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16th - PYP Parent Workshop on Mathematics
18th - DP Parent Workshop Stress and Time Management

Featured Story

New England Association of Schools & Colleges Reaccreditation

**PROUD
TO BE A
NEASC
ACCREDITED
SCHOOL**



“The learning atmosphere is one of inclusiveness, openness to new ideas, and a sharing of perspectives that is welcome and appreciated. From the PYP classes through the MYP, interaction, feedback, differentiation, and inclusiveness were observed as being truly inspirational.” NEASC Evaluation Report. December, 2018

In December, we received the third and final report from our synchronized evaluation visit in October. During the visit, a NEASC Evaluation Team observed lessons and interviewed teachers, students, support staff, parents and members of the Governing Council. We are delighted to announce that the NEASC Commission for International Education has confirmed the re-accreditation of our school.

The External Review Report that we received enables us to highlight and celebrate our achievements. It also provides useful suggestions and recommendations that will help us further improve the quality of learning and teaching at our school. Below, you can read some of the highlights from the December 2018 NEASC Report

- It is clear in conversations with students, teachers, administrators, support staff, and the governing council, that learners at Stonehill are expected to demonstrate informed perspective and empathy for the experiences of others and to learn from mistakes.
- The strong relationships between teachers and learners, as well as the emerging learning culture of the school, offers immense opportunity to challenge students in becoming confident leaders of their own learning. Faculty and learners are building the skills and dispositions to become self-directed learners.
- Learners were observed as researchers who were exploring materials, conducting experiments, and reflecting on their learning.
- When first visiting the school, parents were impressed with the sense of happiness, community, and belonging they sensed.
- When observing learners in class and throughout the campus, it is evident that they enjoy positive relationships with one another. Groupings seem naturally diverse in terms of gender and nationality, and learners are frequently observed helping one another.
- As supported in surveys and through conversations with students across all sections of the school, as well as in discussions with parents, Stonehill is an excellent example of an open-minded and supportive community for all its members. Service plays a significant role in all sections of the school. The owner serves as an excellent role model for the rest of the school community by placing an emphasis on service learning. As a result, many of the students' projects have an emphasis on service. Stonehill's commitment to inclusion is commendable.
- The Head of School, Governing Council (GC), and Owner have a positive working relationship that involves supportive and constructive discussions about the future of the school.
- The Head of School has been given autonomy to make decisions which have the learners' best interests at heart. The Owner's continued financial support has allowed the school to improve the quality of education offered at Stonehill.
- The Visitors were impressed with the GC representatives' knowledge of the school, and of educational best practice during their meeting. The GC has demonstrated a generative mindset and an eagerness for a better understanding of learning by attending IB workshops, encouraging feedback via surveys to the school community, and carrying out their own research. Between these and the collaborative relationship between the current Head of School and GC, an informed and common vision for the future of Stonehill has been established.
- Respectful, healthy, ethical relationships and interactions that create a true sense of community is the description of Learning Principle 10. This description accurately describes Stonehill. The relationships and interactions observed between all learners is evident in every aspect of their ethos. An additional word to describe the learning community of Stonehill is "happy". Happiness is evident everywhere. PYP student council members were asked: if they had a magic wand and could change anything about their school, what would they change? In unison, student council members replied, "nothing, we love our school".

- Visiting Team members from IB, CIS, and NEASC all observed the welcoming, respectful, and happy interactions of the Stonehill community. Parents also noted, upon visiting the school and experiencing the sense of happiness, that there was no need to visit any other schools. They had found the place for their family to belong.
- Members of the community express high satisfaction with ways in which they are treated and included. They are very proud to be members of a learning community that is accepting of all learners. Some quotes to support this include: "Our whole school is working together.", "It is a school that values people and does what it says.", "It is a very safe and open environment.", "It is the most honest school when it comes to reflecting on our own practices.", and "It is transparent in the way it makes decisions".
- It was very important for a staff member to share with the Visiting Team that there is a general sense of optimism about the growth of the school and the leadership around community-wide learning. The Visiting Team concurs that the community members and all stakeholders take an active involvement and contribute widely to learning engagements, celebrations, and community-based initiatives.
- Perhaps the most telling statement regarding the learning community came from student learners, as they described what is most important about Stonehill: "happiness and well-being". It truly does take an entire community to create happiness and wellbeing

Whole School News

To enable our students to have a successful and meaningful ASA programme please note the following improvements to our ASAs:

- MYP/DP and PYP sign-ups are separate
- Sign up times are scheduled on the school calendar
- ASAs are in age groups: P3-P5, P6-P8, M1-M3, M4-D2
- A balance of technology, arts, sporting and service ASAs are available on both days
- MYP service ASAs are offered but are no longer compulsory. Please note that students must still meet the MYP service requirements, but may choose to do so in their own time.
- If ASAs only have a few students sign up they will be cancelled, enabling the teacher to assist with a different ASA.
- Some popular ASAs will have unlimited spaces
- D2 study time will be available as an ASA

Please note the following important ASA dates:

17th Jan ASA S2 handbook available
 22nd Jan MYP/DP sign up
 24th Jan PYP sign up
 19th Feb ASAs begin
 23rd May ASAs finish

Please contact asa@stonehill.in if you have any questions.

Melvin Kumar
ASA Coordinator

Makar Sankranti Festival

Makar Sankranti is one of the most auspicious days for Hindus and is celebrated in most parts of India. The festival is usually celebrated on January 14th/15th. Makar means Capricorn and Sankranti means 'movement'. It traditionally coincides with the beginning of the sun's northern journey as it enters the zodiac sign of Capricorn.

Makar Sankranti is a harvest festival dedicated to the sun, as this is when harvesting is complete and celebrations abound. It is one of the very few Hindu festivals which is celebrated on the same day every year. This festival is celebrated over a period of three days, beginning from 13th January, in different parts of India.

North India - Kumbh Mela & Lohri

In northern India, Makar Sankranti is celebrated by people taking a dip in the Ganga, one of India's sacred rivers. People believe that taking a dip in the Ganga on this day cleanses the soul of all sins.

The festival is celebrated as Lohri by the Sikh community in the states of Punjab and Haryana; Lohri is celebrated a day before Makar Sankranti. The end of a bitter winter is marked with the lighting of massive bonfires in which handfuls of til sweets, rice and sugarcane are thrown to thank the fire god (Agni) for good crops.

Central and South India

Karnataka

In Karnataka, the festival is marked by visiting friends and relatives to exchange greetings and by the preparation of a dish called Ellu (made with sesame seeds, coconuts and sugar cubes). A common custom found across Karnataka is the exchange of sugarcane pieces and Ellu with one's neighbours, friends and relatives. They greet each other with the words " *Ellu bella thindu, Olle Maathu Aadu.*" This translates to " *Eat sesame and jaggery and speak good things.*" The greeting signifies that sweetness should prevail in all of one's dealings in the coming year.

In **Gujarat**, it is known as Uttarayan and celebrated by flying beautiful, handcrafted kites.

In **Tamil Nadu**, Makar Sankranti is celebrated as Pongal and celebrated for four days.

In **Andhra Pradesh**, it is celebrated as Bhogi Pandigai, Pedda Panduga, Kanuma Panduga and Mukkanuma.

In **Kerala**, Makar Sankranti is celebrated as Makaravilakku. The famous Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple celebrations take place on Makar Sankranti during the evenings at Sabarimala Hills.

A sweet dumpling, or laddu made of sesame seeds and jaggery is a speciality of the festival.

The festival of Makar Sankranti also honours and pays respect to Saraswati, the Hindu Goddess of Knowledge.

Ms. Raji VK
Host Culture Teacher

From the Head of School

Transport Survey

To improve safety for children using the school buses, we will be sending an online a form with all families who use school transport next week. This form is to ensure that our bus monitors hand over your children to the right person at the bus stop. The information, along with instructions for filling in this form will be sent by the Transport Department.

Recruitment

Over the past couple of days, and over the weeked, Narendra Mehrotra, the Secondary Principal, and I will be attending a recruitment fair in Bangkok. We will be interviewing prospective international teachers for next academic year.



Simon McCloskey

School Development

We are delighted to announce that we have now started building work on our new Creative Arts Centre and STEM Building. The areas have been securely fenced-off to ensure that students remain safe during construction of the new buildings. We will share more details about the new buildings over the next few weeks.



The site for our new STEM Building



The area for our new Creative Arts Block

Hour of Code

"The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts.

The Hour of Code takes place each year during Computer Science Education Week. Computer Science Education Week is held annually in recognition of the birthday of computing pioneer Admiral Grace Murray Hopper."

(<https://hourofcode.com/in/gb> Jan, 2019)



Karen Crooke

The Primary School investigated coding through daily activities in classrooms and in the Makerspace. Robotics, Scratch and MakeyMakey were just a few tools/programs covered. Children programmed robots to draw, made games for others to play and solved problems using Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. (STEM) These exciting and simple activities gave children access to coding through age-appropriate meaningful activities.

Winter Performances

Both the Early Years and the Primary School were involved in Winter Concerts in December.

The Early Years Team participated fully in their concert. All children were on stage, some for the first time. The performance was very-much teacher led. Our focus for moving forward would be to have children taking a greater part both with the development and the outcome. Teachers of course will work hard to ensure a high standard production.

The whole school Winter Performance was specifically for the Instrumental Department and performance-based ASAs to showcase their learning. The performances were well-structured due to the Performing Arts team's organisation and commitment. Children rose to the occasion with performances that had us all tapping our feet, singing along and applauding wildly.

Inter-house Basketball

The Physical Education Department did us proud with their organisation for this event. Children participated fully, parents spectated knowingly and teachers were perfectly placed to support their colleagues, the parents and their classmates. A good time was had by all as children participated in the round-robin structure.

Makar Sankranti Holiday

Monday, 14th January

January - Search Fair

I will be away from school the week of the 21st January. I will be in London interviewing prospective teachers for the 2019 20 school year. Anthony and the Primary Leadership Team will be able to assist whilst I am away.



STONEHILL
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

An Embassy Group Education Initiative

PYP PARENT WORKSHOP

Every Child Counts:
How We Teach Mathematics

Wednesday, 16th January

8:00am Onwards

Primary Learning Focus

P5 Mapping the World



Our P5 students were inquiring into the transdisciplinary theme “Where we are in place and time” with the central idea of “Exploration leads to changes and new understandings”.

We inquired into how early explorers used their knowledge to make maps. Our starting points were the lines of latitude and longitude (grid-lines) which were present in both the old and new maps. We used the floor tiles to represent them and we allocated coordinates to the grid. This helped students construct meaning through hands-on activities.

Delving further into the inquiry, we learned about cardinal directions and students were able to make connections with how early explorers used the position of the stars, compasses and the direction of the wind to navigate.

Students have read and interpreted directions and transferred their knowledge by making maps of their immediate environment. These transdisciplinary activities utilising the skills of inquiry, along with space and measurement from the Mathematics learning outcomes, have helped them further understand how maps help in explorations.



‘Google Maps’ and the ‘Explain Everything’ app were tools used to enhance the inquiry. The students used them adeptly to trace the land, to learn about the seas and the navigational points. They were able to make connections with how science and technology have played a very important role in bringing about change and improving our lives.

From the Secondary Principal

Grand Prize Winner of Google Code-2018

Sachin from D1 won the Grand Prize of Google Code-In 2018, an annual coding competition for high school students around the world. The competition aims to promote open source development among students, and is conducted over a span of two months. Google enlists several partner open-source organisations such as Wikimedia and Drupal to coordinate with students for various tasks of categories including coding, documentation, research, design and quality assurance. At the end of the competition, each organisation selects two students as Grand Prize Winners.



Narendra Mehrotra

Google has invited Sachin to their headquarters in California later this year to receive the award. Congratulations Sachin

Secondary Trips Week – February 2019

The Secondary Trips Week will take place from 10th/11th to 15th February 2019. An information session was held for all M4 – D1 students on 29th November. Detailed information has been shared with all students and parents. If you have not received any information or have queries, please contact Mr. Melvin Kumar at melvin.kumar@stonehill.in

M4, M5 and D1 Examinations

The MYP eAssessment for M4 and M5 will be held on 11th, 15th and 16th January 2019.

The D1 examinations will be held on 11th, 15th, 16th and 17th January 2019.

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.**

Introducing

Each week we feature a Stonehill Teacher in our weekly bulletin. This week we interviewed PYP Teacher, **Ron Gresham**.

Qualification and certifications:

M.Ed., US Teaching Certificate

What do you teach at Stonehill?

Primary Visual Arts.

Where are you from and where else have you lived?

I was born in the US. I have also lived in Perú, Canada, Indonesia, Cambodia, China and now India.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I wanted to do something meaningful that would have a positive impact.

What is your educational philosophy?

Educators are here to empower students to develop, with confidence and joy, as their individual best selves.



Ron Gresham

What made you choose Stonehill?

I chose Stonehill because of the strong Primary leadership and approaches to learning at the school.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is seeing students empowered to develop their own ideas and express their creative voices with confidence. It's fun to make a big creative mess with the students in the art room, too!

What are your hobbies and interests?

I'm fascinated by different cultures, so I enjoy traveling and reading. Catching up with friends in different places around the world is lots of fun. I love making things, too.

What is your favourite book?

I have many favorites, but I think that Michelle Obama's book "Becoming" is fascinating and inspirational. For education, Todd Rose's book "The End of Average" and Tina Seelig's book "inGenius: A Crash Course on Creativity" are excellent and highly recommended.

What is your favourite music?

I grew up playing a couple of instruments and singing, so I appreciate how people make all kinds of music. I love classical, dance, new age, rock, jazz, R&B, world music, country, latin, hip hop, folk, easy listening and pop.

From the PTA

Dear Parents,

Please note that the date of 2019 International Food Fair is Saturday 2nd February. Sincere apologies for sending the wrong information before the Winter Break.

Elly Okuno

Country Rep Coordinator - 2019 International Food Fair



What is IFF?

Date: Saturday 2nd 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.

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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Reduce, Reuse & Recycle!

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

Coupon Amounts → Rs. 50