

Wellington Weekly

October 2023 (Second edition)



Masters Voice

Dear WCI Pune Parents,

Welcome to this edition of Wellington Weekly and we trust this finds you well.

It is a great pleasure to me, as the Master, to peruse these pages and see all the excellent ongoing pupil endeavours across the whole school. As a new school, it is so refreshing to witness the activities being enjoyed by the whole community and the strenuous efforts to build the Wellington values systems and overarching culture. Of course, we have only been in operation since mid-September and we are striving for further development in all facets. Nevertheless, I wholly commend the vibrancy and richness of our educational provision that has already been established – it shines through in this insightful newsletter, on academic and co-curricular elements, and I am very grateful to all involved.

A further delight, for any Master or Head of School, involves meeting and greeting pupils and parents. I am no different. I take great pleasure in welcoming pupils to the school in the morning and, as per my life in previous school incarnations, it is a custom that I fully intend continuing as the school numbers grow significantly. From a parental perspective, it also provides an opportunity for an informal chat at the start of the day, to touch base on any issues or matters arising. I always welcome this and believe it is an essential channel of communication to develop the whole school culture.

Similarly, I have previously noted the importance of establishing forums for parental involvement and communication in Wellington. As such, I will write to all parents next week on the intention, and processes, to establish our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Indeed, we intend to create various school parental groups, beyond simply the PTA, to allow greater involvement in the operations of the school. I look forward to informing parents on this next week.

I wish you all a very pleasant weekend ahead.

Best wishes,

Dr Murray Tod

Founding Master WCI Pune

Head of Early Years

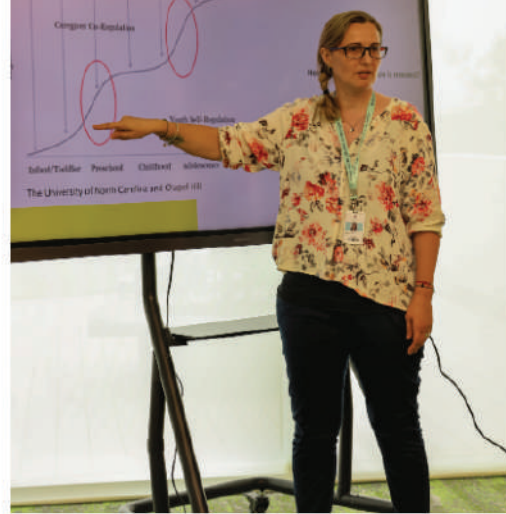


As we focus on the unique qualities each one of our children bring to our Early Years every day, we are reminded of the Wellington College Early Years Fundamentals of Learning. Every child is seen as an individual that is constantly learning and is resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured and holds the power to construct their own learning.

As Early Years Educators, we recognise that our children will only be sufficiently confident to interact with the world around them and deal with it themselves if they come from a place that is secure, supportive and full of joy. Ms Adina's session on 'Positive Parent Strategies' last week, reminded us of the essential life skill of independence, a skill that needs to be nurtured from a young age. Independence in the Early Years is a term most often meaning a range of skills such as helping children to separate from their families, eating on their own and, as important, learning how to self-regulate their emotions and think for themselves.



It has been a joy to see our confident, capable and eager to learn children, developing skills that enable them to become more independent every day. They insist on trying to dress and feed themselves, and they want to move around to explore and discover new territories in the classroom, learning village and our outdoor learning spaces; making their voices present across our Early Years.



For us as a community, we see all aspects of independence as important for our children to learn to be self-sufficient individuals. From the start of their journey with Wellington our children have rapidly made progress from their first day of school in choosing for themselves and making decisions about what they want to play with, what they like to eat and who they prefer to build relationships with. Our focus has been, and will continue to be, on providing a healthy environment where they have opportunities to do more and more for themselves consistently.



Head of Junior School



Student council is an important way that young people can engage in the decision-making process for their own school. It gives members a voice in the planning and structure of their day to day life and learning, and builds responsibility and leadership skills. For teachers and school leaders it offers valuable insights into pupil experience.

Traditionally a small number of pupils are elected to be representatives on the Student Council but, in our Junior School, all pupils are members. Meetings are held in House groups to ensure that all children are heard and leadership opportunities are provided to all pupils, no matter their age.



The first Pupil Council Meeting was held last week and provided some excellent feedback on what children love about our school (Art, CCAs and lunch!) and how we can continue to create the type of community we want. Suggestions for additions and improvement were sensible and well thought out. In assembly today I was able to provide feedback on how we can move forward to achieve their requests and suggestions and in Monday's House Prep children will begin working in groups on making their changes.



Here's a small selection of their first priorities:

- Values badges/ bracelets/ kindness tokens
- More fruit at afternoon snack
- Add a Book Club to lunch time CCAs
- Food waste collection
- More comfortable areas to read

I'm looking forward to hearing much more from our young leaders in the future.



Head of Senior School

One of the key features of a Wellington education is the important role the tutor plays in supporting the development and progress of their tutees. Each week, the tutor meets with their tutees for a twenty minutes one-to-one conversation to discuss how they are progressing in their academic subjects and co-curricular activities. Creating this space in the tutorial period presents a really good opportunity to check-in with students to see if there are any academic or pastoral concerns, which need addressing.

Fundamentally, the tutoring system is designed to help facilitate the tutees' journey to self-discovery, promoting reflection and accountability, and tutors work hard to encourage tutees to adopt a growth mindset, where setbacks and challenges are seen as learning opportunities. By taking a genuine interest in the wider life of tutees, which may include celebrating their tutees' achievements or attending their co-curricular performances whenever possible, this can help build positive relationships where students feel able to open up to discuss any issues that they may be experiencing.



All our Senior School teachers are trained in foundational coaching techniques and where appropriate they use some of these strategies as part of their toolkit to help students develop action plans for improvement. This is an essential part of unlocking students' potential, with a focus on establishing short-term goals and good daily habits to promote their progression.

In one of my previous roles as a housemaster for seven years at Wellington College UK, I have seen first-hand the profound impact an effective tutoring system can have on the tutees' development, and it is, without doubt, a key part of our pastoral provision at WCIP. We are fully committed to promoting a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment that can enable student flourishing.

Junior School Art CCA

In Junior School Art CCA, the students have been creating Indian Mandalas. They have been learning about the historical significance of Mandalas and Yantras in Hindu and Buddhist cultures, and they have applied their learning to create their own personal Mandalas with repeating and tessellating patterns.

The students have also been creating Diwali lanterns, which will be hung from the ceiling around the school for the Diwali celebrations.



Senior School Art CCA

In Senior School Art CCA, the students have been experimenting with different media and techniques week by week. So far, they have created Japanese Notan collages, learning about positive and negative space; next they created 'Neurographic' art using 'bubble printing' techniques; next they created Diwali lanterns which will be hung up around the school during the Diwali celebrations; and currently they have been creating Picasso-style masks out of layered cardboard and papier-mâché. Senior Art CCA is a great opportunity for students to bring forward their own ideas of projects they would like to work on as a group, encouraging a culture of independence and ownership.



Positive Parenting Workshop

Thank you to our founding families, educators and attendees who joined us for our first Early Years Community Information Session on Positive Parenting Strategies held on Friday, 20th October. It was wonderful to share, reflect and discuss as we explored various strategies to help foster a positive and nurturing partnership with our children at the core of all we do. Ms. Adina Curca, Early Years Class Teacher, shared her extensive knowledge and experiences, offering guidance and direction on how Wellington College Early Years work towards establishing lasting strategies on co-regulation through building strong parent-child relationships.

We look forward to hosting you at our next Community Information Session, as we continue to build a legacy of excellence at Wellington College International Pune.



Life at Wellington - Panchshil Towers



Wellington College International Pune was delighted to be invited to Panchshil Towers, on Wednesday 25th October, to present on the virtues and values of a Wellington education in Pune. Delivered by Dr Tod, Founding Master, the talk focused on the holistic nature of Wellington's provision and all the hallmarks of academic quality associated with the school. It was superb to have so many parents in attendance, in such sumptuous surroundings, and the very close proximity of the school to Panchshil Towers was at the centre of discussions. The evening concluded with an enriching Q & A session and Wellington looks forward to forging even closer ties with the Panchshil Towers Society in the future.

Upcoming Events

OPEN DAY



Meet the Founding Master, **Dr. Murray Tod** and the **Heads of School**, followed by an exclusive guided tour.

Date: **Saturday, 4th November, 2023**
Time: **10:00 am to 12:00 pm**



SCAN TO REGISTER

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