – on the sports field, in the Arts, serving the local community, and in the academic environment. Students receive leadership training, which has been quality assured by Oxford University, focusing on three main pillars, which inform the type of leaders we hope to develop: leaders with great strength of character; the desire to serve and the skills needed to become a positive leader.



Wellington pupils are also trained in Wellbeing, which enhances their ability to lead themselves and others, as we strongly believe the best leaders are those who enable their teams to flourish.

We are in the process of developing our service programme to give students the opportunity to become service leaders, enhancing their leadership development.

I have invited students interested in applying for a position on the Senior School Student Council to submit a letter of interest by the end of this week, and I will be conducting interviews in the week commencing 5th February. The Student Council will look at all aspects of College life and aim to role model the College values in serving the community. As we grow, there will be senior prefect positions become available as well as the appointments of Heads of College.

I feel very confident that we have some outstanding student leaders who can be instrumental in making a positive contribution to the school community – I witness, every day, examples of kindness and integrity in their interactions. I am very much looking forward to working closely with the Student Council moving forwards.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Iain Sutcliffe

Early Years Open Day



At the Early Years Open Day, held at the College on 13th January, an enthusiastic community of parents were guided through an engaging presentation about our Early Years Programme and led on a tour of our learning spaces. They were warmly greeted by our staff Rashmi, Ross, and Adina, providing them with the opportunity to experience our enriching educational environment first-hand.



Junior School Parent Information Session

We welcomed Junior School parents on 24th January for an Information Session that delved deep into the WCI Pune assessment process and how our teaching philosophy supports children to achieve their potential. The session was conducted by Katie Byrne, Head of Junior School, who spoke at length about how lessons are calibrated carefully to ensure every pupil gets the most out of every lesson.



Junior School Class Exhibition



On 25th January, parents of Junior School pupils gained an insight into the inner workings of our classrooms – guided by the pupils themselves! Pupils shared their books, learnings, as well as their work. As always, our teachers were also present to answer questions and shed more light on the pupils' progress.



Wellington College International visits Wellington College International Pune



We had the great pleasure this week of welcoming Scott Bryan (WCI Managing Director), Fiona Carter (WCI Director of Education), Edwin Wai (Group Estates Bursar) and Rachel Chadwick (Deputy Bursar at Wellington College Shanghai) to our campus. The visit aimed to strengthen collaboration, share best practices, and explore opportunities for growth and excellence in education.



The team explored the campus facilities, engaged with colleagues, and discussed ways to enhance the learning experience for students at Wellington College International Pune. Their insights and interactions will contribute deeply to the continuous improvement of the school and its commitment to the holistic development for all students.



Early Years Coffee Morning



Meaningful communication is the basis for founding and maintaining successful partnerships between the Early Years and families. We were delighted to host our founding families on Tuesday 30th January and we introduced Ms. Fiona Carter and how she will be working with our community in the future. Our open-door policy at WCI Pune actively encourages all of our families to talk to us about their and their child's experiences, as we continue our journey of establishing Wellington College International Pune as the leader in early years education.



IBDP & IGCSE Information Sessions



The College welcomed a keen audience of parents on Wednesday 31st January, eager to explore the enriching benefits of our Seniors' programme (such as the forthcoming IGCSE provision). Dr. Murray Tod, Founding Master, and Iain Sutcliffe, Head of Senior School, presented on the academic pathway that awaits our senior students. The interactive session was enhanced by excellent parental questions.



Parents also enjoyed a school tour by Ramya Vijayan, Head of Marketing and Admissions, exploring our senior classrooms and gaining a glimpse into life at WCI Pune.

La Chandeleur!

Senior School pupils celebrated *La Chandeleur* today, Friday 2nd February, which marks the Presentation of the Lord. One of the superstitions surrounding *La Chandeleur* is that it brings good luck to those who participate. The concept involves holding a piece of gold—or a coin—while you're flipping your crêpe in its pan. If you manage to flip the crêpe with one hand without dropping it on the floor, then it is said that you'll have prosperity for the whole year.



Republic Day Celebrations



Happy 75th Republic Day from all of us at Wellington College International Pune! Our staff came together on 26th January to celebrate India's spirit of unity and diversity. Our Head of Security Subedar Major & Honorary Lieutenant (Retd) Vijay More hoisted the flag and gave an inspiring speech as well.





WELLINGTON
COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
PUNE

Welly

Boots Festival

An experience to remember

- Let them explore fun with **no boundaries**
- Bond over **water play & messy play** along with other activities and a picnic
- **Limited slots only**



3 February 2024

11:00 AM to 02:00 PM

**Wellington College,
Kharadi, Pune**



Scan QR for registration



Join us for

IGCSE

Information Session

at Wellington College International Pune

Gain insights into the subject choices for IGCSE. This session is exclusively for parents of WCIP pupils.



Monday,
26th February



03:30 pm - 4:30 pm



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