



*"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning." - T.S Eliot*

The new academic year started off with new goals, new aspirations and new opportunities. Learning from the past, accepting best practices, and putting the best foot forward make the challenge ahead less intimidating.

We are well aware of our roles and responsibilities and our accountability is not just to self, but to the society that these children will be part of in the near future.

The complex world that is awaiting for these young, vibrant and enthusiastic learners is always evolving. Jobs that are prevailing now will disappear sooner than expected. The challenge that is ahead of us then is to prepare our children for life and not for careers. Educating the parents on this trend is definitely not an easy ride. The Monthly Buzz thus play a crucial role in talking to you about "what now" and "what next"

We look forward to your continued support, advice and as always, your constructive feedback.



### **SNIS Academic Leadership Team**

(Mr. Rajesh Vasudevan (Head of School Senior & Middle, Ms. Lakshmi Reddy-Academic Director & Trustee, Mr. Gnana Durai-Activities Coordinator  
Mr. Kapil Mehrotra- Head of Primary)



ISSUE 1 AUGUST 2017



*"August rushes by like desert rainfall,  
A flood of frenzied upheaval,  
Expected,  
But still catching me unprepared."*

The month of August was action packed. From setting the right pace to establishing the Student Council, August kept all of us on toes.

- ♣ Parent Orientation Day- 05 August
- ♣ First Day @ School- 07 August
- ♣ Independence Day- 15 August
- ♣ Investiture Ceremony- 19 August
- ♣ Clubs On the go 21 August

A detailed report on all these events are present in the following pages. You may also log into our website and our Facebook page for instant updates.

Website:

<http://snis.edu.in/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/snis.edu.in>

## Parent Orientation Day

The first Parent Orientation on the various segments of students' school life was held on Saturday, 5 August 2017. A day-long event was enthusiastically attended by parents from across the PYP, Middle and Senior school.

The session started with our Academic Director Ms. Lakshmi Reddy's insightful overview of the School's Vision and Philosophy, the new Leadership Team, and an over-all synopsis of the Academic Life. In her presentation greater emphasis was placed on building the correct pathway for our students once they graduate from our school. Mention was also made on the initiatives for the current year and plans for the upcoming years.

This was followed by a detailed presentation by our Head of Middle and Senior school Mr. Rajesh Vasudevan. The relevance of international curriculum, its future scope and the necessity to revisit our pedagogical framework was discussed during his presentation Mr. Rajesh also presented his mission for the Middle and Senior school.

Mr. Kapil Mehrotra, our Head of Primary School gave a very structured and meaningful presentation to the parents on how he envisages his program for the 2017-18

academic year. The presentation was greatly appreciated by the parents for they received a lot of clarity and details on the PYP program and its transition to the next level.

Our Activities Coordinator, Mr T Gnana Durai, presented to the parents, activities and initiatives that he and his team have planned for the whole year. A detailed presentation on the various clubs, the house system and after school activities gave a sense of reinforcement to all the parents.

Post lunch, Mr Ramesh, our IGCSE coordinator gave a very succinct presentation about the IGCSE program at SNIS. This helped our parents assist their wards with the right subject choices.

There was a separate session for the Resident students and their Parents by Mr Rajesh who is also our Dean of Pastoral Care. The interactive session with the parents, students and pastoral staff gave a new dimension to the entire presentation.

The Parent Orientation Day launched the beginning of a successful journey for the entire SNIS community.



## **Children return to an exciting 'first day back at school'**

Equipped with new bags and their newest back-to-school uniforms, students entered SNIS on Monday, 7 August 2017 with mixed feelings of excitement and curiosity.

The students were welcomed with an array of cultural events, games, music and dance organized by the teachers. Lot of crying, lot of laughing, lot of murmuring and lot of nothing, made a perfect preface to the numerous exciting days to come. It is never a Back to School, but a Back to Home for all at SNIS.



## **Independence Day**

Independence Day celebration at SNIS was not just a tribute paying ceremony but the remembrance of great sacrifices urging young and old alike to shoulder greater responsibilities of Nation Building, upholding the core Indian values. Our Academic Director, Ms. Lakshmi Reddy unfurled the National Flag amongst great fervor and zeal.



The cultural extravaganza designed and staged by the four houses was definitely a treat in every sense. The patriotic sentiments need for ethos were delicately yet powerfully prompted by all.



## ***Investiture Ceremony @ SNIS***



The investiture of the First Students' Council was a solemn function in the morning of 19 August 2017. With an air of pride, the Captains designate led by the School Captain Ms. Chandana Lakshmi N took the oath of office.

The School Appointees, Ms. Chandana Lakshmi, School Captain, Ms. Suhani Sudhakara, Boarding Prefect, Master Supanut, Sports Captain, & Ms. Ruchita Sai, Activities Captain, were given the official titles by our Academic Director, Ms. Lakshmi Reddy.

Managing Director of SNIS Trust, Mr. Nagaraj Reddy installed the four House Captains and our Head of PYP, Mr. Kapil Mehrotra installed the PYP representatives.

Mr. Rajesh Vasudevan, Head of Senior School and Mr Kapil Head of Primary, addressed the Student Council.

Students dressed in resplendent house colors, cheering as their captains were appointed, added to the grandeur of the event.

### **Student Council members**

School Captain- Ms. Chandana Lakshmi

Boarding Captain Ms. Suhani Chandrasekhar

Sports Captain- Master. Supanut

Activities Captain- Ms. Ruchita Sai

### **House Captains**

♣ Sequoia – Master Gaurav Narasimha

♦ Aspen- Master- Kanchanuch

♦ Magnolia- Ms. Rita Joanna Durai

♣ Juniper- Master Pranava Shrisai Gande

### **PYP Representatives**

♣ Sequoia- Ms. Kaitlynn Maria Fernandez

♦ Aspen- Ms. Akshara Harini Gande

♦ Magnolia- Master Samuel Samarth Ramesh

♣ Juniper- Master Akshay Sankar



## **School House System**

Since time immemorial, trees have elegantly and kindly provided food, shelter and the air we breathe. Their strength, beauty and stillness symbolise the magic and wonder of life. With its roots burrowing deep into the soil and its branches rising to the Heavens, the tree is universally seen as the symbol of the connection between Earth and Heaven. The four elements are to be found in the tree: Water circulates in its sap, Earth becomes part of its body through its roots, Air feeds its leaves, and Fire is produced by rubbing its sticks together. The many symbolic representations of trees are all related to the notion of the living cosmos in a state of perpetual regeneration. Their annual cycle is associated with the natural development of life, death and regeneration. Trees symbolize life in continuous progression- the ultimate seat of all wisdom.

**Juniper House-** The Juniper tree has long been recognized as one of the most powerful of all fairy tales trees. In the language of flowers Juniper symbolizes perfect loveliness, beauty and protection and was said to have sheltered the prophet Elijah when he was fleeing from Queen Jezebel. Legends of old tell us "Frau Wachholder" the Jupiter tree goblin, could be invoked to make thieves return stolen goods to their rightful owners. Juniper is a fabled symbol of great Journey, having taken many twists and turns, and being capable of staying true to yourself and never compromising your integrity.

**Aspen House-** The Aspen, considered part of the poplar family, has a habit of shimmering or quivering in the breeze making whispering sound. The Aspen's root is rarely killed during a fire, and Aspens are generally the first trees to grow in a burned out area. Aspen wood is very lightweight when dried, becoming very buoyant and was therefore a popular choice for oars and paddles and also was used to make arrows in medieval times. In many cultures and religions the wind is associated with the "Voice of Spirit," and in the boughs and leaves of the Aspen, the wind finds a distinctive voice to inspire those who would listen with patience and sensitivity.

**Magnolia House**- The magnolia tree was named after the French botanist Pierre Magnolia in the 1600s. Magnolias are a striking variety of flower because the magnolia blossoms are so large. The flower is associated with nobility, perseverance, dignity and a love of nature. The magnolia tree is a symbol of magnificence because of its impressive height and enormous flowers. The green magnolias represent pride coupled with vigor and affluence.

**Sequoia House** – The first reference to Sequoias appeared in the early 1800s when an explorer named JK Leonard stumbled upon them. The Sequoia's remarkable longevity prompts many to call it a “Tree of Life.” In fact, they seemingly share elements of human development. For instance, their three main systems of root, trunk and branches seemingly parallel human development of body, psyche and spirit. The Sequoia is an emblem for stretching your limits and reaching to be the best you can be.

## House Masters

### Aspen House



Dr.KunalPal  
Chemistry Teacher

### Juniper House



Ms. Lolita  
Home Room Teacher

### Magnolia House



Ms. Dimple Saluja  
French Teacher

### Sequoia House



Mr. Reshigesh.G  
ICT Teacher

**Welcome** to the first issue of SNIS PYP Monthly Buzz which communicates about the exciting things happening in the Primary Years Program. Through this newsletter as a medium, we are covering and communicating about the core aspects of the IB PYP and its methodology and different activities happening in the classrooms. Please have a glimpse of the activities below grade level wise.

### Friendship - Grade1

Our first unit of inquiry is about “Friendship”.

Students created a friendship web which helped them to bond with each other as it was their first week of school.

As they inquired into the need for friendship they worked in pairs to present a role play depicting caring, sharing, help, fun and play.

They also interviewed children from the other grades to find out about the need for friendship.

Children have been caring and open minded towards their friends. They are able to solve small conflicts that occur at times. Making of friendship bands brought in a lot of excitement. It is great to see them bond with each other and show the attitude of being empathetic.



## **Math**

In Math the children have been exploring the 2D shapes.

The treasure hunt activity conducted to find the 2D shapes in the class room environment made the students to identify the shapes and connect it to real life objects.

Students learned numbers by connecting numbers on the board and using the snake and ladder mat.



## **Journeys - Grade 2**

Students of grade 2 are learning about “Journeys and Explorations”.

An activity called “Show & Tell” was conducted in the UOI period in which students were asked to talk about a vacation or a trip by sharing pictures and artefacts that they brought back from the trip or anything or object that reminded them of the trip.



## **Place Value**

While studying the topic “Place Value” students used manipulatives like beads and Blocks to understand numbers till thousand.



## **Peace & Conflict - Grade 3**

To delve deeper into our first line of Inquiry "Causes of Conflict-Local and global", the teachers wanted children to first understand the meaning of local and global.

The children were divided into mixed ability groups and given a set of country names along with an atlas/world map to locate the countries where there has been a conflict. As they moved ahead they kept pinning the countries with a red pin.

At the end of the activity, they were able to make connections that apart from India and Pakistan a lot of other countries in the world also have faced conflicts of some kind. The children showed lot of enthusiasm throughout the activity.



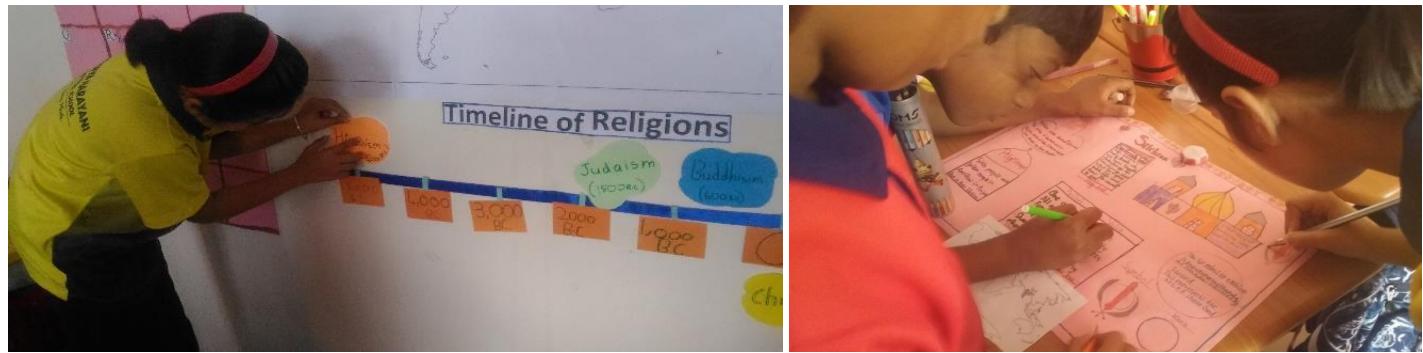
## **Religions - Grade 4**

Students of Grade 4 are inquiring about "Religions"

As a provocation, they did an activity called "I see-think-wonder" using artefacts from various religions.

This made them inquire about the use of artefacts and its importance among religions, gods, temples and the beliefs that are followed in different religions.

Delving further into the inquiry, students chose a particular religion and used resource books and internet to learn more details like place of origin, time of origin, founder, holy book, celebrations, place and method of worship, pilgrimage and the symbols of the religion. They presented this information through an information text in the form of a poster



## **The Human Body - Grade 5**

The inquirers of Grade 5 have been exploring into the wonders of human body systems!

Intricate anatomical features of the human body systems and the way in which they interact together have made our pupils stand in awe of the creator of this masterpiece!

The uniqueness and complexity of human body system has made the little brains delve into an in-depth inquiry of malfunctioning, which led to an action plan of bringing awareness to healthy lifestyle in our community!



## **Skill Development - Nursery**

It was the very first week of schooling for the tiny tots of SNIS. During this settling down periods, lots of fine motor development activities were conducted. Our nursery students enjoyed doing activities which involved pasting, colouring and art work.



## **Math & Phonics - K1**



*Children enjoyed counting numbers on the number cubes and learned associating their values*

*Children displayed creativity by exploring colourful two dimensional shapes to make different geometrical forms and figures.*

*Children learnt different phonic sounds with various craft activities which included tearing and pasting*

## **Our Identity - K2**

Students of Kindergarten 2 are discovering all about themselves under the Unit of Inquiry “Our Identity makes us the way we are”.

Circle time activity in morning helps them to learn about feelings, body parts etc.

They are learning to identify their names and to introduce themselves.

They are able check each other's height and compare who is taller and shorter. They are integrating these topics to pre-math concepts like big, small, long, short, tall, while comparing and having discussions with peers.

They are trying to express themselves through various mediums like songs, illustrations, discussions, etc.

In language, they are exploring letter names and their sounds along with the objects beginning with the same sound.



This is our earnest endeavor to update you with the events and activities of the Primary School that happen every month. Ranging from academics to co-curricular, this newsletter provides you an album of student life. Being the first issue, we have touched upon few general events that are part of the whole school; however in the coming months, you will get to see a kaleidoscope of episodes from the Primary School.

For all your enquiries related to:

- Academics, please write to, Mr Kapil, our Head of Primary: [kapil.mehrotra@snis.edu.in](mailto:kapil.mehrotra@snis.edu.in)
- For activities, please write to Mr Gnana Durai, our Activities Coordinator: [gananadurai.t@snis.edu.in](mailto:gananadurai.t@snis.edu.in)
- To Contact, Dean of Pastoral Care (Boarding related issues) : [rajesh.vasudevan@snis.edu.in](mailto:rajesh.vasudevan@snis.edu.in)
- Our Academic Director can be contacted at: [Lakshmi.reddy@snis.edu.in](mailto:Lakshmi.reddy@snis.edu.in)

# Monthly Buzz

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