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IMPORTANT DATES

January

7th – First Day of School After Winter Break
11th - 17th - D1 Exams
11th - 16th - M4 & M5 Exams
11th – MYP Parent Workshop focussing on Life Skills
14th – School Closed for Makar Sankranti Festival
16th - PYP Parent Workshop on Mathematics
18th - DP Parent Workshop Stress and Time Management

Featured Story

P4-P8 Inter-house Basketball Tournament



Our annual PYP Inter-house Basketball Tournament took place on 7th December. The tournament gave our upper primary students the opportunity to play in a friendly, game situation. All students have been learning about invasion games and have been developing their basketball skills during PE

lessons, so this was a great opportunity to showcase their skills. The top two teams of each section played a final to add an exciting finish to the tournament. We would like to thank all parents who came along to support the teams.



Whole School News

Learn to Play the Violin

The Violin is the smallest stringed instrument, with the highest tune in the family of string instruments. Made of spruce, maple and ebony, it is mounted with four strings and played with a bow. The violin is one of the most beloved string instruments for music lovers around the world.



Knowing how to play violin is a fulfilling task. Research studies show stronger verbal and visual pattern completion skills in young violinists, than students who played other instruments; these skills are not linked to any musical background. The areas of the brain connected to left-hand movements show increased responsiveness and sensitivity. A recent study by the McMaster University Institute for Music and Mind found that musical training, and violin play in particular, positively impact not only the memory and attention span but also reading skills, language processing, speech and a variety of brain functions.

Violin play offers the opportunity to release one's feelings in a constructive manner. Violin players are often referred to as ultimate multitaskers as they do two different things with their right and left hand simultaneously.

Anyone can learn to play the violin, of their age. If your child would like learn the violin do get in touch with me at siby.manuel@stonehill.in

I look forward to welcoming new students in the next semester.



Siby Manuel
Violin Teacher

From the Head of School

2019-20 Academic Calendar

Please note that the calendar for next academic year is now available to download from the school website (www.stonehill.in/calendar).

Happy New Year

We have had a productive, but busy few months since the start of the academic year. I would like to put on record my thanks to all of the staff and faculty at Stonehill International School for all of the talent, dedication, hard work and professionalism that contributes to the educational environment that all of our children are fortunate enough to enjoy.



Simon McCloskey

As we head toward the winter break, I would also like to take a moment to wish you all a restful and relaxing holiday with family and friends. We look forward to seeing children rested, recharged and ready to learn on **Monday 7th January, 2019**. Safe travels!

From the Primary Principal

The Early Years Concert was a lovely event where children had an opportunity to express their understandings of a story. There were some teary eyed parents and beaming children. Thank you to the teachers who put in the extra time in order for this to be successful. Thank you to the children who shone in our eyes and to you, the parents, who attended and made it all worthwhile.

Our Winter Concert happens this Friday in the Sports Hall. The instrumental students will perform along with the choir. What a lovely way to end this semester's ASAs!

Anthony led a parent workshop on inquiry last Wednesday. It was well-attended. The team unpicked their understandings of inquiry.

They built their baseline through interactive activities over an hour. Wonderful!

Our next workshop will be on the 16th January, 2019. It is about Mathematics. Please join us.

Have a wonderful holiday. Be safe.

We look forward to the next semester with your lovely children.



Karen Crooke

P1 - How The World Works



In P1 we have been learning about materials and their properties over the past seven weeks. The question, "What is this made of?" could often be heard in the first few weeks as children explored the concept that all things are made of something. Even the toys in our classroom! Vocabulary that has been introduced and elicited over the course of these explorations includes: soft, hard, smooth, cold, hot, wobbly, rough, sharp, dull, shiny and fragile. We then started to investigate what happens to materials when we combine them in different ways.

First we discussed how materials are a solid, a liquid or a gas. The children then quickly related this idea to the fact that we make our own playdough on a regular basis and that we use materials to make it. We started by making a new batch and talking through what we could see happening as the different ingredients were combined and mixed together.

The children were particularly keen on cooking at this time, as we were reading the story 'Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes' and getting ready for our Winter Concert. Following their interest, we continued to see how some very simple ingredients could be changed in different ways to make different foods including dosa, puri and bread.

This week saw the opening of the airport lounge in our break out space where we had the chance to demonstrate our understanding about solids, liquids and gases as the security desk officer checked for any liquids in our bags.

Ms. Honor Dargan
P1 Class Teacher

Primary Learning Focus

Information Literacy

P3 - P8 students learn about cyber safety through Digital Citizenship lessons. The resources used to support many of these lessons can be found on [Common Sense Media](#). The resources are aligned with our Information Literacy Continuum, which ensures that students learn to embrace technology safely and responsibly, preparing them to take ownership of their digital lives. Digital citizenship lessons take place throughout the year and an assessment of student learning is shared on Seesaw at the end of each unit.



PYP Library

Do stop by the Primary Library when you are at school next. Our library is open from 7:25 am to 4:00 pm. You are welcome to stop by, to explore our collection, read together, check out books and make some book recommendations too. Mr. Raghu, Mr. Srinivas and I look forward to seeing you! Wishing you all a wonderful winter break.

Ms. Lamiya Bharmal
Primary Teacher Librarian &
Information Literacy Teacher

From the Secondary Principal

Secondary Trips Week - February 2019

Trips week will take place from 10th/11th to 15th February 2019. The information session was presented to all M4 - D1 students on Wednesday, 29th November. Detailed information has been shared with all the students and parents. If you have not received any information or have queries, please contact Mr. Melvin Kumar (melvin.kumar@stonehill.in)

M4 & M5 Examinations

The MYP eAssessment for M4 and M5 will be held on 11th, 15th and 16th January 2019. The examination timetable and review sheets have been shared with students and parents by Mr. Jitendra Pandey, MYP Coordinator.



Narendra Mehrotra

From the Secondary Principal (Continued)

D1 Examinations

The D1 examinations will be held on 11th, 15th, 16th and 17th January 2019. The examination timetable and review sheets have been shared with students and parents by Ms. Manpreet Kaur, DP Coordinator.

Personal Project Exhibition

The M5 Personal Project Exhibition was held on Thursday, 13th December from 1:00 to 3:00pm. It was fantastic to see so many parents, visitors, students and staff enjoying the projects done by our students. Congratulations to all M5 students for the completion of their projects and for putting together an excellent exhibition! Thank you to Mr. Jitendra for spearheading the entire process and keeping our students on track.

Early Leave and Late Return after School Holidays

Parents are not encouraged to withdraw children during term-time for vacations. Parents are also asked not to 'leave early' or 'return late' in order to extend scheduled school holidays. In cases where students will miss routine classes because of voluntary absence, the school does not provide extra work for them to take on vacation. The school is sometimes asked to 'authorise' absences during school time for family vacations or other trips. It is not the school's policy to do so.

Semester One Wrap-Up

Our students have been actively involved in a variety of activities and an extremely busy sports programme. The major events that took place during this term are: Back to School Orientation, PTA Welcome Barbeque, Student Council Elections, 10 Year Anniversary Celebrations, DP Breakout Camp, ILMUNC in Bangalore, several inter-house sports competitions, ISACI Boys and Girls Football Tournaments, Diwali Celebrations, Parent-Teacher-Students Conferences, IB DP Dinner, DP Camp for Parents, Phuket Soccer 7s, Field Trips and Assemblies.

We end this semester with the Winter Concert this afternoon.

Thank You

A big thank you to all our students for their outstanding contributions towards and excellent first term. I would like to thank our teachers and the staff who have demonstrated dedication and commitment beyond the call of their duty to facilitate the learning process, both in and out of classrooms. I would also like to thank parents for all their support, particularly our Class Parent Representatives and our wonderful and dedicated PTA.

I wish you all a safe and happy Winter Break and look forward to seeing students back on Monday, 7th January 2019 with lots of renewed energy.

On behalf of Stonehill International School, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Secondary Learning Focus

The Ivy League Model United Nations Conference in Bangalore



A group of 18 students from M1 - D2 participated in the Ivy League Model United Nations Conference (ILMUNC) sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania from the 22nd to 25th of November. ILMUNC India serves as a platform for students from all around the world to discuss, debate and find solutions for some of the most pressing issues that the world faces today. Over 400 students from schools across India and around the world attended this conference.

During the conference, students were involved in some high-stakes simulations as they negotiated solutions to many of the world's issues and problems.



Students received guidance, mentorship, and support from distinguished students of the University of Pennsylvania. The theme for ILMUNC India this year was *Non-State Actors and Their Role in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals*.

Here are some reflections of the students who attended the conference:

"At the conference, I was able to practically apply the knowledge I gained in my history class. I significantly improved my skills to improvise a speech and convince people effectively."

Kao D1

"This MUN was a great opportunity to build upon many skills such as oratory, communication, social, collaboration and many more."

Diya M5

"The conference helped me build my confidence, taught me how to improve my communication and social skills, as well as made me realise how important it is to listen to all ideas and try to come to a consensus by being open-minded."

Arushi D2

"The best part for me was the debating during committee time. At times, the debate got very competitive."

Ananya D1

"The hardest thing for me was to speak in front of people. However, after a few sessions, I overcame it."

Hyunseok M2

"MUN gave me a chance to state my opinions in front of many people about how action could be taken regarding certain problems."

Varun D1

"It was amazing to collaborate and debate with fellow delegates to reach a resolution to solve global issues."

Shreya M4



Ms. Blessina Cyril
MUN Coordinator

From the Head of Boarding

As we near the end of a very successful, busy, fun and productive year, our boarders are eagerly awaiting some down time with their families and friends.

The sustainable garden project started at Boarding by our DP students in October is doing well. A part of their CAS activity, the purpose of this project was to build a vegetable garden which would support our students' understanding of environmental sustainability and inculcate a responsible and eco-friendly way of life. The garden has vegetables including cabbage, lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, beans, chillies and herbs. Eleven boarders take turns to water the plants and maintaining the garden during the week; the harvested produce will be given to the school cafeteria to be used.



Glen Johnson



On Saturday, 8th December, twenty-two boarders went to Orion Mall to play ten pin bowling. The competition was intense and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. On Sunday, 9th December our boarders made their own pizzas for lunch. The effort put in was impressive and the pizzas were delicious. Many thanks to Chef Arjun and his team for the helping out.



On behalf of the Boarding staff we wish you and your families all the best this holiday season. We wish you peace, love, happiness, good health and fortune in 2019.

Introducing

Each week we feature a Stonehill Teacher in our weekly bulletin. This week we interviewed Whole School Technology Coordinator, **Katherine Steen**.

Qualification and certifications:

B.A. English, M.Ed Educational Technology and Curriculum Development, FL Professional Educator's License: 6-12 English, K-12 ESOL

What do you teach at Stonehill?

I am the Whole School Technology Coordinator and M4B Homeroom Teacher. I support teachers with professional development to use our technology tools in their classroom, as well as lead lessons on technology tools and support students when they need help. I also teach digital citizenship lessons in the Secondary School and run extracurricular activities related to technology and programming



Katherine Steen

Where are you from and where else have you lived?

I am from the United States. I was born in Illinois, but grew up in Florida. Before coming to India, I lived in Barcelona, Spain for three years.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I have always been a reader and being an English teacher was something that interested me as a middle and high school student. In university, I became fascinated by education as a subject. I have also always worked with children as a camp counselor, tutor, and volunteer at nonprofit organisations, so teaching was the natural path for me.

What is your educational philosophy?

I believe very strongly in giving students as many authentic experiences as possible, pushing them to stretch beyond their comfort zone and helping them gain the real world skills they need to succeed in university and the workplace. This means that I expect my students to take on challenging projects, to build their own knowledge and skills, take responsibility for themselves and their learning.

What made you choose Stonehill?

I chose to come to Stonehill because of the potential for growth I saw here. When interviewing and talking to other teachers I saw a community that was eager to learn and try new things and make big strides in the service of improving teaching and learning. That was exciting to me! I also wanted to experience a new continent and a different culture, so India was perfect for me!

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is seeing someone's excitement when they succeed at trying something new and challenging. Whether it is a student or teacher, helping someone add to their skills is very rewarding.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I love to cook! I enjoy cooking and baking and exploring the cuisine of the places I visit. I also like to read and usually get through a couple dozen books a year.

What is your favourite book and favourite music?

Favorites are very hard for me! I would say my favourite book of all time is Harry Potter because it shaped so much of my childhood. Two favourites from this year were Evicted by Desmond Matthew and Turtles All the Way Down by John Greene. I like American Country music! Not a popular genre around the world, but it's always been my favourite!

From the PTA

A huge thank you to all who sent in baked goods to support our charities. The sale was a success and the kids were thrilled! All the best wishes to you and your families this holiday season. Safe travels! See you in the New Year!

Cheers,

Team PTA



What is IFF?

Date: Sunday 3 February 2019

The International Food Fair is an annual event where each country represented in the school has a parent-led food stall and activity table. This event truly reflects the diversity of nationalities and cultures within the Stonehill community.

Stonehill International School

Important Note!

Please remember IFF is **NOT A COMPETITION!**
All Proceeds go towards funding three PTA Charities

Stonehill Government School	Morning Star Ashram	Isha Foundation
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Stonehill International School

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle!

- Bring your own reusable plates and cutleries and get 10% discount!!!
- Patrons can purchase paper plates and disposable cutleries at the event.

Coupon Amounts → Rs. 50

Stonehill International School



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