



# Wellington Weekly

26th April 2024



## Master's Voice

Dear Parents,

Welcome to another edition of the Wellington Weekly.

Usually, as in my previous Headmasterly incarnations, the advent of Term 3 heralds newsletters offering encouraging comments to pupils (and parents!) on the forthcoming public examinations for older students. However, in this regard at least, we can relax for the next two years and focus

instead on all the pleasures of establishing a new school culture in Pune.

On this note, thank you to the whole Wellington community for embracing the Literary Festival this week. The English Department organised matters splendidly and I was delighted to see how much the pupils enjoyed aspects throughout the week. This is important and I believe passionately in encouraging all our students to develop a zest, a love, of reading that will remain with them throughout life. Encouraging that love of reading, and writing, allows all people to explore the patterns of words in one's mind and it can be such a great release too, a place of exceptional happiness, of dreams, of overt knowledge and imagination, of hope and aspiration.



So, for me, the Literary Week has also been a reminder that the ability to read is a gift and everyone lucky enough to read needs to embrace and elevate that gift. In a short presentation on Monday 22nd April, I noted that J.K. Rowling, of Harry Potter fame, often comments that “If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book”. In essence, the Literary Week was all about pupils having the opportunity to find ‘the right book’ and I especially enjoyed the session on Friday 26th April, with the Senior pupils reading book extracts to the Junior School – in many aspects, the perfect epitome of our values here at Wellington. Well done all!

Next week features the Public Holiday on Wednesday 1st May and I hope that everyone enjoys that midweek break. Please may I also remind all families of the further school holiday on Monday 13th May.

I hope that everyone enjoys reading this edition of the Weekly and very best wishes for the weekend.

Kind regards,  
Dr Murray Tod

# Early Years

Welcome back Early Years families,

It has been wonderful hearing from many of you about how you spent your spring vacation. Whether you travelled, explored new activities, or simply enjoyed some downtime at home, we hope it was a rejuvenating time for you and your children. As we dive into the final Term of the year, we are excited to continue our learning journey together. This Term, we are joined by seven new families, and it is fantastic to see the Early Years community grow. We extend a warm welcome to these families.

The last week has been about promoting reading and developing a love for reading for pleasure in the Early Years. Encouraging a love for reading at a young age can have a profound impact on a child's development and future academic success.



The Wellington Literary Festival was a memorable celebration of stories and imagination. The Cos parade emerged as the highlight of the week, offering children a platform to showcase their favourite stories and characters, sparking lively discussions and shared excitement. Reading is the gateway to learning, and the festival emphasised the importance of reading for pleasure. On the last day of the festival, Junior School pupils took the time to read to our Early Years pupils last Friday. This shared reading opportunity fostered a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect among the children. Older children acted as role models and mentors, while younger children are inspired and motivated by their peers.



Our Year 1 pupils participated in a Reading Role Models assembly in the Junior School, where a few teachers shared their favourite literary works with the children. This assembly provided an enriching experience for the Year 1 pupils, exposing them to a diverse range of narratives and literary styles. It served as an insightful introduction to the structure of assemblies in the Junior School, preparing them for future engagements.



Last but not least, we are proud to share that Ms Adina, our Pre-Nursery teacher represented Wellington College International Pune for the 'Building Flourishing Futures' conference hosted by Dhirubhai Ambani International School in Mumbai. From innovative case studies to insightful projects in focus, delegates explored the frontiers of innovation in the Early Years. Over 200 practitioners shared their expertise and suggested actions for better early childhood outcomes. Congratulations, Ms Adina.

Kind regards,  
Rashmi Dixon

# Head of Junior School

Dear Parents,

It has been a fantastic start to the new Term. It was a delight to see our pupils returning, relaxed and full of enthusiasm for the coming learning.

We got started straight away with creative story writing. Many children volunteered to read their creations during assembly today. We are so proud of the confidence and skill they are developing as young writers. We have been inspired this week by hearing from some very successful authors, who themselves were impressed by our children's inquisitive nature and mature reflections.



The Junior School have been developing into book worms during this year and we have enjoyed lots of opportunities to get stuck into reading these last two weeks. Through listening to stories from different adults, dramatic readings, D.E.A.R sessions and sharing books with older and younger peers we have been developing a breadth of interest and enjoyment.



Our new writing units begin on Monday, 29th April and after learning so much about the craft, we are excited to see what our budding authors will produce!

Please remember that next Wednesday, 1st May, is a Public Holiday and school is required to close.

Kind regards,

Katie Byrne



# Head of Senior School

Dear Parents,

I hope that this note finds you well. It has certainly been an enjoyable, action-packed start to the new Term and it has been great to witness the Wellington Community engage so well with the Literary Festival, with some outstanding workshops and presentations delivered. I was particularly struck by the words of advice given by the Author, Dr Manjiri Prabhu, where she urged our students to live their lives by adopting 'SAVE,' with S denoting 'See what you want in life,' A to 'Act on it', V to 'Value your efforts' and E to 'Evolve with time.'



There is no doubt that fostering a love of reading in our students has become more challenging than ever before given the rise of digital distractions. However, it is imperative that we provide children with opportunities to explore the boundless world of literature so we can nurture creativity and imagination in our students. Research shows that reading for pleasure is a key indicator of a child's future success and by encouraging our students to read, it can help equip them with essential life skills such as empathy, critical thinking, and communication. The Literary Festival gave us a chance to celebrate the transformative power of reading and we hope that each and every child can unlock their full potential through the magic of books.



Events such as the Literary festival are a vital part of a Wellington education and they do so much for building community - it was quite wonderful to see the students get really stuck in and they produced some outstanding work. There will, of course, be several other opportunities this Term to bring people together to help foster a sense of identity, and we are looking forward to the Science Festival, return of sports fixtures, and end of year celebrations to name just a few. Here is a reminder about the key academic dates for the Term:

### Term 3 Key Academic Dates

<b>Week 1</b>	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Beginning of Term	Term Dates
<b>Week 2</b>			
<b>Week 3</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Literary Festival	Enrichment
<b>Week 4</b>	Wednesday 1st May	Maharashtra Day – No Teaching	Term Dates
<b>Week 5</b>	Friday 10th May	Interim Data Capture	Assessment & Reporting
<b>Week 6</b>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 7,8 & 9 PTCs	Assessment & Reporting
<b>Week 7</b>	w/c Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Science Festival	Enrichment

<b>Week 8</b>	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Parent Masterclass: Managing Anxiety	
<b>Week 9</b>	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	US Universities Parent Masterclass	
<b>Week 10</b>	w/c Monday 0 <sup>th</sup> June	End of Year Assessments	Reporting & Assessment
<b>Week 11</b>	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Full Reports & Assessment week results due on portal	Reporting & Assessment
	w/c Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Interdisciplinary Theme: Causes of Climate Change & Solutions	
	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	JS & SS Swimming Gala	
<b>Week 12</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Full Reports Home to Parents	
	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	End of Term	Term Dates

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# Literary Festival

The inaugural Literary Festival hosted by the Department of English at Wellington College unfolded from April 22 to 26, 2024, marking a significant milestone in celebrating literature and nurturing literary talents among pupils. The event aimed to instil a passion for literature, cultivate critical thinking, and provide a platform for pupils to showcase their creative abilities.

The festival, spanning a week, featured a diverse array of activities, workshops, and competitions designed to engage and inspire pupils, immersing them in the world of literature. It provided abundant opportunities for them to exhibit their prowess in creative writing, storytelling, and public speaking.

Eminent writer, poet, teacher, and artist, Professor Randhir Khare, graced the inauguration ceremony on 22 April as the keynote speaker. His captivating address, woven with metaphorical anecdotes from his journey as an author, resonated with the audience. A lively interactive session followed, allowing pupils and parents to engage with Mr. Khare and glean insights into his writing process.



Professor Khare led two sessions for pupils. Storyteller's Sanctuary: Where Words Come to Life engaged Junior School pupils in collaborative storytelling, igniting their limitless imagination. Meanwhile, Unleash Your Inner Wordsmith: A Creative Writing Adventure challenged Senior School pupils to infuse emotion into their writing and explore character association.

On 23 April, World Book Day celebrations took centre stage, featuring guest of honour Dr. Manjiri Prabhu, an accomplished author and filmmaker. The day included a Cosparade, where pupils and staff dressed as their favourite book characters, and engaged in a Drop Everything and Read session, fostering a collective love for reading.

Senior School pupils showcased their creativity in the Cos Carnival: Bringing Fiction to Life, embodying characters from beloved books, and commemorated William Shakespeare's 460th birthday with a presentation and cake-cutting ceremony. Mr. Ratan Batliwala conducted a workshop on presentation skills, equipping pupils with valuable communication tools. The literary fervour continued on the third day with Dramatic Expressions: Where Words Come Alive, as Senior School pupils brought passages from their favourite books to life through dramatic readings, captivating the audience with their performance skills.



Day four featured engaging activities such as Book Bingo Bonanza and Wordle Wizard, stimulating Senior School pupils' literary knowledge. The Spontaneous Sparks: The Art of Extempore competition challenged Year 8 and 9 pupils to articulate impromptu thoughts on various thought-provoking topics.

Junior School pupils showcased their spelling prowess in the Spelling Bee House Competition, fostering camaraderie and house spirit. The day concluded with Frosty Verses: A Celebration of Robert Frost's Poetry, honouring the renowned American poet's legacy.

A book fair was also organised for three days in association with Scholastic to give pupils an opportunity to explore a variety of genres and cultivate a love for reading.

The festival's final day saw inter-school bonding through events like Book Buddies Junior and Book Buddies' Bonanza, where pupils shared the joy of reading with their peers. Short Story Scribes Society highlighted Junior School pupils' storytelling skills, while the Graphic Narrative Showdown showcased Senior School pupils' talent in crafting original graphic stories.

All in all, the first Literary Festival at Wellington College International Pune was a resounding success, fostering a deep appreciation for literature, nurturing creativity, and showcasing the remarkable talents of all pupils.



## World Book Day

23 April, Day 2 of the Literary Festival, was dedicated to the celebration of World Book Day and Dr Manjiri Prabhu, author and filmmaker, was the guest of honour. She spoke about her journey as an author and how she dealt with the challenges that she faced. Pupils and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters and walked the ramp for a Cosparade.

The main event of the day was the “Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.)” session, where the audience paused their daily routines for thirty minutes to immerse themselves in the pages of their favourite books. It was a wonderful experience for everyone.



This was followed by a competition that involved the Senior School pupils Cos Carnival: Bringing Fiction to Life where the pupils spoke about the characters they were dressed as. They all were truly immersed in their characters.



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