



NORTHFIELDS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 17th: Mental Health Workshop Trip to Le Bocage Year 11
- 18th: Humanities Exhibition Upper Primary
- 18th-20th: Year 10 Camp
- 19th: Coffee Morning Year 10-13
Primary School Principal Parent Meeting
- 24th: Eco Awareness Activities
- 25th: Parents Consultation Year 11&13
- 25th: Approach to Learning Workshop
- 27th: Pre-Nursery Parent Consultation
- 31st: Halloween

NOVEMBER

- 4th: Family Fun Day and Sports Festival
- 7th: IBDP Information Session Year 11
- 8th: Mental Health Awareness Day
- 9th: Primary Section Coffee Morning
- 10th: Diwali Celebration
- 14th-17th: Anti-Bullying Week
- 16th: IBDP Subject Choice Evening Year 11
Primary Parent Education Session
- 17th: Inquiry Based Learning Session
- 20th: World Children's Day
IGCSE Information Session for Students Year 9
- 21st: IGCSE Information Session for Parents Year 9
- 22nd-24th: Year 9 Camp
- 23rd: University Fair
- 27th: Orphanage Donation Pre-Nursery to Year 4
- 28th: Parent Consultation Year 9 & 12
Parent Consultation CH/LP/UP
- 30th: IGCSE Exam Procedure Evening
Coffee Morning

DECEMBER

- 1st: Delivery of Grocery Bags to Charities
Pre-Nursery Christmas Celebration
Primary School Swimming Gala
- 4th: Old Age Home Music Concert
- 5th: Christmas Carols TBC
- 4th-5th: Year 5 Camp
- 6th-7th: Year 6 Camp
- 6th: Pre-Nursery Graduation
CH & LP Christmas Show
- 7th: Secondary School Swimming Gala
- 8th: End of Term

HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

This academic year has begun with great optimism and engagement from our staff and students as we look forward to meaningful learning and achievement for all. We have welcomed many new staff and students to all sections of the school, and they are making a wonderful contribution to our community already.

Our Pre-Nursery and Primary children have now settled in at every level under the experienced guidance of our new Principal, Ms Samantha Streak, and her team of caring teachers. All sections are nearly full or full, so we anticipate a steady year ahead with our current students and teachers. We are also welcoming our new French teacher and two additional teaching assistants in Lower Primary after mid-term to complete our team and build on our projects going forward.

Our Secondary students have also settled in well with their learning in the MYP/IGCSE and the DP over the first half-term. Our Secondary School Principal, Mrs Kirsty Daby, and her team have ensured that the learning programmes are progressing according to plans. We have recruited a number of new teachers for this year who are contributing fully to high quality teaching and learning throughout the programmes to enable our students to achieve their full potential. Learning has been rich both in the classrooms and out, with successful lessons, activities, trips and camps as you will read more about here in this newsletter.

Our staff have been engaging in professional development at school, online and through face-to-face sessions here and abroad. Training has focused on safeguarding, information security and IB teaching and leadership. We also look forward to our focus on building on our common understanding of Global Citizenship throughout the year with our staff, students and parent community. All of these areas of growth are in line with our school's current CIS accreditation project, and we are pleased that this process has allowed us to make meaningful progress as a school.

Finally, we are very fortunate to have the support of our parents and our active Parent Committee in particular. So far this year, the Parent Committee have focused on setting up their communication networks, and we are aiming to build parent participation in the Primary School to match that of the Secondary School this year. Now we are looking forward to the second half of term with several key activities, including the upcoming Family Fun Day and Sports Festival and our Holiday charity efforts. Thank you for your collaboration as parents through these impactful projects and the ongoing support of our school community.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our Newsletter, which highlights just some of our students' many endeavours so far this year, as we look forward to their continued learning and activities that lie ahead.

Mrs Phyllis Philogène
Head of School



Alumni Reunion

We are thrilled to announce the resounding success of the first-ever Northfields Alumni Gathering, an event that filled our campus with laughter, memories, and the spirit of togetherness.



This gathering was more than just an event – it was a testament to the enduring bond that ties all Northfields alumni. As we move forward, we are excited to nurture and strengthen this community, fostering connections that go beyond time and distance. With the launch of our alumni network, we are committed to providing a platform where our alumni can stay connected, share experiences, and contribute to the growth of the Northfields legacy.



We believe that each one of our esteemed alumni, has a unique story to tell and a valuable role to play in shaping the future of Northfields. We invite all alumni to join us in our journey by participating in school events, workshops, and mentoring opportunities. Your insights and experiences can truly inspire the next generation of Northfields students.

Founders' Day



On Wednesday 27th September we celebrated our annual Founder's Day and prize-giving for school year 2022-23.

This event annually recognises the achievements of the previous academic year in all areas of school life showcasing our values of excellence and honour.

This year school leaders from the student and staff body joined prize-winners in the hall together with parents and the guest of honour, CEO of C-Care, Mrs Helene Echevin who shared her thoughts on the key requirements for success. Mrs Echevin also shared her experiences of resilience in her career as an example to our students of how perseverance and commitment are required for progress.

During the ceremony we were also treated to the musical performances

of the choir following their recent success performing with the Drakensberg Boys Choir School as well as a violin performance from Grace from Year 8.



Our musical talent is certainly growing under the leadership of Head of Faculty, Ms Farla Ribbonaar. We recognised the success of our respective IBDP and IGCSE examination students including the top achievers in those examinations, Jayden Rungasamy (IBDP) and Aryan Jugbandhan (IGCSE) as well as the academic success of our students in Years 7-10 who excelled in their respective year groups.

With many students receiving multiple awards, it is clear to see that we have many positive role models at the school whom we are extremely proud of.





Teachers' Day

The Year 12 students organised a wonderful treat for teachers and staff, marking a memorable Teachers Day in 2023. They invited teachers to a special breakfast, where teachers were able to indulge in pastries, fruit salad, and cake as a token of appreciation from the students. This thoughtful gesture was a celebration of the dedicated educators at our school.



In addition to the breakfast, the students had thoughtfully prepared activities for the form classes, fostering a sense of camaraderie and celebration. They also put together a display board dedicated to teachers and staff who play an important role in the day-to-day running of our school.

The Year 12 students would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this event a success, for example, Year 11 students contributed with providing some of the food for the event.

On Teacher's Day the students wanted to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the teachers and staff. They would like to say thank you to the teachers and we appreciate you all!



EVENTS

Cross Country

The Interhouse Cross Country event took place on Tuesday 19th September at the DDL sports fields. The races were 1.8km to 3.5km over quite testing terrain.

Every student did their best and were happy to receive orange slices upon their arrival at the finishing line.



The final results were as follows:

1. Eagles – 676
2. Dolphins – 645
3. Phoenix – 630

Race Winners:

YEAR 5/6

Girls: 1. Zoe Lane; 2. Melodie Cornish; 3. Sienna Woolridge
Boys: 1. Scott Shaw; 2. Clement Felicite; 3. Hilton Hardy

YEAR 7/8

Girls: 1. Sasha Gobin; 2. Aleksia Morgensen; 3. Caprice Rahme
Boys: 1. Amaury Thomas; 2. Samy Iraqi; 3. Jacob Freed

YEAR 9/10

Girls: 1. Sienna Hardy; 2. Dakota Lai; 3. Sienna Landman
Boys: 1. Henco Uys; 2. Ladis Ridgeway; 3. Daniel Charoux

YEAR 11 – 13

Girls: 1. Capucine Piat; 2. Tiffany Stewart; 3. Ophelie Desmarais
Boys: 1. Jonas Domun; 2. Oscar Jalon; 3. Samuel Strauss-Rhodes



Drakensberg Boys Choir

On Wednesday 20th September evening, The Drakensberg Boys Choir arrived in the North for the 2nd leg of their tour to Mauritius. The boys and staff were housed by IPS and Northfields parents and staff who graciously welcomed them into their homes.



On Thursday 21st September, the Northfields Performance Choir rehearsed with Drakies in preparation for their performance of the Friday 22nd at MGI. On Friday the Drakies performed for Years 8 – 10 at Northfields and then our Years 5, 6 and 7's joined IPS for a performance in their hall. As a special treat, the choir took a walk to visit the littlest members of our Northfields family performing two songs for our Children's House and Lower Primary School children.



International Peace Day

International Peace Day, observed worldwide on September 21st calls for global unity and the end of conflict. At Northfields, we took this opportunity to instill the values of peace and harmony in our youngest learners.

The day's activity centred around a simple yet profound idea: handprints of harmony. Each child had a plain white t-shirt as their canvas, symbolising the purity of their intentions for a peaceful world. Armed with paints, the pre-nursery students eagerly dipped their tiny hands into colors that represented peace, unity and love.

The magic unfolded as each child pressed their painted handprint onto their t-shirt. The children's laughter and enthusiasm filled the room. This activity aligns with the Montessori philosophy, which places emphasis on the importance of fostering peace in the hearts of children. Maria Montessori herself believed that "establishing lasting peace is the work of education".

As the t-shirts dried, the class engaged in a discussion about the significance of peace. Simple, age-appropriate conversations about kindness and sharing resonated deeply with the little hearts.

By nurturing the ideals of peace, love and unity in our children, we sow the seeds for a brighter more harmonious world.



PRE-NURSERY

International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day, observed on September 8th, serves as a global reminder of the importance of literacy as a fundamental human right and a pathway to personal and societal growth. At Northfields Pre-Nursery, we took this occasion to create an interactive and culturally enriching experience for our Pre-Nursery students.

On the day, each child was encouraged to bring a book from their home collection to share with friends. This diverse selection of books exemplified the richness of cultural backgrounds within our school community.

As the young readers gathered in a cozy circle, the magic of literature began to unfold. The atmosphere was filled with the joy of discovery as they turned the pages, explored vibrant illustrations and listened to the stories read aloud.'



World Child Health Day



World Child Health Day, observed globally on October 1st, serves as a reminder of the importance of ensuring the health and well-being of our youngest members of society. At Northfields, the Pre-Nursery took this opportunity to impart a vital lesson on dental care. Our young students were encouraged to bring

their toothbrushes to school and the highlight of the day was the practical demonstration of brushing teeth. This hands-on activity not only reinforced the importance of good oral hygiene but also allowed the children to practice a valuable life skill. Opening and closing toothpaste covers and taps might seem like small tasks but they are significant for the development of fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and most importantly, independence.

The young learners left school that day with brighter smiles and a deeper understanding of how they can take charge of their own health and well-being.

Our Montessori Children

At Northfields Pre-Nursery, our Montessori classrooms is where the magic of early education truly comes to life. These little learners, just beginning their educational journey, are the future stars of our school community and they never cease to amaze us with their boundless curiosity and zest for learning.

Maria Montessori's philosophy guides us every step of the way, fostering independence, nurturing a love for exploration and instilling a deep sense of respect for themselves,

others and their surroundings. The Pre-Nursery class is a bustling hub of activity where young minds are engaged in purposeful play and discovery. From arranging colourful beads, to exploring the sensory wonders of sandpaper letters, each activity is thoughtfully designed to lay the foundation for lifelong learning.

A strong emphasis is also placed on character development where we encourage kindness, sharing and empathy.



Founders' Day in the Primary

This year marked a significant milestone as the Primary Section celebrated Founders' Day for the very first time, from nursery to Year six. It was a day filled with joy, smiles, and the essence of togetherness, reflecting the spirit of the school's rich history and its commitment to nurturing young minds for the past 22 years.

A simple, children-led ceremony was organized, providing an opportunity for our children to lead and shine. A heartfelt thank you goes to our Year 6 storytellers - David, Amelie, Zoe, Isaac, and Melody, for reading us the imaginary tale called "The Magical Island School: The Tale of Northfields International School." Their animated storytelling skills captivated the attention of all. The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the debut performance of the Upper Primary Choir. Their beautiful voices filled the air as they led us in singing a cheerful birthday song to Northfields, marking its 22 years of successful educational journey. As the ceremony concluded, delicious muffins were enjoyed by all, bringing smiles to every face and adding a sweet note to the celebration.

The Founders' Day celebration serves as a reminder of the school's solid foundation, the community it has built, and the countless lives it has positively impacted. We look forward to celebrating many more years of success, growth, and learning at Northfields.



Roald Dahl Day

Every year, the magic of Roald Dahl's words comes to life in schools across the world, and this year was no exception for our lower and upper primary students.

From Matilda's fierce intelligence to the Twits' zany antics, our students donned a delightful array of costumes, embodying their favourite Dahl characters with gusto. Behind every vibrant costume was a world of planning, brainstorming, and creativity. And for that, a heartfelt thank you goes out to all the parents.



International Chocolate Day



Coinciding with our Roald Dahl celebrations, our children's house communities added another layer of sweetness by celebrating World Chocolate Day.

But instead of indulging in sugary treats, our students embarked on a culinary journey to create delicious yet healthy chocolate-inspired snacks.

International Sign Language Day

The beauty of language is its diversity, its ability to connect, and its power to communicate. At our school, we always strive to celebrate this richness, and this was beautifully evident on International Sign Language Day. Spanning from our bubbly pre-nursery kids to the enthusiastic upper primary students, the entire section learnt about the silent yet powerful language of signs.

One of the most vital lessons of the day was teaching all our children the globally recognized sign for asking for help. In a world where sometimes words fail, and voices go unheard, this simple gesture could be a lifesaver.

Emphasizing its importance, we made sure every child mastered it, ensuring they could both use it if

needed and recognize it in others. Let's continue to champion the cause of inclusivity, understanding, and global communication.

After all, when we equip our children with the tools of understanding, we're not just teaching them a language; we're teaching them empathy.





The world of Cavemen

Year 4 students dove deep into the world of Cavemen with a captivating display! Under the guidance of Miss Audrey, students from Year 4 embarked on a fascinating journey back in time to explore the lives of ancient cavemen. The recent display they crafted sheds light on the intriguing lifestyles of these prehistoric humans.

The students discovered that cavemen led simple yet challenging lives, adapting to their environment for survival. Cave paintings, more than just primitive artwork, served as crucial communication tools, helping them to convey messages and narrate tales of their experiences.

Fire played an essential role, not just as a source of warmth in the cold, but also in various daily activities. The invention and use of rudimentary tools stand testimony to their ingenuity. With these tools, cavemen hunted animals and foraged for plants, their primary food sources in an era devoid of modern conveniences like grocery stores. Interestingly, many cavemen preferred residing in caves adorned with stalactites. Such locations provided additional layers of protection against the elements and potential predators.

This article draws insights from an interview with a Year 4 student involved in the project. Their passion and enthusiasm highlight the effectiveness of an active learning approach, proving once again that hands-on experiences can be more impactful than traditional learning methods.



International Peace Day



On Peace Day 2023, our primary section burst forth in a plethora of activities that were not just beautiful in essence but also profoundly meaningful.

In the children's house and lower primary, the spirit of Peace Day was brought to life through art. The corridors and classrooms transformed into vibrant galleries, displaying an array of artworks. Each stroke of paint, each hue, each artistic choice was reflective of a child's understanding and vision of peace. Miss Audrey, with her boundless passion and commitment, played a pivotal role during these art lessons. Under her guidance, our lower

primary students delved deeper into the theme, exploring the nuances of peace and expressing them on paper. The artwork they produced was not just visually stunning but also evocative, making all who viewed it pause and reflect.

Peace Day isn't just another event in the Montessori calendar; it's a reiteration of Dr. Montessori's vision. Dr. Maria Montessori, a stalwart advocate for peace, firmly believed that the road to a harmonious world is paved with education. In her own words, "Establishing lasting peace is the work of education." On Peace Day, our activities and endeavors were rooted in this very philosophy.

I-DEA : Building an Inclusive Tomorrow, One Fingerprint at a Time

In the ever-evolving tapestry of our global community, the importance of inculcating values of diversity, equity, and anti-racism cannot be stressed enough. Through the I-DEA initiative — an approach rooted in the principles of the Council of International Schools (CIS) — our young learners learnt to understand their unique roles in weaving this intricate tapestry.

The children embarked on their first project under the I-DEA banner. Symbolically powerful and beautifully simple, each child shared a fingerprint. This humble mark, something so distinct to each individual, became the cornerstone of a profound realization.

Despite the evident uniqueness in each print, there was an overarching similarity — every child had a fingerprint. This paradox, that we are all unique yet strikingly similar, opened up a world of discussions. The I-DEA initiative, through such engaging projects, seeks not just to impart knowledge but to foster understanding. As the children engage in discussions about diversity, equity, and anti-racism, they are laying the foundation for a more inclusive, empathetic, and harmonious society. They are becoming ambassadors of change, ready to challenge biases, question prejudices, and champion the cause of inclusivity.



Meet the Team



Meet our Northfields Upper Primary Team for 2023 - 2024 (L-R): Leiticia Firjhun, Gyanisha Geerdharry, Anouk Dalais, Fabienne Riviere, Jennifer Perdrau, Charlene Schoeman and Seran du Preez. Together, these dedicated and passionate teachers have created a warm and nurturing environment in which our Year 5 and 6 children will blossom.

We have so enjoyed the first few weeks with them and are looking forward to a fantastic academic year together.

Upper Primary Choir

Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do! The newly formed Upper Primary Choir had their first choir practice in the music room on Tuesday 12th September.

Filled with the excitement of being part of something special, the children sang absolutely beautifully, their heavenly voices filling the air.

Mr. Patten, Mrs. du Preez and Ms. Fabienne cannot wait for the next practice, and we are sure the students feel the same!



UPPER PRIMARY

Roald Dahl Day



A Whimsical Celebration of Imagination: Roald Dahl Day 2023

Roald Dahl once said, "Those who don't believe in magic will never find it."

On 13 September 2023, Northfield's Upper Primary transformed into a realm of pure imagination as it celebrated Roald Dahl Day, paying tribute to the beloved author who has enchanted generations with his fantastical stories.

The day offered attendees of all ages an opportunity to relive the magic - including the teachers, who were all dressed up as The Witches!

It was a great day for all.



Sign Language Day

During our PSHE lessons the Year 5 and year 6 students celebrated International Sign Language Day. The students discussed why this day is celebrated and its importance.



Learners were placed in groups and had fun collaborating and discovering the hand signals and signs for animals. The students also explored the alphabet in sign language and demonstrated various sentences in sign language to the rest of the class.



Career Guidance Sessions

The Year 11 pastoral team has recently organized career guidance sessions during homeroom time for our amazing Year 11 students. These sessions provided valuable insights and guidance to help our students explore various career paths and make informed decisions about their future. We are committed to empowering our students and preparing them for success in the ever-evolving job market. "The future depends on what you do today." – Mahatma Gandhi



Odd Socks Day

As part of our I-DEA campaign, (Inclusion via Diversity/Equity/Anti-Bullying and Anti-Racism) students and staff wore odd socks to show their solidarity of each other as well as recognising that we are all different. In homeroom time, students made posters to show the negative effects of bullying and the impact it may have on children.

Northfields has made a commitment to ensuring that all students feel secure and happy within their community.



Meraki Entrepreneur Programme



We are excited to have completed what has been an incredible five years of the Meraki Entrepreneurship Programme. As a result of their creativity, tenacity, and continuous commitment, the participants have pushed their limits. We would like to start off by congratulating this year's Meraki Entrepreneurship Programme winning team Top Form and the runner-up, Eco CompactTable.

As a result of your dedication, creativity, and original thinking, you have distinguished yourself. While we celebrate the success of the winners, we must equally recognise the enormous challenge that our distinguished judges had in determining the winners. This edition's tremendous talent pool and high bar for idea quality faced judges with a formidable task when narrowing down the field. Choosing winners is never easy, and the judges' commitment to equity and quality in their deliberations was admirable. Keep in mind that no matter how prepared or

unprepared you were in the Meraki Entrepreneurship Programme, you are a winner in your own right. Every one of them had to overcome fears and doubts to take the plunge into entrepreneurship. In a relatively short amount of time, they undertook an adventure of self-discovery, ingenuity, and resilience that resulted in a company's strategies and solutions.

Expect even more breakthrough ideas and ground-breaking achievements from the next round of the Meraki Entrepreneurship Programme. This message will not be fulfilled without thanking Mr. Jason Barr for his continuous support in preparing our students.

All of the winners, runners-up, and judges deserve our sincere congratulations. You are a shining example of the entrepreneur mentality, and your successes are proof of what can be accomplished when drive and enthusiasm come together.

Chocolate Day

As part of the Word Chocolate Day, Northfields celebrated friendship and tolerance by sharing chocolate in each year group. It was a moment of common sharing of positive moments and positive feelings for the community. As part of homeroom, students and homeroom teachers shared fun facts about chocolate. Needless for us to say, sharing chocolate is an intense moment of pleasure and we all had fun exchanging our nut free treats.





National Dance Championships

Northfield's own Sona L. recently participated in the South African National Dance Championships after a very successful year of World Trial Circuit competitions, where she qualified in the Top 5 to represent her country in Hip-Hop dance at the IDO World Championships in Poland.

Sona is currently ranked 3rd in SA for her solo, 1st with her small group and 1st with her formation team.

This is the 2nd time Sona has received the illustrious Protea Sportsperson award, the highest honour for a sportsperson in South Africa. Sona has also received her Gauteng Provincial colours for the 5th time, twice this year for 2 individual leagues.

All the best for the World Championships Sona!



Kids MBA

On Wednesday 6th September 2023, the school welcomed Mr Dorasami from Kids MBA. The session was on how young people can create a business and the importance of digital learning. The theme was how to unleash the entrepreneurial spirit. It was an interesting discussion with insightful ideas. Thank you to Mr Dorasami and his team.



Camps

YEAR 7

We were happy to see our Year 7 students go off to camp for 2 days. Initially the weather was great, but then it started raining. Despite this, the Year 7's braved the bad weather and had lots of fun.



off with refreshing dips in the pool. We also delved into Mauritius' rich history at the Mahebourg Museum. Another highlight was our visit to the local Bazaar. This immersive experience allowed us to engage with Mauritius' vibrant culture, shop for souvenirs, and savor delicious local cuisine. One of the most memorable moments was the "slippery tug of war" challenge, which had us laughing, slipping, and pulling together as a team. We supported each other, celebrated victories, and shared hearty laughter, creating cherished memories of camaraderie.

YEAR 8

It is camp season and we were very happy to see our Year 8 students away for 2 days on their camp. Team building exercises and fun activities have been well organised. They had lots of fun. Perfect weather and perfect location.



On our final night, after a delightful dinner, we were treated to a captivating Segga performance. The rhythmic beats and vibrant dance brought a joyful conclusion to our journey as we twirled and swayed under the starlit sky.

Our time at Nativ Lodge Camp was not just an adventure; it was a valuable educational experience that allowed us to explore the island, strengthen our bonds, and leave with lasting memories of an exciting and culturally rich journey."

By Julie Kwan -12H

YEAR 12

We were happy to send off our Year 12 students for their camp at Nativ Lodge for 3 days. Here is a little recap from one of our student:

"These three days in the South were truly unforgettable. Our days were packed with excitement as we raced kayaks on the tranquil lake and cooled



A big thank you to all the Year Group Leaders and homeroom teachers for their support.



Beach Clean Up



We would like to thank our community of staff, students and parents for their participation in our annual clean-up. We were very happy to have contributed to this great cause. We were able to collect over 20 bags of rubbish.



Melville beach is a lovely area and we were very happy to have contributed to restoring the environment. A big thank you to Jessen, our Eco-Coordinator, and Wade, our Facilities Manager, for the wonderful organisation.



From the very outset of this academic year, it became abundantly clear that the examination boards had reverted to the pre-Covid grade boundaries. This adjustment has placed a renewed emphasis on academic excellence, challenging our students to reach even loftier standards. It didn't take our students long to recognize the need for increased dedication and a deeper understanding of their subjects to attain top-notch results. Their initial challenge was to cultivate resilience and unwavering determination in the face of these higher expectations.

We are truly confident that our students will rise to these challenges with remarkable courage and unwavering perseverance. They have taken time to thoroughly contemplate the new standards and are actively working towards achieving greater heights. This process involves a deeper understanding of their subjects, and they understand that consistency and motivation are the cornerstones of success.

Our students are fully committed to maintaining discipline and honing their time management skills to reach their objectives.

Our students are currently engaged in a rigorous academic and holistic program that demands a multifaceted approach to success.

They are not only honing their academic skills but also developing into well-rounded individuals. This holistic approach is designed to nurture their motivation, encourage them to be risk-takers, and foster a collaborative spirit among them. Our students understand the importance of seeking support and helping each other along this challenging journey towards academic excellence.

We eagerly anticipate accompanying them on this transformative journey, watching them gain confidence in their own abilities and become more attuned to the world around them and the people within it. This process will not only result in academic achievement but will also instill a deeper awareness of themselves and their place in the global community.

As they continue to develop, we are excited to see how they will contribute positively to the world in the future





Service as Action

This half-term, we encouraged and guided our students to complete their first services for the academic year. They were taught how to record the experiences with Service Learning that they have had outside school, so that they could reflect on them. For example, during their Homeroom time, Year 9 students shared and discussed their different services as well as the skills they have acquired. While some volunteered with NGOs, others found it more interesting to join animal rescue teams.

Younger students were also more involved in school events. Some Year 7 students contributed to the remarkable decorations for the Ganesh Chaturti festival and for World Peace Day. Together with senior students, they transformed the CAS board into a beautiful assemblage of colours and positive messages. Year 8 students made posters with creative slogans, promoting peace and diversity within the school and wider communities.

Additionally, Year 7 and 9 students showed great enthusiasm in planning surprises for their Homeroom Teachers. With the help of school ambassadors, they prepared tokens of appreciation for their tutors on the 5th of October. This was led mostly by the class leaders who showed their management skills while planning the event.

For the second half-term, we would like to involve younger students even more in all our school events, hence ensuring that they always have active roles within the school community and embrace the values of Northfields High School. With Divali, our Sports Festival and Christmas coming up, we are certain that it is going to be an exciting and enriching half-term for our young learners as they continue their Service as Action and Service-Learning programmes.

For the first part of the term, the school has run information sessions on Service action for parents and teachers. The personal project coordinator has also been in contact with the parents to support students with personal projects and has been organising catch up sessions for students if they needed extra support with their projects. Nevertheless, there has been a common question from our community, and this is how the MYP framework can co exist with the IGCSE examinations. I have tried to elaborate on this link below.

The Middle Years Programme (MYP) plays a vital role in preparing students for their subsequent educational journeys, particularly the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the Diploma Programme (DP). Through its core components, the MYP equips students with essential skills, knowledge, and attitudes that serve as a strong foundation for success in higher levels of education. Let's explore the importance of the MYP in this regard:

1. Holistic Development:

The MYP focuses on the holistic development of students, nurturing their intellectual, social, emotional, and physical well-being. This comprehensive approach ensures that students acquire a well-rounded skill set and develop a balanced understanding of various disciplines. By promoting critical thinking, research skills, and effective communication, the MYP equips students with the tools they need to excel in their IGCSE and DP studies.

2. Approaches to Learning (ATL):

A core component of the MYP, the ATL framework emphasizes the development of essential skills that are transferable across subjects and contexts. Students learn how to effectively manage their time, set goals, collaborate with others, and think critically. These skills are invaluable in the IGCSE and DP programs, where they are further honed and put into practice. The ATL framework ensures that MYP students are well-prepared for the rigorous academic demands they will encounter in their future studies.

3. Learner Profile Attributes:

The MYP's learner profile attributes,

such as being open-minded, reflective, and principled, contribute to the overall character development of students. These attributes foster a sense of responsibility, ethical awareness, and an appreciation for different perspectives. Such qualities are not only essential for success in the IGCSE and DP programs but also for becoming well-rounded individuals who positively contribute to their communities and the world.

4. Interdisciplinary Learning:

The MYP encourages interdisciplinary learning, where students make connections between different subjects and explore real-world issues from multiple perspectives. This interdisciplinary approach mirrors the nature of learning in the IGCSE and DP programs, where students are expected to think critically and draw upon knowledge from various disciplines. The MYP's emphasis on interdisciplinary learning prepares students to navigate the interconnectedness of knowledge and develop a holistic understanding of complex concepts.

5. Research and Inquiry Skills:

Research and inquiry skills are fundamental to success in the IGCSE and DP programs. The MYP equips students with these skills through its emphasis on investigation, analysis, and independent research. MYP students learn how to formulate research questions, gather and evaluate information, and present their findings effectively. These research skills are invaluable as students progress to higher levels of education where they are required to conduct in-depth research and produce extended academic papers.

In conclusion, the MYP serves as a crucial stepping stone towards the IGCSE and DP programs by fostering holistic development, promoting essential skills through the ATL framework, cultivating the learner profile attributes, encouraging interdisciplinary learning, and developing research and inquiry skills. The MYP's comprehensive approach equips students with the tools, knowledge, and mindset necessary to thrive academically and personally as they embark on their educational journey beyond the Middle Years Programme.





Parents Committee

At Northfields, we believe in the power of community and one of the driving forces behind our vibrant school spirit is our dedicated Parent Committee. This wonderful group of parents play an integral role in organising various events and activities that enrich the school experience for our children. If you are interested in joining the committee, please send an email to Mandy at mandy.arazym@northfields.school

The Parent Committee is gearing up for an exciting lineup of events in the coming months and they can't do it alone. Your participation can make a significant impact on the success of these activities. Here's a sneak peek at some of the fantastic events they have in store:

Halloween Bake Sale (31st October)

Get ready for some spook-tacular treat! The Halloween Bake Sale promises to be a delight. It is a perfect opportunity to showcase your baking skills while contributing to a fun-filled event. More information will be sent.

Family Fun Day (4th November)

Mark your calendars for a day of fun and games. The Fun Day on November 4th is all about creating lasting memories. More information will be sent.

Grocery Bag Collection Drive

We firmly believe in giving back to the community. The Grocery Bag Collection Drive is a heartwarming initiative that will benefit those in need. More information will be sent.

Old Age Home Concert

Sharing is caring and this event embodies the spirit of giving. The Parent Committee and our students are planning a special concert at an old age home by bringing the gift of music and companionship to the residents. More information will be sent.

Orphanage Donation

Our commitment to making a positive impact extends to orphanages as well. Our students will have the opportunity to participate in collecting and delivering donations to support children in need. More information will be sent.

FROM THE COUNSELLOR'S COUCH

Peer Mediation

Peer mediation offers important strategies for critical thinking and productive problem solving, and fosters an empowered sense of self in students as well as opportunities for contributing to the overall school climate. Conflicts are normal and inevitable parts of our lives. Students are bound to have conflicts with peers over the course of their school careers. These conflicts do not have to ruin, take time away from academics or lead to violence. A peer mediation program is an effective way to decrease the levels of tension and empower the students to better deal with the difficult situations they experience at school, and later as members of society. During mediation two students (prefects) who are trained as a neutral third party help other students in conflict get clear about their concerns, and better understand one another, and come to a mutual agreement about how to handle their issues. Using conflict resolution skills and the peer mediation process, students can begin to see conflict as an opportunity for growth and learning.

Listening well is important to understand and better provide a framework for empowering students to reconnect as human beings and teaches appreciation for different perspectives. The Chinese character

for the verb –to listen, gives us some insight into what is required in the listening process. It explains the difference between simply hearing and truly listening. Mediation can help alleviate the sense of powerlessness that some students feel and can help turn a difficult situation into a time of mutual growth and understanding for disputants. Research tells us that a sense of belonging is important in how students behave and treat each other, and by having a peer mediation program in place it helps schools to become safer and more respectful learning environments. Students become more actively involved in transforming a school climate by becoming agents of change.

5 STEPS TO PEER MEDIATION		
Peer mediation is a process where trained students act as neutral mediators. These students work with peers to uncover the root of causes of their disputes and decide on fair ways to resolving a conflict.		
1 Parties agree to mediate		Peer mediation is all about mutual respect, cooperation and understanding. Parties mutually agree to mediate their problems, so everyone starts out on a level playing field.
2 Parties tell stories		Mediators let parties share their side of the story. The goal is to get both sides so the mediator can best understand the problem.
3 Parties focus on interest and needs		Parties focus on what's needed for resolution and what their interests are. These will look different from what educators or other adults might consider.
4 Mediators work on win-win situation		Mediators work on finding solutions that benefit and work for both parties. This helps make sure everyone leaves feeling validated.
5 Parties evaluate options and create agreements		Parties work together with the mediator to create an agreement on next steps and how to resolve the conflict.

Peer Mentors

Peer mentors can provide practical and emotional support to pupils who are struggling with a lack of strategies for mental health. They can offer guidance on how to cope with difficult emotions and situations, signpost young people to appropriate sources of support, and act as a sounding board for ideas and concerns. As well as being beneficial for those who receive mentoring, peer mentoring can also have a positive impact on the mentors themselves; helping them to develop leadership skills, empathy, and confidence.

Benefits of Peer mentoring:

1. Creates a positive ethos through the whole school community
2. Helps break down barriers between different year groups
3. Promotes and encourages friendships
4. Increased confidence and self-esteem
5. Increased Mental Well-being
6. Low level behaviour is identified and dealt with before developing further
7. The Peer Mentors gain valuable, transferrable skills for life
8. Mentees receive a valuable support network



Student Representative Council (SRC)

In October, we had our first SRC meeting with all the representatives across the school. The students are determined to represent the voice of the students and will be working on a number of interesting initiatives this year.



Student Well-being

Northfields has a dedicated Student Life and Well-Being Team who oversee the pastoral education of all our students. Each year group has a dedicated Year Group Leader who monitors the academic and pastoral progress of each child.

All Year Group Leaders work closely with our School Counsellor to ensure that students are supported in their education. We believe in a holistic approach to learning and as such, the school has a specialised Wellness Programme which allows for students to develop other necessary skills in preparation for the challenges of the outside world.

Through guidance in global citizenship, careers, well-being, Model United Nations and our Eco-Schools, we aim to provide learning opportunities which will enable our students to reach their full potential.



Gastroenteritis

Following the recent outbreak of gastroenteritis around the island, here are some information to help understand and treat this disease.

Gastroenteritis is a very common condition that causes diarrhoea and vomiting. It's usually caused by a bacterial or viral tummy bug.

It affects people of all ages, but is particularly common in young children. Most cases in children are caused by a virus called rotavirus.

Gastroenteritis can be very unpleasant, but it usually clears up by itself within a week. You can normally look after yourself or your child at home until you're feeling better. Try to avoid going to your General Practitioner (GP), as gastroenteritis can spread to others very easily.

Symptoms of gastroenteritis

The main symptoms of gastroenteritis are:

- sudden, watery diarrhoea
- feeling sick
- vomiting, which can be projectile
- a mild fever

Some people also have other symptoms, such as a loss of appetite, an upset stomach, aching limbs and headaches.

The symptoms usually appear up to a day after becoming infected. They typically last less than a week, but can sometimes last longer.

What to do if you have gastroenteritis

If you experience sudden diarrhoea and vomiting, the best thing to do is stay at home until you're feeling better.

There's not always a specific treatment, so you have to let the illness run its course.

You don't usually need to get medical advice, unless your symptoms don't improve or there's a risk of a more serious problem.

There are things you can do to help ease your symptoms.

- drink plenty of fluids to avoid

dehydration; you need to drink more than usual to replace the fluids lost from vomiting and diarrhoea – water is best, but you could also try fruit juice and soup

- take paracetamol for any fever or aches and pains
- get plenty of rest
- if you feel like eating, try small amounts of plain foods, such as soup, rice, pasta and bread
- use special rehydration drinks made from sachets bought from pharmacies if you have signs of dehydration, such as a dry mouth or dark urine
- take anti-vomiting medication (such as metoclopramide) and/or antidiarrhoeal medication (such as loperamide) if you need to – some types are available from pharmacies, but check the leaflet that comes with the medicine; you can also ask your pharmacist or GP for advice about whether they're suitable

Gastroenteritis can spread very easily. You should wash your hands regularly while you're ill and stay off work or school until at least 48 hours after your symptoms have cleared, to reduce the risk of passing it on.

Please seek medical advice for any further concern.



Full article at:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/stomach-liver-and-gastrointestinal-tract/gastroenteritis>



We are thrilled to introduce the latest additions to our team who bring fresh perspectives, unique skills, and boundless enthusiasm to our school. Join us in extending a warm welcome to our new staff members as they embark on this exciting journey with us!

PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF



Samantha Streak
Primary School Principal



Charlene Schoeman
English and Humanities Teacher



Thasmi Seenauth Jhugoroo
French Teacher



Leiticia Firjhun
Teaching Assistant & French Teacher



Drishti Moonesawmy
Teaching Assistant



Melissa Pallavee Savan
Teaching Assistant



Meenakshi Kasseean
Childcare Practitioner



Kelly Leung Kai
Childcare Giver

SECONDARY SCHOOL STAFF



Akash Caultychurn
English Teacher



Jared Yuille
English Teacher



Lisa Speville
French Teacher



Christelle Gamet
French Teacher



Elisa Antoinette
Mathematics Teacher



Nivesh Alleemun
Mathematics Teacher



Tricia Ka Niouk El Maraki
Computer Science Teacher



Anna Berg
Humanities Teacher



Mohsina Bibi Ibrahim Joomun
Economics and Business Studies
Teacher



Manish Beeharry
Design and Technology Technician



Eswar Gungaram
Biology Teacher



Rishta Gunga-Unt-Wan
Learning Support Assistant



Varusha Modely-Mooneesawmy
Learning Support Assistant

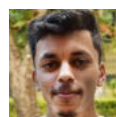


Quinton Ribbonaar
Learning Support Assistant

NON-ACADEMIC STAFF



Varuna Ujoodha
School Nurse



Sarvesh Mohabul
Safety and Health Officer



Gaveshta Uppiah
Lab Technician



Vivek Seelochun
Network and System Administrator



Anoushka Leshneeka Dahoo
Accounts Officer