

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1

6th July 2010

BACK TO SCHOOL

Welcome to the first edition of the school newsletter for the new academic year—2010/2011.

The new school year has begun and students are already hard at work studying and working with their teachers.

Many teachers, students and classes are taking advantage of our recent installation of new interactive whiteboards. These provide teachers with the opportunity to show educational websites, videos and other demonstrations which would not otherwise be possible with traditional

chalkboards.

There are a number of interesting articles in this edition of the newsletter, including contributions from our 10th Std students in the IGCSE First Language English class—a big “thank you” to Deepak, Monica and Mahuva for some very insightful and thought-provoking articles!

Parents are kindly requested to ensure that all fees are paid up to date, and that students are collected promptly from school at the end of the school day.

If you have any questions



or comments on any developments or other school issues—please do not hesitate to contact us at any time through the school office.

Warmest regards,

Ian Scott
Head of School

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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first issue of the school newsletter for the academic year 2010-2011. I would like to encourage our students and staff towards an outstanding academic year. Our goal is for each student to reach their full potential and with everyone working together that goal will be reached.

Parents can significantly contribute to their child's success by ensuring regular attendance, insisting on punctuality, and checking their child's cal-

endar for homework and other remarks.

We have installed interactive whiteboards in the school. Both students and teachers are enjoying this new technology as the teaching and learning process has become more interesting with greater interactivity.

Please take a few minutes to read through this newsletter. It contains information which highlights the many activities of nursery, 10th and 12th Std classes. Other classes will be included in the future newslet-

ters.

This newsletter also contains information about important dates for you and your children.

If you have any questions—please do not hesitate to contact me. You can meet me on working days between 12:00pm and 1:00pm with prior appointment, or you can e-mail me at sknaicker@yahoo.co.in

Shivakumar Naicker
Principal

Special points of interest:

- Scholastic “Book Fair” - Mon 12—Sat 17 July
- The first ‘Meet the Principal’ coffee morning will take place in the next few weeks. The topic of interest with a short presentation will be ‘Phonics for reading’. Dates to follow shortly.

PHONICS

To improve students' learning to read, NIS has introduced 'phonics' this year.

With phonics students learn the sounds which letters make, as well as the letter names. This means that students learn the letter 'A' as 'ay' and learn the sound it makes as 'aah'.

Students who learn phonics can then use this skill to decode letters and words and so build up an independent reading ability.

There are a number of good websites available for additional practice outside of school including:

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>



Within this website—clicking on any of the 'Games' links will provide students with the chance to practise and develop their phonics skills at home.

'Phase 1' is most suitable for students in nursery, while 'Phase 2' is suitable for students of KG1

and KG2.

If you would like further information on phonics, please contact your pre-primary/primary class teacher in the first instance.

We feel certain that practising phonics will open up the freedom of independent reading for our students as they learn to decode words for themselves. This will also help later when students have to spell, as they will be able to break down new words into their parts more easily.

In Nelson's school we teach phonics using songs, games and interactive whiteboards so that learning is fun for all your children.

RED COLOUR DAY IN NURSERY

Red is the colour of passion, love and courage among other things. The colour days are celebrated not just to



break the monotony of school uniforms but also to teach our children the values that various colours can

represent.



Our children are also taught that no matter what colour we are or what background we come from, we are all

equal and it takes all the seven colours to form a beautiful



rainbow, not just a few.

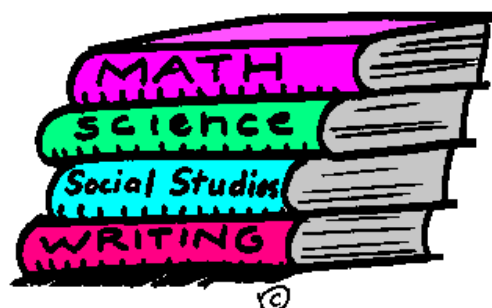
~ Diya Navlani
Class teacher (nursery)

HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

To simplify the process of homework, completing homework and being organized—we have developed a homework timetable or schedule.

The homework schedule should make monitoring of homework a simpler process, as well as reducing the burden on students.

Homework is an important aspect of school and provides the student with a chance to review the work covered in class that day and also build on



initial skills covered.

By making a clear homework schedule—students and parents should find that homework is a much less burdensome task.

You will find a copy of the homework schedule on the school website and also towards the back of this edition of the school newsletter.

BUILDING SCHOOL LINKS

Our school links continue to progress, with several packages being sent to schools in the UK as well as NIS receiving packages from students and teachers.

Our students have exchanged introduction letters and even had 'handshakes' through paper cut-outs in the shape of hands!

One wonderful development is the news that one of our partner schools in the UK has been accepted as part of a British Council initiative to receive funding directly from the British Council to send one of their teachers to our school here in Ahmedabad for one week!

We look forward very much to welcoming a teacher from the UK to Nelson's International School in October.

Our students and teachers are currently preparing and collecting a number of different projects which we will send shortly and will continue to send



and exchange with our partner schools in the UK in the future.

Projects include 'Street Life', 'Our Neighborhood', 'City Life', and 'Our Heritage Walk' - through these our students will learn more about Gujarat, Gujarat customs, food, culture, music and dance, instilling a sense of pride in our students for their heritage.

We also hope to have a video-conferencing link established soon with our partner schools in the UK so our NIS students (and teachers) may see, speak and hear students and teachers from the UK in real-time.

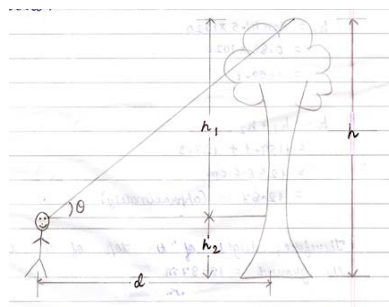
Through this link we hope our children will learn a new appreciation for their own culture, gain practice in letter writing, develop design skills through activities such as leaflet-making, as well as making them realize they are a citizen not just of this country but of the world as well. We wish our teachers a very sincere 'Thank You!' for working hard on these valuable projects with the students.

MEASURING UP IN MATHEMATICS

Students of 10th Std have been practising their trigonometry skills with real-world applications for measuring the heights of things which are too tall to easily measure.



"On 30th June we measured the height of a tree, basketball ring and a pole using trigonometric concepts. We used a clinometer to measure the angle of elevation at the top of the tree. The calculation for measuring the height of a tree is shown..."



h = height of the top of the tree from the ground

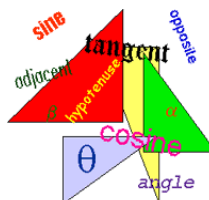
h_1 = height of the top of the tree from eye-level

h_2 = height of eye-level of the observer from the ground = 127.5 cm

θ = angle of elevation of the top of the tree from eye-level of the observer = 41.5°

d = distance of the base of the tree from the observer = 1020 cm

$h = h_1 + h_2$



$$\tan \theta = \frac{h_1}{d}$$

$$\tan 41.5 = \frac{h_1}{d}$$

$$h_1 = \tan 41.5 \times 1020$$

$$h_1 = 0.88 \times 1020$$

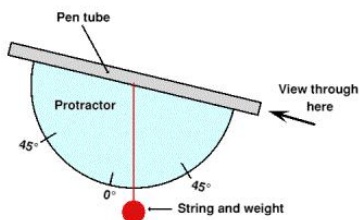
$$h_1 = 1159.1$$

$$h = h_1 + h_2$$

$$h = 1159.1 + 127.5$$

$$h = 1286.6 \text{ cm}$$

$$h = 12.87 \text{ m (approximately)}$$



THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL— ECOLOGY VERSUS ECONOMY

~ by Deepak (10th Std)

It has been over two months since one of the most awful disasters took place in the Gulf of Mexico and has been said to be the worst oil spill in US history.

On April 20, 2010 one explosion terrified the whole world but the one who was most scared was the United States. The oil well, Deepwater Horizon, chartered by BP public limited corporation oil company, exploded in one of the most valuable regions for the oil companies – the Gulf of Mexico.

“The explosion could have been prevented...”

fire. This was only the natural cause of the explosion.

The explosion could have been prevented with the help of a blowout preventer, but unfortunately Deepwater Horizon’s blowout preventer failed. This was only the technical cause of the explosion. The main cause was the shoddy work done by the workers, the technicians and the administration who have to look after what is happening at the oil rig. Such shoddy work cannot be tolerated, especially at a place

where a small mistake can cost millions – in money as well as lives.

The fire was extinguished, but unfortunately 11 workers died and several were injured. Though most of the crew was evacuated a deadly, dirty thing was diffusing all around and is still spreading – the oil. BP could not halt the gushing oil. It is now estimated that the oil is escaping at a rate of over 5000 gallons per day. The oil is moving towards the shore. It has already caused much environmental damage since the day when the oil well blew out and it will cause even more catastrophic consequences when it would reach the shore.

The oil spill has created tension on both sides of the Atlantic. President Barack

Obama had a few words with the British Prime Minister David Cameron, but Cameron’s talks showed that he considered both sides. On one side he showed anger against BP, but on the other hand he said that the company has a great financial significance for both the UK and the US. BP is the third largest company in the world for the investment of pension funds. This is why the company is so important to the people who invest in the company.



The discussion is still going on and the Americans have not calmed down yet, especially those in the Gulf. No one knows what would happen in this war of ecology versus economy, but one thing is sure – the disaster has made the world realise that extracting oil from underneath the ocean miles away from the shore is not a joke and should be taken seriously.



The gases, mud, water and oil were down in the earth’s crust below the ocean at a high pressure. Because of the high pressure, the constituents came out with a great force to the surface and were set on

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

~ by Monica (10th Std)

This month the subject that gave me the most knowledge was environment. We studied Unit 4.5— “Deforestation and sustainable management of forests”, which gave the causes of deforestation on our planet Earth.



It is estimated that at least one third of the world’s natural forests have already been destroyed by a mixture of fell-

ing, burning or grazing. Before 1950, the greatest impact of forest destruction was felt in temperate latitudes, mainly in Europe and North America. The industrial revolution led to growth of industry and population with their increasing demands for natural resources and food. Forests were cleared to make way for factories and cities.

Consequences of clearance of natural vegetation include:

- physical impacts: it decreases the rainfall due to which no more trees could grow
- global warming: one of the main factors that could reduce global warming is planting more trees—if trees are burned they release CO₂ so it increases global warming
- reduced production of oxygen
- reduced soil fertility for the growth of plants and crops
- increase in soil erosion through surface run-off and gully formation
- lack of fuel wood
- loss of climatic stability

These are a few impacts of deforestation on our environment and on our lifestyle, so it is better that we conserve our environment by taking a few steps given below:

- each person should grow one tree
- we should use renewable sources of energy rather than non-renewable sources of energy
- we should use recyclable materials
- illegal logging should be stopped
- farmers should not use artificial fertilizers which destroy their land



These are some of the steps we should take, and a few of your own will also help to save this ‘green living planet Earth’.

THE GREAT MOUNT SAINT HELENS ERUPTION

~ by Mahuva (10th Std)

The magnificent recovery of Mt. Saint Helens after the 1980 eruption had left everyone astonished.



Mt. Saint Helens is situated in the west of North America and is in a region of Cascade volcanic arc which includes over 160 active volcanoes. It erupted on May 18, 1980 at 8:32am when the upper 400m summit of the mountain was lost, leaving a horse-shoe shaped crater. It was a stratovolcano which was conical in shape.

Before the eruption of the volcano an earthquake had occurred. Around the volcano the explosion had completely destroyed the area, the so called 'blow-down zone', covering about 143 square miles. Due to the explosion, 57 people were killed and around 250 homes, 47 bridges, 15 miles of railways and 185 miles of highways were destroyed. The ash fall also took place, which caused many short-term problems with transportation, sewage disposal and waste management systems. Due to ash accumulation and greatly decreased visibility, air travel was disrupted for about 2 weeks. The pyroclastic flow came out of the volcano's mouth with a great speed of 120 mph (200 kph) and reached a temperature up to 650°C.

The timing of the eruption of the volcano was the critical factor which saved many species. It erupted so early in the morning when the nocturnal

species were still sleeping in their burrows safe from the erupting volcano.

That year, spring was late. Most of the species had gone underground to protect themselves from winter cold. The lakes were still covered with a layer of ice and so some species like frogs, salamanders, toads and other water creatures were safe under the water as the volcano was unable to thaw the ice. Also, as spring had not occurred, the migratory species such as salmon had not returned to Mt. Saint Helens yet so they were also unaffected.

As life was not completely destroyed in Mt. Saint Helens, its recovery was triggered afterwards, as spring arrived. The species had no pressure on them, no predators, pathogens or parasites so their population grew and developed well. Moreover, there was no disturbance by the human activities.

Due to loss of essential nutrients and minerals, the conifers were unable to grow there because they need a certain type of fungi at their roots to help them grow. During this time the lupins were the most suitable plant which grew over there. As lupins are legumes they have nodes on their roots which form nitrate. The nitrate content is added to the soil, making it nutrient rich and fertile. In this way, they

make the area more appropriate for other plants and trees to grow.

An unusual collection of some species in an area was found which was not present before, giving unexpected results. The species like majestic elk, black-tailed deer, mountain goat, American black-bear and cougar migrated to the blast zone from the less affected areas around. One species which had not returned to Mt. Saint Helens was the flying squirrel. This squirrel needs mature forests to live as it is its' habitat. Though the recovery had started the forest has not developed yet so the flying squirrels are not yet found.

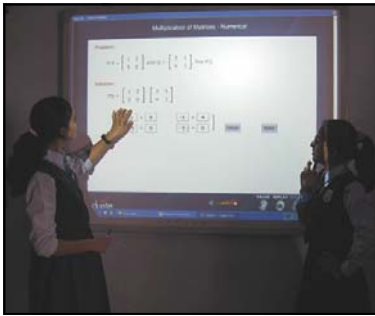
Now, after 30 years, the recover of Mt. Saint Helens is still progressing.

(Selected facts details from Wikipedia)



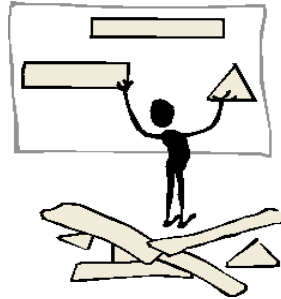
INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS

Many of our students and teachers are making use of our installation of interactive whiteboards which were set up over the summer vacation.



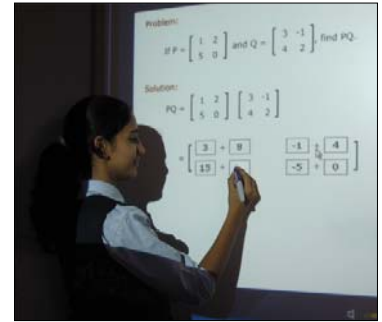
These whiteboards offer a number of advantages over more traditional blackboards and chalk including the possibility of saving

class lessons which can be e-mailed to students for revision.



In addition—all of our interactive whiteboard classroom PCs have access to the Internet and world-wide web so teachers can make use of the many wonderful educational websites which are available.

Our teachers have been making use of websites such as YouTube to let students hear how 'phonics' sounds are pronounced, as well as using world-class soft-



ware called '*Digitally*' which includes interactive mathematics activities to enhance student learning.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR/DIARY

JULY

Mon 19—Tues 27 : 1st monthly test

AUGUST

Sat 14 : Teacher INSET training
(*no school for students*)

Mon 16—Tues 31 : Mock exams for 10th and 12th Std students

Sat 21—Tues 31 : 2nd monthly test

SEPTEMBER

Wed 1—Wed 8 : Book Week

Mon 27—Thurs 7 Oct : First terminal exam

OCTOBER

Thurs 14 : 100 days of school celebration

Sat 16 : National Food Fair

NOVEMBER

Mon 1—Sat 20 : Diwali vacation



DECEMBER

Wed 1—Sat 11 : 3rd monthly test

Wed 1—Sat 11 : 8th / 9th Std final exam

Sat 25—Sun 2 Jan 2011 : Christmas vacation

JANUARY 2011

Mon 3 : School resumes

Wed 26—Sat 29 : Expressions

FEBRUARY

Mon 7—Tues 15 : 4th monthly test

MARCH

Thurs 3—Wed 9 : Maths/Science Week

Sat 5 : Kaleidoscope

Sat 19 : Teacher INSET training (*no school for students*)

Mon 21—Wed 30 : Oral and practical exams

APRIL

Wed 5—Sat 23 : IGCSE mock exams

Mon 11—Sat 23 : Final exams for 1st to 8th Std students

Please note: Dates are tentative, subject to change

For the latest calendar—please go to our website

TEACHER TRAINING AND INSET

To continue teacher development and improvement at NIS there will be two (2) special 'Teacher INSET days'. (INSET = In-Service Training)

On these INSET days as listed in the calendar—there will be no school for students: (Sat 14 Aug 2010, Sat 19 March 2011)

Teachers will come to school as usual and

participate in a range of different activities which will provide them with the chance to share good practice and teaching and learning strategies and extend teachers' knowledge.

We are also in the process of finalizing the schedule for the Cambridge International Diploma for Teachers and Trainers (CIDTT)

and we will offer this course to teachers shortly for sign-up.

It is important that teachers as well as students are constantly developing their skills and learning throughout their time at school. Professional development is a key aspect of any good teacher and any good school.

NIS HOMEWORK TIMETABLE/SCHEDULE

We have collated the homework timetable/schedule as shown opposite in an effort to make monitoring of homework a simpler process, as well as reducing the burden on students.

Homework is an important aspect of school and provides the student with a chance to review the work covered in class that day and also build on initial skills covered.



By making a clear easy-to-follow homework schedule—students and parents should find that homework is a much less burdensome task.

It is recommended that students spend time on homework according to their individual class or standard level. Students in lower or younger classes can spend less time on homework than students in higher classes.

Parents can further help their children by setting aside a regular fixed time each evening or afternoon for homework to be completed.

It is good to assign a fixed place for students to complete their homework—preferably a quiet place away from distractions such as television or other things which may disturb the child's concentration.

Parents can assist their child or children by regularly reviewing the school calendar which should contain details of the homework assignments given by each teacher.

An important thing to remember is that homework is given so that your child attempts tasks on their own and if they discover any problems they can then discuss with their class or subject teacher. This means that some work will necessarily stretch

STD: III					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Maths	Geo	E.Gr.	Maths	E.T.	Hindi
E. Lit	Sci	Guj	Hindi	Com	H/C
Guj	Maths	French	Com	Sci	Sci

STD: IV					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
H/C	Maths	Geo	Guj	E.T.	Guj
E.Gr.	E.Lit	Maths	Hindi	Hindi	Sci
Sci	Com	Com	Sci	French	Maths

STD: V					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
H/C	E.Lit	E.T.	Sci	Maths	Sci
E.Lit	Maths	Sci	Maths	French	Guj
Hindi	Com	Com	Geo	Guj	Hindi

STD: VI					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Maths	Maths	E.Lit	Hindi	Sci	E.T.
Geo	E.Lit	Sci	Com	Maths	H/C
Com	Hindi	Guj	Guj	French	Sci

STD: VII					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Maths	Eng	H/C	Geo	Sci	Maths
Sci	Com	Sci	Maths	Eng	Eng
French	Hindi	Hindi	Guj	Com	Guj

STD: VIII					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
French	Eng	Guj	Hindi	Maths	Maths
Hindi	Com	Maths	Eng	Eng	Sci
Guj	Geo	Sci	Sci	H/C	Com

STD: IX					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Maths	Maths	Com	Maths	Maths	Maths
Eng	Eng		Eng	Eng	Eng, Com
Phy/B.S.	Env/Hindi	Phy/Acc	Env/Hindi	Env/Hindi	Phy/Acc
Chem/Eco	Bio/B.S.	Chem/Eco	Bio/B.S.	Chem/Acc	Bio/Eco

STD: X					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Maths	Maths	Maths	Phy/B.S.	Maths	Maths
Eng	Eng	Eng	Eng	Eng	Bio/Acc
Che/Acc	Che/Eco	Env/B.S.	Env/Eco	Bio	Env/Eco
Phy	Com	Bio/Acc	Com	Che	Phy/B.S.

your child.

As in life, it is important to learn that if they don't succeed they should try again. They should recognize that they have many people available to support them so that later in life when they face any problems they can tackle them with confidence. It is important therefore not to do your child's work for them as it is too 'hard' but to give them any support in the form of 'I know you can do it. Don't

give up—try again.' If your child remains genuinely stuck then they should ask their teacher for clarification and if possible stay after school for help. We have regular additional 'homework club' times when teachers are available after 1:20 pm

If you have any other questions about homework assignments—please write your queries in the child's calendar as this helps the teacher in identifying any problems and better assisting your children to succeed.

NELSON'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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Email: nelsonschool@yahoo.com

"A world-class standard education for your children."

We're on the web:
www.nelsonschool.com



NELSON'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



SCHOOL RECESS AND SNACKS

Nelson's International School is looking into the possibility of providing school lunches for its students. We welcome tenders from providers of healthy, nutritious food that will appeal to children. If you are in the catering business please contact the school at the above given address.

Until we are able to provide school lunches we kindly ask that parents please remember that it is essential for children at a young age to get all the necessary nutrients for growth and healthy bodies.

Providing junk food like maggi noodles, fried food, crisps/chips or sweets does not provide a healthy basis for a child's growing body. A balanced diet needs plenty of protein, vitamins, minerals, carbohydrates and only healthy fats and sugars in small amounts.

Roti and Sabzi can provide a balanced diet especially with the following tips:

- Use a mixture of flours for your atta. Bajra, Jowar, soy, maize, chickpea and rice can all be added in varying amounts depending on your child's



preference.

- Rotis are a good way to 'hide' vegetables which a child may not like e.g. methi dhebras, mooli parathas, spinach or beetroot chappatis.
- Dark green vegetables are a good way to prevent anemia in children

- Avoid sugar laden food as they rot teeth, add to childhood obesity, fill a child's stomach when they should be eating mineral and vitamin laden food. Sugary snacks also provide only a temporary 'boost' which wears off and leads to a drop in energy after eating.

- If you send dry fruits please chop them up small to prevent choking

We aim for all our children to grow up fit and healthy. Through our curriculum our students learn about healthy eating and they should be practising the skills and using that knowledge as part of their daily diet.

As part of our drive to provide the best environment for our students, we have also increased the length of the morning recess to give children a greater opportunity to take their time with their morning snack/lunch. Morning recess now lasts from 09:15 am to 09:45 am.