

Wellington Weekly

28th March 2024



Master's Voice

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds everyone well.

Quite remarkably, we have reached the end of Term 2 in Wellington Pune's educational journey! Schools are renowned for being great passers of time but even I find it incredulous how quickly the weeks have elapsed since Christmas.

In the previous Wellington Weekly, I noted the importance of all year groups remaining purposeful and committed until the final day; it is a mantra that I truly believe in. There is no doubt that we have been successful in this regard, either through spectacular Holi celebrations in the Early Years or exceptional poetry readings in the Juniors, or indeed via the Seniors' superb photography endeavours. All this while the usual learning and teaching largely continued in parallel – well done to all!



The Music, Arts and Dance Festival has proved to be a big hit for pupils and they have really embraced all elements of the three day festival and tackled even unfamiliar elements with gusto. Thank you to all parents who attended events throughout the week also – it was a great turnout and we are very grateful. It was superb to conclude and celebrate the week with the spectacular Gala performance – I loved it! With a Literature Festival planned for late-April and a Science Week in the Term 3 calendar also, it is clear we have many similar occasions to look forward to.



I also enjoyed hosting the British Business Group (BBG) in the school on Wednesday 27th March. The BBG members loved Wellington's infrastructure and facilities, and the evening represented another really tangible symbol of the school finding its place in the Pune community. We look forward to organising more events like this in Term 3 too and will seek to involve parents too as we move forward.



Thank you, once again, to everyone in the Wellington community for all their support; it is always hugely appreciated.

I hope that everyone enjoys a great break and we return once more on Thursday 11th April, no doubt ready and raring to go!

Best wishes,
Dr Murray Tod

Early Years

Dear Early Years Families,

The past two weeks have been busy and eventful in the Early Years. Last week, we celebrated the festival of Holi with great joy and enthusiasm. It was heartwarming to see our diverse community come together to celebrate our rich local culture. The Holi celebration was a grand success, thanks to our pupils and our dedicated staff. I would like to extend my gratitude to all the parents who contributed to the Holi celebration. Your contributions made the event even more special and memorable for our children. As we continue to celebrate and embrace our local culture, I am confident that, together, we can create a nurturing and inclusive environment for our children to thrive and grow in.



Developing literacy and reading skills in early childhood is crucial for a child's overall development. Our curriculum provides a holistic approach to developing literacy and reading skills in early childhood, recognizing the interconnected nature of language, communication, and literacy development.

Our Pre-Nursery children were recently welcomed by our Year 1 and 2 children in a special reading session. The Pre-Nursery children brought along their favourite story books and engaged in an exchange of storytelling and reading.



For the older children, reading to younger ones fosters a sense of responsibility and leadership. It enhances their confidence in reading aloud and improves their communication skills. It also encourages empathy and patience as they engage with younger peers. Being read to by older peers can spark a love for books and reading. It introduces them to new vocabulary and storytelling styles, expanding their language skills. It helps create a bond between the different ages, promoting a sense of community and mutual respect. We look forward to many such exchanges in the future.

The Early Years' contribution to the MAD (Music, Art, and Dance) Festival was another highlight this week. Our pupils showcased their talents through a Jal Tarang performance, captivating us with beautiful sounds created by water-filled bowls. Our pupils participated in dances, showing their confidence in movement. It was a lovely celebration of music, art, and dance, bringing together parents, teachers, and pupils from the entire school in a display of creativity and expression. Learning to play an instrument and dancing align closely with our curriculum, particularly in physical development. They enhance gross and fine motor skills, coordination, and spatial awareness. They also foster creativity and expression, supporting our focus on expressive arts and design. Thank you for your participation and support which made the afternoon truly special.



I wish you all a restful and relaxing spring break with your family. We look forward to welcoming you in the last term of this academic year and hearing about your adventures from the holiday.

Best wishes,
Rashmi Dixon

Head of Junior School

Dear Parents,

This short week has been a wonderful finish to a great Term. I have been so pleased to see our pupils' confidence in performance grow over this last term. Many who chose not to speak publicly at Christmas are now loud and proud and were central to the poetry performances. The Arts Festival has been a great opportunity to see not just the academic progress that children have made since September but also how far they have come in creativity, resilience, collaboration and confidence.



We have captured the highlights of this progress in the Term Two Progress Reports which were shared with parents today. We hope you enjoy reading these and are able to celebrate the many achievements of your child.

There is so much more to look forward to next Term (details to follow after the holiday) but one date for your diary:

Tuesday 23rd April: Book Day – All staff and children will dress as a book character so start thinking about your costumes!

Have a wonderful holiday.

I look forward to seeing you all again when we return on Thursday, 11th April.

Kind regards,
Katie Byrne

Head of Senior School

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are well. It has been another quite remarkable term and the students have made considerable progress in both the academic and co-curricular arenas. I have been thoroughly impressed with how the students have embraced the academic ethos of the school, displaying intellectual curiosity and rigour in their approach to their studies. They can be very impressed with their efforts and it has been particularly lovely to see how well they have supported each other along the way.

Moreover, they have also fully embraced the co-curricular programme developing their interests and passions further. It has been great to witness so many of the Senior School students representing the College in recent football, tennis and swimming competitions, and they have risen to the challenges presented, which has been pleasing to see.



And, of course, The Arts Festival was a great finale to the end of Term, with the Arts Walk and Gala Concert real highlights. As I watched the students perform, operating outside of their comfort zone, it reinforced my belief on the central importance the creative arts play in our lives as a way of exploring what it means to be human. Exposure to and participation in the Arts is a key part of a Wellington education and it does so much for developing those key human skills which are so highly valued by employees. We remain fully committed to offering a holistic education where students can develop those human skills which enable them to flourish and contribute to the communities in which they operate. We will continue to develop the Arts provision further in the coming Terms to ensure that students have a large range of opportunities available to them.

I hope that you all have a wonderful break and we are very much looking forward to welcoming the students back for Term 3, which commences on Thursday, 11th April.

Kind regards,
Iain Sutcliffe

Senior School Tennis Match

One of the most popular sports at Wellington College International Pune is tennis and we were treated to another competitive fixture on Saturday 16th March. Two of our senior pupils played a combination of singles and doubles matches against quality opponents from the Radhika Tennis Academy.

All the contests were evenly matched and keenly contested – it was superb to continue our tradition of hosting such sporting occasions and we look forward to more fixtures!



Junior School Football Match

On Saturday 16th March, Wellington College's Junior School pupils played FC City Pune in an exciting football match. The event proved to be a memorable experience for all the children and witnessed exemplar teamwork and leadership on the field. In extremely hard-fought contests, WCI Pune eventually triumphed in both the matches.

At WCI Pune we always place a strong emphasis on fostering sportsmanship, recognising the numerous benefits sports offer to our pupils, and it is always wonderful to have so many parents in support!



Senior School Movie Night

On 21st March, Thursday evening, the Senior School students enjoyed Film Night at the College, watching the movie 'Paddington.' This was an initiative put forward by the Student Council and it was a great success - the students had lots of fun, a just reward for recently completing assessment week.



Early Years Holi Celebration

On March 22nd, our Early Years community came together to celebrate Holi with a vibrant and colourful event. The afternoon was filled with joy as children and families engaged in colourful water play, making it a truly memorable celebration of Holi. Our families from diverse backgrounds contributed food from their countries, adding a rich tapestry of flavours to the celebration alongside the traditional Indian dish 'Gujiya'. At Wellington College International Pune, we value our local culture, and are committed to fostering intercultural awareness even in our youngest.



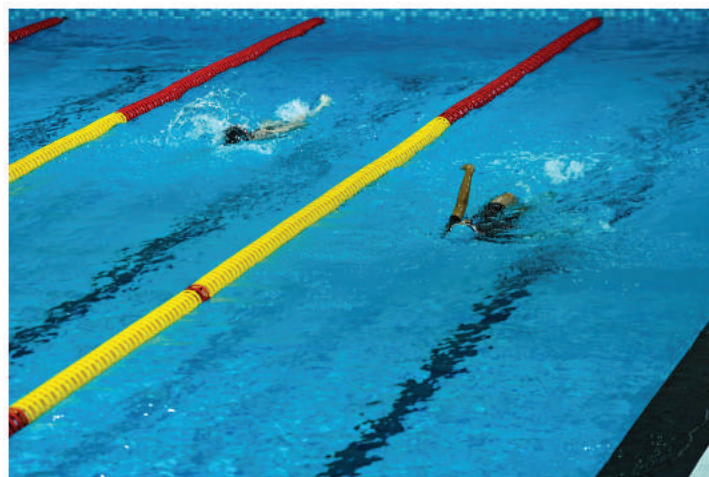
[Watch the Holi celebration Video](#)

[Watch Early Years Holi Performance Video](#)

Swimming Event

On the 23rd March, we hosted an exhilarating swimming event that brought together sixteen pupils from our school and twenty pupils from Mahindra International School. The atmosphere was electrifying as pupils competed with enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Led by our PE teacher Amid Esmaeili and our swimming coach Ms. Karishma Shah, the event exemplified our belief in the transformative power of sports to develop crucial life skills.

This event showcased the pupils' swimming abilities and highlighted the school's commitment to fostering a holistic model of education that includes physical development and community engagement.



Music, Arts and Dance Festival (MAD)

Music, Arts and Dance Festival (MAD)

It has been an exciting end of Term 2 here at Wellington with the first ever Music, Arts, and Dance Festival. This combination of workshops, exhibitions, concerts, and performances was the culmination of months of work and preparation by students, staff, and guest artists. It got rolling right away with the Junior Years Arts workshop run by Benji Krause. After being introduced to the works of Henri Matisse, students had the chance to explore the use of colour and form as well as the fundamentals of Fauvism. Focusing on exploration over theory the workshop gave a hands-on experience and personal understanding of the principles covered. After lunch it was time to rehearse and for students to prepare for their first concert. Early Years started off the daily afternoon events with an endearing dance and music display.



The same hands-on approach was continued, literally, in our second day with Junior years Djembe. This African drum has become a staple instrument across the world and gave our students the chance to explore an entirely new instrument and genre. Senior years got their chance to explore Visual Arts with photography, giving us their view of the school and events of the Arts Festival. The Juniors continued after the morning break with Dance and Seniors with curating their works. After lunch was again event time but with all of Junior and Senior school at our Arts Walk. This event, showcasing all students from Year 2 through Year 9, gave students the opportunity to highlight their original creations and performances. A highlight was the use of space and the chance for parents to be taken on a journey with Arts at each step.





The final day of our festival gave a morning filled for the Senior School. Having seen the preview of drumming and dance the day before, it was their turn to dive into these diverse disciplines. The day also saw preparations for the Gala at the end of the day. The hall was abuzz with excitement, as students and staff at our final Gala showed their talent and hard work with a diverse show with music and dance as varied as our own community. The concert and festival as a whole is sure to be remembered as a great start to a long tradition.



Watch Day 1 of MAD Festival Video 1

Watch Day 1 of MAD Festival Video 2



Watch Day 2 of MAD Festival Video 1

Watch Day 2 of MAD Festival Video 2



Watch Day 3 of MAD Festival Video



British Business Group

On the evening of Wednesday 27th March, we were delighted to host the British Business Group (BBG) at Wellington College. The BBG comprise members from across the business and educational spectrum in Pune. Dr Tod has previously enjoyed addressing the BBG chapters in both Mumbai and Pune – therefore it was a special delight to speak to the delegates at the school on the theme of Wellington’s heritage and our global family of schools. After the speeches, and an illuminating Q & A followed by networking opportunities, everyone enjoyed a splendid buffet dinner in the Dining Hall and a tour of the school facilities. Thank you to all who attended and there is no doubt the BBG members were suitably impressed by all that Wellington Pune offers!



Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

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