

# GD GOENKA WORLD SCHOOL

Gurugram, Sohna Road  
an IB and Cambridge International School

# IB PYP newsletter

## Message from Principal Ms Sonali Sinha

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers,

As we embrace the joys of spring and embark on the new session, I commend our community for its resilience and dedication. April has brought us numerous opportunities for academic growth, extracurricular achievements, and international collaboration. We've celebrated our successes, supported one another, and remained focused on our shared goal of excellence in education. Amidst ongoing board exams, our approach is to tackle challenges with determination and confidence, knowing that hard work pays off, truly embodying our commitment to learning and growth.

I'm delighted to share the success of the PYP Coffee Morning with parents, which fostered a warm atmosphere of connection and sharing.

Additionally, meeting with new students has been enriching as we welcomed them into our vibrant community.

Our successful immersion programme continues to promote cultural understanding and personal growth, while our initiatives for World Earth Day and Labour Day underscore our commitment to sustainability, environmental awareness, and communal harmony. Lastly, our ongoing Bhutan immersion programme not only provides students with invaluable experiences and insights but also fosters a deep appreciation for cultural diversity and environmental stewardship, shaping them into well-rounded global citizens.

**Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm. Here's to a fulfilling and productive month ahead!**



## Message from PYP Coordinator Ms. Poonam Singh

Dear parents,

As we embark on a new session of the Primary Years Programme, I want to take a moment to extend a warm welcome to all of you.

I want to express my gratitude for entrusting us with the education and growth of your children. Throughout the year, your child will engage in a dynamic and inquiry-based curriculum designed to stimulate curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity. Our dedicated team of educators will guide them through a wide range of learning experiences, encouraging them to explore, question, and discover the world around them.

As partners in your child's education, your involvement and support are invaluable. I encourage you to stay engaged with your child's learning journey, communicate regularly with their teachers, and participate in school events and activities whenever possible. Together, we can create a strong and supportive community that nurtures every child's potential.

Let's embark on this journey of learning, growth, and discovery, and make it a truly memorable and rewarding experience for all.



# GRADE NURSERY

**TD Theme-** Who We Are

**Central Idea:** Exploration of our body helps to understand ourselves

**LINES OF INQUIRY:**

**LOI 1:** Role of our body parts

**Key Concepts:** Function

**ATL's:** Communication skills, Self Management Skills- Gross and Fine motor skills

**Attributes:** Caring, Open Minded, Inquirers, Reflective



## A quick peek into learning-

Our little ones embraced their new school with open arms, leaving their handprints as a first mark. They joyously explored, engaging in games, nature walks, and creative activities. Through action rhymes, they learned about their body parts, crafting and identifying each one. They expressed affection with wide hugs, measuring their warmth with paper strips and traced hand cutouts. Through painting, coloring, and playful challenges, they honed both fine and gross motor skills while fostering communication with peers and teachers.

# GRADE

**TD Theme:** Who We Are

**Central Idea:** Communities influence the beliefs and values of an individual.

**LOI 1:** Role of family and friends

**LOI 2 :** Beliefs and values within a family

**Key Concepts:** Function, Perspective, Responsibility

**ATL's:** Communication skills (Exchanging Information )

**Social Skills** -(Developing positive interpersonal relationships and collaboration skills )

**Learner Attributes:** Caring, Balanced and Principled



## A quick peek into learning-

Students embarked on an exciting journey this month! Transitioning from Nursery, children were engaged in settling down activities and they built friendships through games. Circle time introduced crucial class agreements, while our unit on "Family and Friends" sparked creativity through drawing and family rhymes. Block painting sessions brought forth stunning portraits, and lively discussions deepened the understanding of familial roles. Using play dough, students crafted beloved family members, merging fun with learning while focusing on gross motor skill development and reinforcing past learnings for a comprehensive educational experience.

# GRADE 1

**TD Theme-** Who We Are

**Central Idea:** Interpersonal relationships influence wellbeing

**LINES OF INQUIRY:**

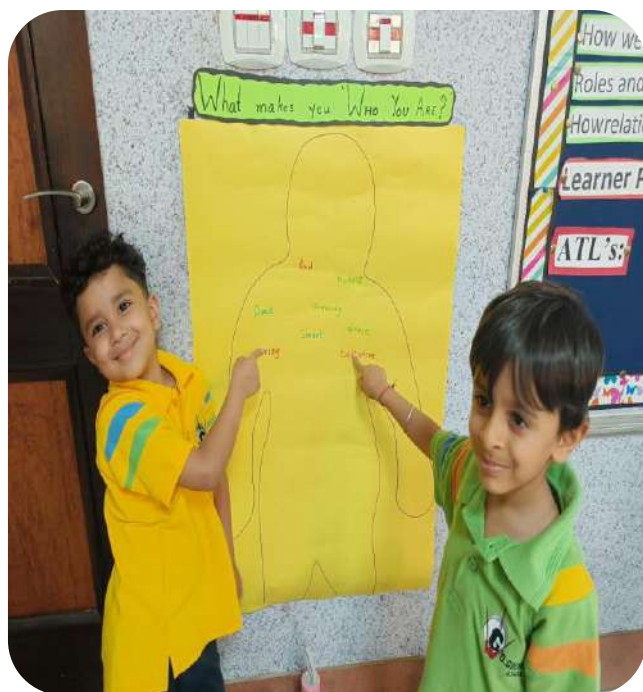
**LOI 1:** How we develop/build relationships (Connection)

**LOI 2:** Roles and behavior within relationships (Function)

**Key Concepts:** Function, Perspective, Connection

**ATL's:** Communication skills, Social skills

**Attributes:** Open Minded, Balanced and Courageous



## A quick peek into learning-

Under the theme "Who We Are," children explored relationships through storytelling and drawing their family members. Pre-assessment involved discussing various types of relationships through brainstorming. They began their inquiry by creating relationship trees, sorting close relationships within circles and others outside. Exploring ways to build and foster relationships, they learned about the significance of connections in their lives. Communication skills were enhanced through discussions, drawing, and presentations, fostering social skills as they made new friends. They demonstrated attributes of open-mindedness and courage in forming new friendships and listening to others.

# GRADE

# 2

**TD Theme:** Who We Are

**Central Idea:** The choices people make play a vital role in health and well being

**Lines of Inquiry:**

Components of Food

Consequences of choices we make

**Concepts:** Form, Causation

**ATL's developed:**

Thinking(Analyzing and Evaluating ideas), Communication(Reading, writing, Speaking), Research(Gathering data)

**IB Learner Profiles developed:**

Thinker, Reflective, Knowledgeable.



## A quick peek into learning-

Students initiated their exploration of food by brainstorming and categorizing items into Healthy and Unhealthy groups. They engaged with books and utilized visible thinking routines to demonstrate understanding. Hands-on activities involved sorting food items into categories like Carbohydrates, Proteins, Fats, Vitamins, and Minerals. They delved into the consequences of dietary choices through the lens of Causation, reflecting on their daily routines. Investigating the food pyramid, they gained insights into balanced diets, fostering attributes of a Thinker and Reflective learner while enhancing research skills.

# GRADE 3

**TD Theme:** Sharing the Planet

**Central Idea:** Change in the attitude towards minimising waste may lead to a sustainable environment

**Lines of Inquiry:**

Sources of Waste

**Concept:** Form

**ATL's developed:** Thinking Skills (Reflection and Transfer skills), Communication Skills (Literacy skills, Exchanging information), Research skills (Information Literacy skills)

**IB Learner Profiles developed:**

Reflective, Inquirer, Knowledgeable



## A quick peek into learning:

Students commenced their exploration of waste with a nature walk to identify waste in their surroundings. Through a mind map, they discussed different types of waste on the planet. They delved into the consequences of choices regarding waste under the lens of Form, watching videos to understand waste sources. Utilizing a visible thinking routine, they reflected on their evolving understanding. Hands-on activities involved categorizing waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable types, enhancing understanding through real-time observations. They developed attributes of Reflective and Inquirer learners, sharpening their thinking and research skills.

# GRADE

# 4

**TD Theme:** Sharing the Planet  
**Central Idea:** Children across the globe may face different challenges that affect quality of life

**Line of Inquiry:**

**LOI 1 -** Reasons behind the challenges children face

**IBPYP Concept-** Causation

**ATL's developed:** Research Skills (Information literacy skills), Communication Skills (Exchanging information and Literacy skills) and self management skills (States of mind)

**IB Learner Profiles developed:** Open minded, Caring, Principled



## A quick peak into learning-

The unit commenced with a brainstorming session on "Challenges," where students created a mind map to list synonyms and identify local and global challenges. Using the See-Think-Wonder VTR, they tuned into the unit by examining pictures of global challenges. Deconstructing the central idea, they mapped the unit to the appropriate TD Theme. Through e-learning, students delved into Sustainable Development Goals, exploring related information via passages and videos to identify goals concerning children, such as no poverty, quality education, and gender equality.



# GRADE 5

**TD Theme:** Where we are in place and time

**Central Idea:** Awareness of continuous change in nature of the Earth helps human survival

**Line of Inquiry:**

1. Continuous changes in Earth's structure (Change)

**Concept-** Change, Form

**ATL's developed:** Research Skills (information literacy, media literacy, Communication Skills (exchanging information and literacy), self-management, Communicator, Inquirer (organization)

**IB Learner Profiles developed:** Knowledgeable



## A quick peek into learning-

The month began with discussions on all six TD themes and various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mapping them with the themes. Students contributed to choosing the TD theme for the PYP exhibition. In the first unit, they formulated a central idea with keywords, developed lines of inquiry, and connected them with PYP concepts. For the tuning-in activity, they imagined themselves as astronauts and created comic strips depicting Earth from space. They demonstrated communication skills while presenting their strips. Further exploration involved researching Earth's structure, presenting findings, and creating models depicting its layers. They also watched a video on the theory of continental drift and reflected on it using a VTR.



# SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

## HINDI

**Grades 1 and 2:** Students recapped the concepts covered in the previous grades. Grade 1 students learned the greetings in Hindi, and Grade 2 students learned and recited the poem "Titli Rani".

**Grades 3-5:** Students reviewed the concept of "matras" through the 'Barakhadi'. They were introduced to naming words (nouns) and engaged in related exercises. Additionally, they read storybooks to enhance vocabulary and reading skills.



# SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

## ART

**Nursery:** With the aim for young learners to freely express their thoughts and ideas and develop their fine motor skills, freehand drawings and coloring activities were conducted to lay the foundation.

**K.G:** To ignite creativity and stimulate imagination, learners participated in a hand-tracing activity. They traced around their hands to create various hand art drawings.

**Grade 1:** Students delved into exploring and experimenting with a variety of lines, culminating in the creation of artwork utilizing diverse line styles.

**Grade 2:** A discussion was facilitated on the significance of experimentation and creativity in art, focusing on various line types and patterns. Students explored how lines and patterns enhance visual appeal in artworks.

**Grade 3:** A discussion was facilitated about the different techniques and strategies used to create overlapping shapes and patterns. The discussion explored how overlapping shapes can be used to create complex patterns. Learners experimented with different techniques for overlapping shapes and created visually interesting patterns within their compositions.

**Grade 4:** Learners experimented with basic painting techniques such as color mixing, brushwork, blending colors, creating texture, and using different brush strokes. Basic painting techniques such as color mixing, wet-on-wet painting, and dry brush techniques were demonstrated. Learners were encouraged to experiment with each technique.

**Grade 5:** Explore the concept of One-Point Perspective with a Fish Aquarium. Learners demonstrated an understanding of the One-point perspective principle, including the horizon line, vanishing point, and converging lines. They were engaged in a brief discussion about different types of fish and underwater environments. Images of various fish species and coral reefs were shown to inspire creativity.



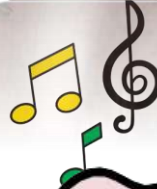
# SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

## MUSIC

### Vocal Music-

To bridge the gap between the different levels of singers, students from Grades 3 to 5 practiced several breathing techniques such as Anulom Vilom and Wim Hof, and worked on ear training exercises including pitch recognition, pitch identification, and pitch mimicking. They were taught the song "Do-Re-Mi" to learn Solfege notes.

Nursery and KG students were taught several songs that utilize movement and vocalization. This helps them learn how to use vocal and tongue muscles, as well as enhances their vocabulary and focus.



### Instrumental Music-

The focus was on building strong musical foundations for students in Grades 3-5. Discussions were held to explore what music means to each student before introducing the fundamental concepts of music and its elements. Basic musical elements were taught to enable students to understand and identify them in songs or instrumental pieces. Additionally, they were introduced to rhythmic musical notation, which will aid them in learning, hearing, thinking, reading, and discussing rhythm.



# SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

# DRAMA

Nursery and Kindergarten students explored emotions, while students in Grades 1 to 3 performed poems. Students in Grades 3 to 5 worked on creating and analyzing scripts. The goal was to boost creativity, communication, and confidence in students' acting skills.



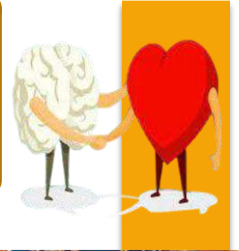
# SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

## PE

In the hustle and bustle of our modern life, students practiced standing yoga asanas. This helped them develop self-awareness and gain a deep understanding of their emotions.



# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING



A key element of the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum is self-awareness. It's important to understand how one's own values, beliefs, and interests shape who they are as an individual. Students participated in activities that supported the development of a positive attitude towards themselves by helping them see themselves truthfully and with a balanced perspective on their strengths and limitations.



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

On April 23rd, 2024, our school joined the global celebration of World Copyright Day with enthusiasm and creativity. From Nursery to Grade 2, each level engaged in activities highlighting the importance of respecting intellectual property rights. Nursery captivated us with a charming storytelling of "The Tortoise and the Hare," while KG brought "The Hungry Caterpillar" to life through enchanting enactments. Grade One delved into the classic tale of "The Enormous Turnip," igniting imaginations. Grade Two wrapped books and dove into reading sessions, fostering a culture of appreciation for original works. These engaging activities not only entertained but also instilled in our students the significance of honoring creators' rights. As a community, we celebrated creativity and emphasized the importance of protecting and respecting original works on this special day.

## World Book & Copyright Day



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## Earth Day

On Earth Day, April 22nd, 2024, we made an unwavering commitment to end the usage of plastic for the sake of humanity and planetary health, demanding a 60 percent reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040.

Earth Day serves as a reminder of the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability, encouraging us to come together and take action for a healthier planet and brighter future. Through various activities, we aim to raise awareness, inspire change, and foster a deeper connection with nature.

As Goenkas, we join hands with the world in efforts to protect the Earth today and for the generations to come. Together, we can make a meaningful impact and create a more sustainable world.

From nursery to grade 1, children used old t-shirts to make cloth bags, aiming to reduce the usage of plastic bags. They also watched videos to understand the hazardous effects our planet is facing.





# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## Coffee Morning

The first Coffee Morning of the session took place on April 13th, 2024, inviting parents to discuss crucial topics regarding their children's well-being and education. The main focus was on educating parents about the detrimental effects of excessive screen time on the health of younger children. Through collaborative efforts, the school shared and discussed the homework policy, allowing parents to provide their input and suggestions. Their valuable insights were incorporated wherever possible, fostering a partnership between the school and parents to create a supportive and conducive learning environment for the children.



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## Table Etiquette

A table etiquette session was conducted to teach students fundamental manners and behaviors to follow during meal times, fostering respect and consideration for others. Students learned to sit upright, use cutlery properly, and chew with their mouths closed. They were guided not to hold any conversation with a full mouth. The session aimed to instill lifelong habits of courteous dining behavior and promote a positive dining experience for all.



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## Welcome Assembly

Excitement filled the air as students returned for the new session! The Welcome Assembly set an inspiring tone, while Nursery to grade 2 students commenced their day with Zooming Fun: a vibrant balloon painting activity, fostering new friendships with splashes of color. Additionally, a delightful photo booth captured memorable moments. As part of the commitment to reading, Goenkans embraced the “Reading More Pledge” and received beautiful bookmarks. Here’s to a fantastic year ahead!



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## New Student's Interaction

Building Strong Student-Principal Connections for Academic Success at GDGWS! Establishing strong connections between students and the Head of the institution is paramount for academic and social growth. During this engaging session led by Mrs. Sonali Sinha, school Principal, new students were welcomed warmly and put at ease, facilitating their smooth transition into our school community. Research underscores the importance of positive relationships between students and mentors, which significantly contribute to academic success. At GDGWS, we're committed to fostering a supportive and relational atmosphere where every student can thrive!



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## Bhutan Immersion Program

**Bridging Borders: GDGWS Hosts Educators from Bhutan for Immersion Programme** At GDGWS, we're dedicated to creating a dynamic global educational environment. It was an honor to host a distinguished delegation of educators from Bhutan for an immersion program from April 16th to 19th, 2024. During their visit, the educators engaged with our senior management team, gaining insights into our operations and observing classes across all segments. They actively participated in planning meetings, assessments, and shadow teaching experiences, immersing themselves in our best practices. Our students had meaningful cultural exchanges with the delegates, showcasing our school's excellence. The delegates left impressed, recognizing our commitment to academic excellence, holistic development, leadership, innovation, and a supportive environment. We gained valuable insight into Bhutan's culture, heritage, and community connections, including their Learning Fairs.

