

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2010

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

Welcome to a special edition of the new Nelson's International School newsletter!

Through this special edition newsletter and regular newsletters beginning in the new academic year from June 2010, we hope to bring you the latest news and information on what is happening at your child's school.

As part of the school's continued growth and development we are busy preparing a number of new and improved points as part of a strategic development plan for Nelson's International School.

For the next academic year we are aiming for a number of clearly visible developments, which include:

- school lockers for all students to reduce the burden on your children of heavy backpacks
- a clear set homework schedule to ease the study load
- specialized Cambridge-specific training for our teachers
- 2-day specialized teacher INSET (In-Service Training) teacher-work

days

- improved technology facilities for teaching and learning with new interactive whiteboards
- regular parent-principal monthly tea/coffee mornings with teacher and principal presentations
- as well as a number of other exciting developments planned for the upcoming academic year.

We will bring you details of new developments through our regular new school newsletter through the next academic year from June 2010. You will also be able to download the newsletter from the school website (<http://www.nelsonschool.com/intro.html>)

To support these innovative developments and due to a substantial increase in Cambridge centre fees—an increase in school fees has become necessary to cover increased costs. Further details of the revised fees for the 2010-2011 academic year are available through the school office.



We hope you will continue your good support of Nelson's International School as we strive to maintain and improve the teaching and learning environment for the educational benefit of all your children.

If you have any questions on any of these 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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Special points of interest:

- Teachers return to school Monday 7 June
- New school year for students starts from Monday 14 June (*nursery students return early—please contact school for exact nursery student dates)

SCHOOL LOCKERS

As our students are studying a number of different subjects, so the number of books and text resources is considerable.

To ease the burden on students and also to encourage them to be responsible and organized life-long learners, we have taken the step of introducing school lockers for all our students.

Each student will be allocated a locker for their personal use from June 2010 which they can use to store books and



school supplies instead of being required to carry large backpacks with all books around the school building with them.

This development should also clear hallway space and valuable classroom teaching and learning space as backpacks are reduced in load.

TEACHER TRAINING

It is an important point that teachers in any good developing school follow some 'professional development' to maintain and improve their teaching practice.

Following this concept of professional development, and a pattern of success established by many international schools, from June 2010 Nelson's International School will be providing teachers with two days of specialized INSET (In-Service Teacher training).

These INSET school days will be for teachers only (no-school-days for students), where teachers will work together on specific school-improvement teaching and learning goals for improving the education of your children.

We are also in the process of establishing Nelson's International School as an authorized centre for the Cambridge International Diploma for Teachers and Trainers. This internationally recognized Cambridge qualification establishes teachers with an international benchmark of excel-

lence.

As part of our newly established 'professional development' programme - a number of our teachers recently attended a mathematics workshop held by Cambridge (CIE) in Ahmedabad, where they learned a range of new skills and ideas for teaching mathematics.



A mathematics teacher-trainer from the UK provided our teachers with a number of useful activities to use in their classes, as well as providing details of websites with excellent mathematics resources.

'MEET THE PRINCIPAL' TEA/COFFEE MORNINGS

Communications are an important aspect of schools and regular communications between home and school have been shown to be of vital importance.

To build on and improve current parent-school contacts—from June 2010 there will be a regular monthly tea/coffee morning where a short presentation on current school developments and educational topics will be made, followed by informal discussions over tea/coffee.



where opportunities are there to discuss individual students, this new format of meeting will enable parents to discuss with the principal any whole-school points such as school developments, new school programmes and other related points.

of these good opportunities to share in developing and continuing to build good home-school links.

A detailed schedule/calendar of these meeting times class-wise will be published in the next newsletter in June.

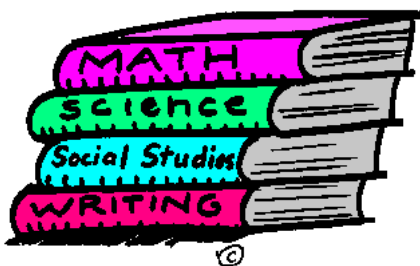
Separate from parent/teacher meetings

We hope that parents will take advantage

HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

For the upcoming academic year beginning in June 2010, to simplify the home-school link, a homework schedule/calendar will be established.

Specific details will follow in June, but initially we will be aiming to follow a clear schedule for homework which will 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.

BUILDING SCHOOL LINKS

One of our exciting new developments which we will be building on for the new academic year is the further expansion of school-links.

Many schools work in partnership with other schools, 'twinning' the teachers and students of our school with teachers and students of other schools in other states and ultimately countries.

We recently hosted a group of students and teacher from the Heritage School (Kolkata), providing our students and teachers with a chance to share teaching and learning ideas and build some links.

Currently we have also begun links

with a school in the UK. Subject to funding we may also be able to receive teachers from the UK for a short duration and, in exchange, we may be

able to send a teacher or several teachers to a partner-school in the UK.



Our present linked UK school is in the process of working with us to establish a grant which will help our teacher exchange programme, and depending on the success of our programme, we may also be able to have student exchanges in the future.

Many advantages can be gained for your children through this exciting development, including building global friendships and exchanging cultural experiences. Truly this will build the strength of our school as an international educational experience.

NIS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS

One exciting innovative development for the 2010-2011 academic year will be the introduction of interactive whiteboards.

This new technology will enable teachers and students to improve learning opportunities through lessons which include practical activities using computers.



Interactive whiteboards enable teachers to demonstrate clear principles

through the use of animations and ready-drawn diagrams.

Students can interact with the information presented on the interactive whiteboard directly.

The benefits of this technology include the ability to save lessons for review at any time, as well as being able to access thousands of online and interactive lessons freely available through the Internet.

Further information on this exciting development will follow in the first newsletter of the new academic year.

BOOK WEEK 2010

This year's "Book Week" (in conjunction with the Heritage School, Kolkata) gave our students the chance to show their creative side with their designs of book covers.

NIS students also had the chance to share their Gujarati culture by showing our Heritage School visiting students and teacher some Garba.

Students wrote their own 'Haiku' poetry,

and attached a number of haikus written on leaves to a wonderful 'poe-tree' for everyone to see and enjoy.

Our book week activities finished with a 'Design a Hero'



activity, a 'hot-seat' activity and fancy-dress with students (and teachers!) enjoying the chance to dress up as different book characters.

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HAPPY READING AND A SAFE SUMMER

As the academic year 2009-2010 draws to a close, students finish writing their exams and report cards are issued—Nelson's International School wishes all our students, parents and teachers a safe and relaxing summer holiday.

Summer is a good time for students to get the chance to catch up on some 'free reading'. We would encourage your children to take the chance where possible to continue to develop and improve their English skills by finding a book (or books) they are interested in. Reading for 20 minutes or half an hour each day can help students to maintain and build on existing English-language skills. Parents can ask their children many questions about the books which they are reading.



With several weeks of 'no school' sometimes summer holidays can become a little troublesome with 'nothing to do'.

There are a number of good websites

with information on 'summer activities' including:

<http://dltk-holidays.com/summer/>

<http://www.kidsturncentral.com/summer/summerfun.htm>

<http://familycrafts.about.com/od/summercrafts/a/summermn.htm>

Activities from these websites include simple cooking and making snacks, to different craft activities using household objects.

Best wishes to all our students, parents and teachers and we hope to see you all back at school, safe and sound, at the beginning of the new academic year in June!