



Wellington Weekly

1st March 2024

Master's Voice

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 1st March Wellington Weekly!

As I pondered this week, and the contribution to the 'Weekly', I thought it was time to reflect upon a few values and cultural aspects. Of course, all schools need to do this formally on a periodic basis; however, my musings here are more personal and reflective of my own time in Pune thus far.

A key objective for any founding school leader involves collaboration on setting the school's vision and cultural mores. In one sense this is made easier, and more fulfilling, within the Wellington family of schools, as there is such an established values-based system in place. Therefore, our vision at Wellington will always be to embrace the values of Kindness, Courage, Respect, Integrity and Responsibility, and seek to embed these worthy virtues into our entire educational provision. Be it academic pursuits or sincere pastoral care. Even at this stage, I am proud of our progress, recognising that every new initiative or development moves us still further along this aspirational cultural pathway. I must admit to even becoming excited by the new signage in our Main Reception!



However, the cultural vision, ambition, for Wellington Pune extends beyond the bedrock of our core College values. Our vision will always, of course, emphasise the significance of the Wellington history and heritage, and all that entails – that is hugely important, within the context of a premium international family of schools. Nevertheless, we are also determined to fuse UK practices to the rich and enticing Maharashtra landscape. Put simply, we aim to embrace the very best virtues of both cultures in the school, whilst always developing the global outlook of our pupils (a feature that will be present next week with our events for International Women's Day). Thus, it was so rewarding to witness the staff and pupil involvement in elements of Marathi Language Day on Tuesday 27th February, through enlightening Assemblies or enticing musical and dance performances (such as the folk dance 'Dindi'). There seemed to be a genuine appreciation among the school community for these events and I, for one, found it rather uplifting.

So, to return to where I began, my reflection this week centred on the advancements we have made culturally, strengthening our ties to the Wellington values while aligning further with our Maharashtra host. For us to flourish, we must be steadfast in our commitment to the marriage of these cultural pursuits and hence, to conclude, I remain proud to be a Wellingtonian in the magnificent city of Pune!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Wellington Weekly.

Best wishes,
Dr Murray Tod

Early Years

Dear Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the beautiful signs of the spring weather. We wanted to take this opportunity to share some exciting updates from our school community.

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Ms Fiona Carter to Wellington College International Pune. Fiona's visit was focused on ensuring the smooth operation of our school and continuing to build a strong community with you all by planning some interesting collaborations in the coming months. In the Early Years, we aim to make the most of the international background of our pupils through storytelling from each of the regions we represent – from Ghana to Denmark! More information to come very soon on how our families can become involved.

During her visit, Ms Carter emphasised the importance of transition points through the school as a journey of a Wellingtonian. She shared insights and strategies to ensure that every pupil feels supported and valued at every stage of their educational journey, and that academic and developmental progress is not lost but only enhanced. We look forward to her continued support and guidance to help us grow and improve as a school community. Indeed, we have already scheduled on-line sessions with our other schools in China, Bangkok and England for our teachers to share innovative practice in Sustainability education, Digital Learning and the Curiosity Approach.

We are thrilled to share the success of Mr Rosco's recent Parent Information Session on phonics and home readers. Thank you to all the parents who attended the session and showed their support for their child's learning journey. Your engagement and participation are truly appreciated and will have a direct impact on your child's love of reading. The session provided valuable insights into our pedagogical approaches and how we honour the whole child while maintaining rigour in our English Literacy curriculum. Reading is not just about phonics but confidence in identifying and blending sounds is crucial for fluency and independence ahead of our pupils moving into the next stage of their education in the Junior School.

Kind regards,

Rashmi Dixon

Head of Junior School

Dear Parents,

Every year on 8th March, people from around the globe come together to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD). The theme this year is 'Inspire Inclusion', two aspects very close to our heart as they form part of the Wellington Identity (Inclusive, Individual, Intellectual, Inspired, Independent).

Next week we are taking this opportunity to recognise women's accomplishments and contributions in every sphere of life – from the workplace to the home and from communities to the global stage.

As part of our mission, we are striving to build leaders and changemakers who are able to behave with integrity and kindness. International Women's Day is a time to reflect on where equity is lacking and build understanding and strategies that can help our children lead us into a better future.

We know that the issues we face cannot be resolved in one day or one week, but we hope to inspire our community to blaze a path forward and that the actions we take during next week can be a launch pad for beginning conversations that pupils can take forward everyday.

We hope you will join us to take a moment to appreciate the incredible women in our lives and our world and keep working together to ensure everyone has an equal chance to succeed.

Parent events for next week are below:

Wednesday 6th March 3:30pm – 4:00pm

Wing Commander Anupama Joshi will share her inspirational story as one of India's first women in the military and how she overcame gender inequality in a landmark case.

All Junior and Senior pupils will attend. All parents are warmly welcome. Please meet in the Parents' Lounge from 3:15pm. Dismissal will be as normal.

Friday 8th March 7:45am – 8:30am

All children are requested to wear as much purple as possible on this day. Parents are encouraged to join in!

Pupils and any parents who are able to attend should make their way directly to the Dining Hall on arrival. All children and teachers will be asked to make a pledge for a simple action they can take based on what they have learnt across the week, we'd love if parents can join in too.

Our limited-edition Wellington College International Women's Day T-shirts will be available to purchase. All profits will go to the Womanity Foundation, a charity supporting projects for girls and women around the world – in particular fighting for access to education.

You can then don your T-shirt or take it to our customisation station and add your own empowerment slogans.

Kind regards,

Katie Byrne

Head of Senior School

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are well.

The Year 9 students had a very productive subject choices carousel, Information Session, on Tuesday, 27th February. Each department 'set out their stall' to explain how their subject is taught at IGCSE, touching upon content, teaching style and skill acquisition. This undoubtedly enhanced the students' understanding of the IGCSE programme and they asked some excellent questions.

I am fully aware that they now face some difficult choices ahead so please do not hesitate to reach out to Ms Julia or myself if you would like to come in and discuss their subject options.

On a different note, next week we will be celebrating the many contributions made by great women, culminating in International Women's Day on 8th March. As noted above, we are very much looking forward to Wing Commander Anupama Joshi delivering a talk to students and parents on Wednesday 6th March 3.30pm - 4:00pm (where she will share her experiences of fighting gender discrimination in the armed forces).

On Friday, as for the Juniors, all Senior School students and parents are invited to the Dining Hall (7:45am - 8:15am) to make a pledge for a simple action that they can take based on what they learnt across the week. The Womanity Foundation will then deliver a presentation to Senior School Students detailing their work in India and Afghanistan. They currently run a Women Land Rights programme in India, which enable rural women to access land rights and ownership, promoting more financial security and independence. They also run a Girls Can Code programme in Afghanistan where they train girls pursuing secondary education in English, computer literacy, and coding, gaining international recognition for their impact.

Here, at Wellington, we are committed to developing our students understanding of global issues so that they can become global citizens, determined to be positive changemakers on the communities in which they operate. Hence we will continue to seek out opportunities to develop community partnerships and service learning.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend,

Kind regards,

Iain Sutcliffe

Early Years Parent Jam Making Session

On 23rd February, Early Years pupils embarked on a delightful culinary journey. Inspired by our parent Mrs Jane Borde's weekend trip to Panchgani, and the renowned Mapro Garden, the Early Years invited her to lead a jam-making masterclass.

Cooking Magic: Under Mrs Borde's guidance, they measured, mixed, and stirred the ingredients on the induction stove. As the fragrant mixture bubbled and thickened, anticipation filled the room.

Connecting with Nature: Observing each step, the children gained insight into the origins of their ingredients. The process fostered a deeper connection to nature—a lesson beyond the kitchen.

Life Skills Unleashed: From chopping to kneading, rolling to measuring, these budding chefs learned essential life skills. Cooking isn't just about flavours; it's about empowerment and decision-making.

The Sweet Reward: Finally, their patience paid off—a burst of fruity goodness, was ready!



Senior School IGCSE Information Session

Parents attended the IGCSE Information Session at WCI Pune on 26th February to learn about the subject choices and course offerings. Led by Iain Sutcliffe, Head of Senior School, and Julia Sutcliffe, Head of Key Stage 3, this interactive session aimed to guide parents in supporting their children's informed decision-making on subject choices.



Flash Mob on Marathi Language Day

In a vibrant celebration of Marathi Rajbhasha Diwas, our pupils orchestrated an exhilarating flash mob featuring the captivating Marathi folk dance called 'Dindi'. The authentic music and accompanying moves, choreographed by our super performing arts team, illustrated the unity & power of music and cultural pride.



Art Exploration: A Journey with an Expert

Our Year 1 and 2 pupils had an insightful expert Art session on 29th February with Mr Allan McKeown, our Junior and Senior School Art Teacher. They've been enquiring into the world of famous artists like Van Gogh and Da Vinci, and their recent focus on self-portraits has been incredibly inspiring.

During the session, Mr McKeown shared the techniques used in self-portraits, discussing the elements that make them unique and engaging. The children also had the chance to explore different types of charcoal and learnt key vocabulary related to art like 'Willow Charcoal' and 'Compressed Charcoal'.

Engaging an expert in enquiry-based learning can greatly enrich students' experiences by providing real-world insights and deepening their understanding of the subject matter.

"Art is the universal language of mankind, speaking to hearts and souls across time and space. In the spirit of Friedrich Froebel, let us nurture creativity and imagination in every child."



Parent Information Session – Phonics and Home Readers in the Early Years

We are thrilled to share the success of Mr Rosco Burrows' Parent Information Session held today on 'Phonics and Home Readers'. Thank you to all the parents who attended the session and showed their support for their child's learning journey. Your engagement and participation are truly appreciated and will have a direct impact on your child's love of reading.

The session provided valuable insights into our pedagogical approaches and how we honour the whole child while maintaining rigour in our English Literacy curriculum. Reading is not just about phonics but confidence in identifying and blending sounds is crucial for fluency and independence ahead of our pupils moving into the next stage of their education in the Junior School.



Experience our commitment to
nurturing excellence in every learner



Join us at the
Senior School

Open Day



Saturday,
2nd March 2024



10:30 am to 12:00 pm



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