

# Wellington Weekly

15th March 2024



## Master's Voice

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone is well.

It has been a very busy period between 'Wellington Weeklies', with the intervening fortnight experiencing a succession of academic assessments and school events. It is always enriching to see pupils take academic progression seriously and that is definitively the culture we wish to

promote here at WCI Pune. Well done to all the pupils, across EYs, Juniors & Seniors, for their work this Term so far!

That said, school life is always about developing the 'whole child', regardless of year group, and thus it was heartening to also witness the raft of other opportunities that pupils have enjoyed in recent days too. One event that seems to combine all that is worthy in education is International Women's Day (Friday 8th March) and I loved how the WCI Pune community embraced the 'Inspire Inclusion' theme throughout the preceding week too. With motivational and inspirational speeches & assemblies, from colleagues and parents, and an excellent Friday morning 'pledge and photo' event, we highlighted the importance of IWD to all at school. Indeed, perhaps as importantly, the projection of such positive and successful women to the school community highlighted the significance of positive role models to all involved with Wellington. As a man who, many moons ago, attended an all-boys school in the UK and has subsequently witnessed huge transformations in the classroom over the decades, I find the current spirit of inclusion and aspiration to be utterly inspirational. Our pupils are undoubtedly the present and the future, and by jove do we have some outstanding trailblazers here at WCI Pune!

The next two weeks will prove, of course, to be customarily busy and it is important to remain purposeful until the very end of Term. Therefore, I am delighted that we have introduced a Music, Arts and Dance Festival (26th – 28th March) and I am looking forward to the range of events involved. Further details on this will be forthcoming.

Lastly, please can I remind all families that the Holi Public Holiday is on Monday 25th March, with school closed that day, and then school is formally closed for the Easter break from Friday 29th March. We reopen on Thursday 11th April.

For now, thank you as always for your support and I hope you enjoy perusing this edition of the Wellington Weekly.

Best wishes,  
Dr Murray Tod

# Early Years

Dear Families,

We hope this message finds you well. We are excited to share with you the recent visit of our Director of Education, Ms Fiona Carter, to our school. During her visit, Ms Carter focused on monitoring and tracking pupil progress, ensuring smooth reporting, and maintaining high-quality teaching and learning.

Ms Carter was pleased to meet with many of our families, obtaining valuable feedback and addressing any questions or concerns they might have had. She also spent time with our dedicated staff and engaged with our pupils, further reinforcing our commitment to providing a nurturing and stimulating learning environment.

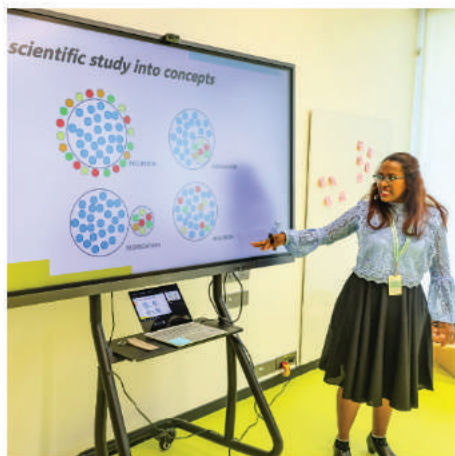
We are grateful for Ms Carter's support and guidance, which continue to contribute to the ongoing success of our school.



Home readers are being assigned to pupils to engage in reading at their individual levels. Home reading in the Early Years plays a crucial role in a child's school journey and helps to build a strong foundation for literacy skills, language development, and a love for reading. Reading to children at a young age exposes them to a variety of words and concepts, enhancing their vocabulary and comprehension skills. It also promotes bonding between parents and children and stimulates their imagination and creativity.

In Pre-Nursery, children have been listening to and engaging with the story of "The Princess and the Pea," developing their early literacy skills by recognizing story elements and understanding narrative structure. In Nursery and Reception, reading and retelling "Jack and the Beanstalk" has been instrumental in fostering early preferences and writing as they were starting to express their thoughts and ideas through storytelling and simple writing activities. These early experiences are vital in laying the foundation for creating longer pieces and more complex stories in Year 1 and 2, demonstrating the progression of literacy skills as children grow and develop.

On a physical development note, we are thrilled to share that swimming lessons have officially begun in the early years. Our children have embraced this new challenge with enthusiasm and courage, demonstrating themselves to be risk-takers in the water. Their enjoyment and progress are heartwarming to witness. We want to extend our gratitude to all the parents for their patience and unwavering support as we navigate this exciting new chapter together.



We would like to extend our gratitude to all of you who attended the parent information session led by Ms Carter and Ms Stefi. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to share with you the intentions behind our approach and how we celebrate inclusion and diversity in the curriculum. Your presence and engagement are invaluable as we work together to create a supportive and inclusive environment for all our children.

We're excited about the upcoming parent meetings between the 26th and 28th of March and to be able to share the progress our pupils are making. These meetings strengthen the home-school partnership and are instrumental in supporting your child's learning as well as allowing for questions or concerns. For teachers, they provide valuable feedback to tailor teaching and know even more about your child. We look forward to working together for your child's success!

Kind regards,  
Rashmi Dixon

# Head of Junior School

Dear Parents,

We had a fantastic week last week focusing on some hidden heroes in History and celebrating heroes in our own community. We were so impressed by the maturity shown by all our pupils and their developing leadership skills. The future is safe in their hands!

This week we turn our attention to preparing for Wellington College Pune's first Music, Arts & Dance Festival, which will be held Tuesday 26th – Thursday 28th March. All Junior School pupils will be performing poetry as part of the Arts Walk - a kaleidoscope of work from Wellington pupils including visual arts, dance, music and of course our poetry readings. Events and showcases will be open to parents across the week, please look out for full details in the Music, Arts & Dance Festival brochure. In the meantime, I'm sure you'll be hearing some of the poems a lot at home!



Teachers are also working hard to prepare end of term reports to share progress and attainment of your child for this Term. These will be shared with parents on Thursday 28th March.

As the temperature increases in Pune we are taking measures to be heat safe. We want pupils to have as much time to play and stretch their legs outdoors as possible, however, activities will be moved indoors when the temperatures or activity level becomes unsafe.

Most sports offerings will be moved indoors in Term 3 but we will move one CCA a week to the early morning to accommodate outdoor sports in the cooler part of the day.

Pupils cannot access outdoor activities or playtime without a hat and plenty of water so please make sure they have these along with sunscreen and insect repellent every day.

Kind regards,

Katie Byrne

# Head of Senior School

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are well. I have been really impressed by how the Senior School students have progressed over the course of the academic year, culminating in another fine set of assessment grades. There is no doubt that, as a cohort, they set really high expectations for themselves and they are dedicated to their studies, displaying genuine intellectual curiosity. The flip side of this is that, on occasion, their levels of anxiety heighten around the assessment period and they get upset if they do not hit 'perfect' or 'near perfect' scores. The reality is that the purpose of these assessments is to check progress, enabling both students and teachers to get a clearer sense of which areas need to be addressed moving forwards.

We have spoken at length to students about maintaining perspective and using any setbacks as a learning opportunity to improve. Our goal is to develop resilient learners where they recover quickly from difficulties or disappointments, reacting positively and effectively to adversity. As mentioned previously, a key part of a Wellington education is to provide numerous opportunities for students to operate outside their comfort zone so that they can develop greater resilience. Whether this is performing on stage, public speaking, playing a sports competition, or sitting an assessment, the more a student can rehearse mental coping mechanisms for dealing with pressure, the more likely these processes can become instantaneous. Reflection is key to ensure that when students experience setbacks, they focus on what they need to do to improve, rather than focus excessively on the performance outcomes. It would be very helpful indeed if you could speak with your sons and daughters to reinforce this message at home.

On a different note, I am pleased to announce that we will be holding a Film Night for Senior School students on Thursday (21st March) at 7.00pm-9.15pm in the Multi Purpose Hall (MPH) – an initiative put forward by the Student Council. We very much hope that your child is able to attend.

Have a lovely weekend!

Many thanks,  
Iain Sutcliffe

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## Senior School Open Morning Session

We held an engaging and informative Open Morning session on 2nd March for Senior School parents. Following an introductory talk by Dr Tod, Founding Master, parents enjoyed an interactive school tour of our excellent facilities and a lively Q & A with pupils and Mr Sutcliffe, Head of Seniors. It was wonderful to discuss and showcase our IGCSE programme from August 2024, and we look forward to welcoming parents back to WCI Pune for forthcoming individual tours!



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## Friendly Football match with Mahindra International School and City FC Pune

On 2nd March, Wellington College International Pune hosted a friendly football match against pupils from Mahindra International School and City FC Pune. The event, organised by Mr. Amid Esmaeili, our PE teacher, was not just a display of sportsmanship but also a testament to the belief in sports' ability to develop strong partnerships.

Mr. Esmaeili's role as the referee ensured fair play and a competitive yet friendly atmosphere. This initiative aligns perfectly with the school's commitment to a holistic model of education, where sports play a vital role in shaping well-rounded individuals.

WCI Pune understands the value of sport and provides a wealth of opportunities for all pupils to excel at all levels. This commitment not only enhances sporting abilities but also transforms the life chances of young people in their personal, social, academic, and working environments.



## Talk from Wing Commander Anupama Joshi

WCI Pune proudly recognised International Women's Day with a range of events leading up to Friday 8th March. It was therefore fantastic to welcome Anupama Joshi, our Director of Personnel & Compliance, to the school on Wednesday 6th March. Addressing pupils, parents, and staff, Wg Cdr Joshi delivered an inspirational speech on her own personal journey as one of the first group of women to be inducted into the Indian armed forces. She recounted her experiences in the Airforce and her famous fight for gender equality in the armed forces.

Pupils were fascinated to learn of the long Court battle that Wg Cdr Joshi led, ultimately helping to achieve permanent status for women in the Armed forces. It is a story of perseverance and courage, and proved to be hugely inspirational for all in the Wellington community in the build up to International Women's Day!



# Junior School Parent Talk

In the Junior School, we always challenge traditional beliefs about who and what makes a great leader.

On Thursday 7th March, we celebrated and learned from role models in our community, who encouraged us to create our own paths and challenge bias. The pupils gained insights into how they can take direct action to be the solution and create change.

Thank you in particular to the parents who joined the Juniors on Thursday 7th March and to all our parent community who have been supporting and reinforcing these messages at home in recent weeks.



# International Women's Day

Wellington College International Pune celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) with pupils and parents purchasing purple T-shirts (the colour of IWD), in support of 'Inspire Inclusion' – the theme of the 2024 campaign. It was a hugely successful fundraising venture! The College was a sea of purple, with all staff also wearing the T-shirts as a mark of respect and contribution to IWD. All members of the Wellington community were asked to make a 'pledge', signifying their commitment to making a difference for this important cause. As well as everyone enjoying the photo session with the individual pledges, pupils also decorated their T-shirts with empowerment slogans.

All at Wellington have aimed to be supportive of the pivotal IWD campaign and this date will undoubtedly become an important feature of our calendar moving forwards.



## Early Years Coffee Morning

The Meet and Greet Coffee Morning held on Wednesday 13th March with the Early Years parents was a great success. Ms Fiona Carter, the Director of Education, spoke about high quality teaching and learning, emphasising her continued support in the Early Years. She also introduced a new programme where parents are invited to read stories from their countries or childhood to the children, starting in April.

Ms Adina Curca, Pre-nursery teacher, discussed the Curiosity Approach accreditation and the importance of open-ended and natural resources. She encouraged parents to contribute recyclable/ reusable materials to enhance the environment and stimulate children's imagination in play. Thank you to everyone who attended. With your partnership, we can build a strong community.





# Senior School English Oral Presentation

We are so proud to share the achievements of our Senior School students in their oral presentations that were conducted during the Term II Assessment Week. These presentations proved to be a valuable opportunity for students to hone and showcase their communication skills, critical thinking abilities, and knowledge on various topics.

During the presentations, students had the chance to speak in front of their peers and teachers, sharing their research, insights, and opinions on a chosen topic. This exercise not only helped students build confidence in public speaking but also enhanced their ability to articulate ideas effectively.

Each year group was assigned a presentation task. Students were expected to engage the audience using several presentation techniques.



The year 7 students performed an interview as they got into the role of a character from the novel they studied in class- **Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.'**

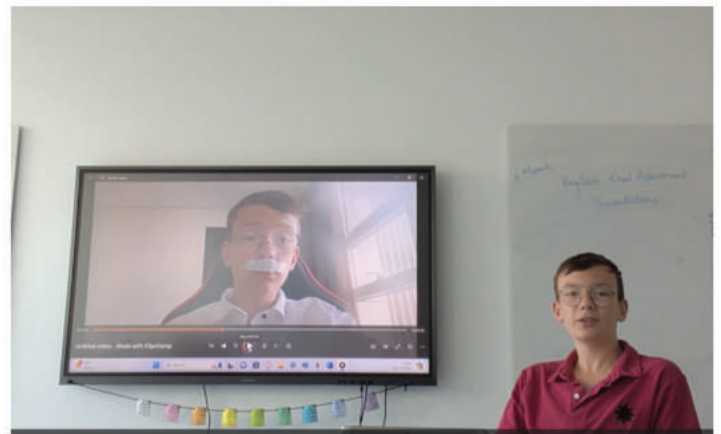




The year 8 students engaged in a Group Discussion on the topic- **The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Education.**



The year 9 students presented on topics chosen from the **graphic novel** studied in class- **Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi.** They used several interesting presentation techniques like posters, interviews, videos, role-play as well as diary entry.



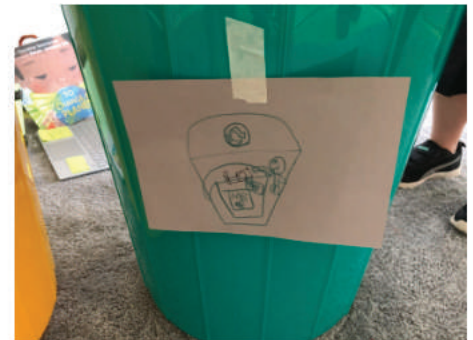
## Sustainability in the EY

“Children have a natural connectedness with nature. Moreover, as children are the decision-makers of the future, the values of sustainable living need to be instilled at an early age through an integrated early years curriculum. Furthermore, through curriculum-based learning experiences and modelling by teachers and parents, children can begin to take the first steps on a lifelong journey of sustainability.”

(Informa UK. Taylor & Francis Online Journals, 2024)

During the first Term of school, the children in Reception and Year 1 embarked on a project focusing on Sustainability. They led their own journey of discovery and learning by asking questions and raising issues that were of interest to them: “How do we recycle in India?”, “When all trees are gone, nothing!”, “How can we save water?”, “Can we help the poor children?”

While investigating the different aspects of the complex Sustainability concept, the children shared their thoughts and ideas with each other, in school and at home. They engaged in debates about different actions (“Is it good to cut trees?”). They used and developed skills such as confidence and independence, collaboration, and questioning. They demonstrated empathy towards each other, people less fortunate than them and our planet. They strengthened their connection with the natural environment and put together a plan of action on how to share all they have learned with others.



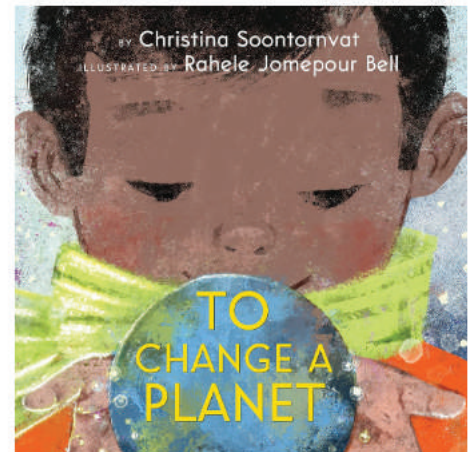
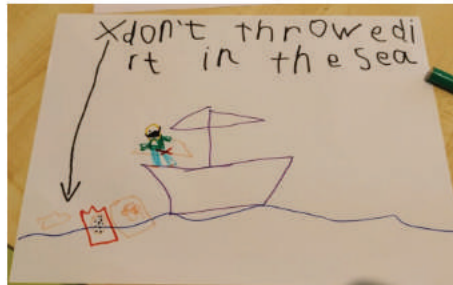
Continuing into Term 2, the pupils will delve deeper into the multifaceted concept of Sustainability. They will continue to share their thoughts and ideas, fostering a collaborative environment both within the school and in their homes.

Throughout this project, the children will further develop their skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication. They will be encouraged to question the status quo and think creatively about solutions to environmental challenges.

To deepen their connection with the natural world, the children will engage in hands-on activities, such as gardening, nature walks, and possibly even participating in local conservation projects. These experiences will help them appreciate the beauty and fragility of the environment, inspiring them to become stewards of the earth.

As the Term progresses, the pupils will work collaboratively to create a comprehensive plan of action. This plan will outline how they intend to share their newfound knowledge and inspire others to join them in their sustainability journey.

Overall, Term 2 will be a continuation of the pupils' exploration of Sustainability, empowering them to become agents of positive change in their communities and beyond.



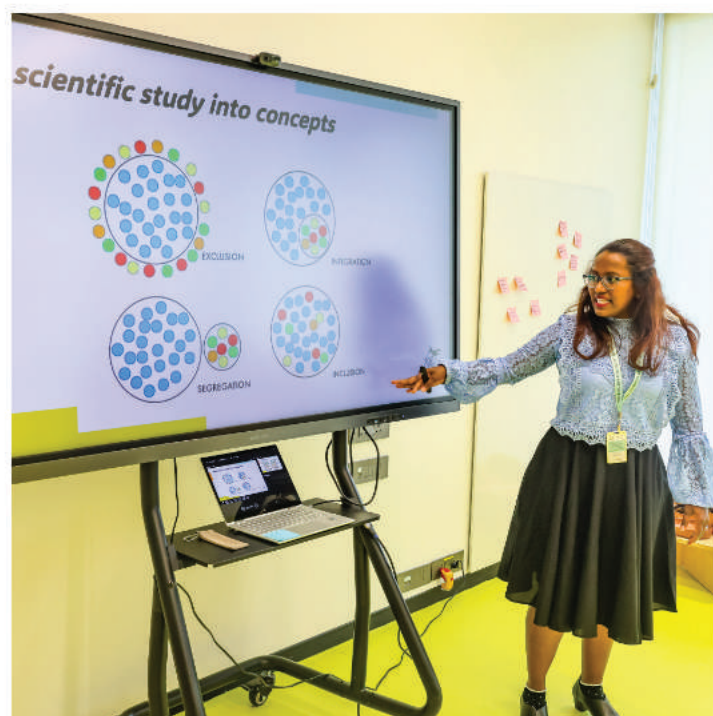
## Senior School celebrated Pi Day

On Thursday March 14th, Senior School pupils celebrated Pi Day with an assortment of fun activities and of course, tasty treats. Working as a group they created a colourful paper chain representation of  $\pi$ , performed wonderful duets to help memorise the digits of  $\pi$  and racked their brains solving  $\pi$  themed dingbat puzzles. The students truly enjoyed exploring the joys of being irrational. One pupil impressed all with his memorisation of 80 digits of  $\pi$  - can it be beaten next year?!



# Parent Information Session – Embracing Diversity and Inclusion: The Journey of a Wellingtonian

Thank you to all who attended the Parent Information Session, on Friday 15th March, led by Ms Stefi Joseph and Ms Fiona Carter. It was an insightful session that delved into what diversity means in an educational context and highlighted how we at WCI Pune honour each child's uniqueness. The discussions were extremely engaging and offered valuable insights. We deeply appreciated the presence and active participation of our parents, as we continue to build a more inclusive and diverse community at Wellington. We look forward to more opportunities to learn and grow together.



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