

# NORTHFIELDS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER

- 14<sup>th</sup>: Vaccination Day (online lessons)
- 15<sup>th</sup>: CAS Workshop – Year 12 & 13
- 16<sup>th</sup>: Pre-Nursery Parents' Morning
- 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>: Parents Meeting – Year 11 (online)
- 20<sup>th</sup>: Parents Meeting – Year 12 & 13 (online)
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Founders' Day
- Pre-Nursery: Parents Consultation
- Milestones Reports
- 25<sup>th</sup>: Pre-Nursery Art Morning
- United Nation Day Celebration
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Pre-Nursery: Open Morning
- Parents' Education 1: Introduction to Montessori - CH & LP
- 29<sup>th</sup>: Diwali Celebration

### NOVEMBER

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Public Holiday: All Saints' Day
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Public Holiday: Arrival of Indentured Labourers
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: School Holiday
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Public Holiday: Diwali
- 5<sup>th</sup>: School Holiday
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Dia de los Muertos
- World Diabetic Day Awareness
- 13<sup>th</sup>: World Kindness Day
- 15<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup>: Anti-Bullying Week
- 18<sup>th</sup>: Parents' Education 2: Understanding my Child 3-6 years
- 19<sup>th</sup>: TOK Workshop - Year 12 & 13
- 20<sup>th</sup>: Universal Children's Day
- 25<sup>th</sup>: Parents' Education 3: Understanding my Child 6-9 years
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Movember/CANMA Presentation
- 29<sup>th</sup>: Start Interhouse Table Tennis

### DECEMBER

- 1<sup>st</sup>: LP Parent Consultations
- Humanities Exhibition – Year 5 & 6
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Pre-Nursery: Christmas Celebration
- 8<sup>th</sup>: CH & LP: Parent Consultations - no school for students
- Parents Consultation Day–Year 5&6
- Parents Meeting – Year 9
- Interhouse Sports Festival (Basketball, Netball and Football)
- 9<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Fair
- Christmas Carols
- 10<sup>th</sup>: CH and LP Christmas Assembly
- Last Day of Term 1 - Christmas Holidays
- 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Camp (Pre-nursery-Primary)
- 23<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup>: School Closed
- 25<sup>th</sup>: Public Holiday: Christmas Day

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021



It has been fantastic to have the school community back on campus this term following our second lockdown period, even if the academic year has begun in an unusual way with staggered timetables and hybrid learning.

We have welcomed plenty of new students and staff (who are highlighted later in this newsletter) to the school this year, which is always a pleasure, and friends and colleagues who have been at Northfields for longer have been able to reconnect after several months away.

Starting the year with a staggered schedule and dealing with several self-isolation periods for staff and students over the first weeks have required quite an adaptation for many of us, and I am proud of how everyone has settled into their learning nonetheless. This shows that our learners are building a great capacity for resilience, which is a valuable trait and very encouraging to see.

Slowly but surely, we have been able to include more service and cultural activities and events into our planning. You will see from this issue of our Newsletter that we have been able to accomplish quite a bit

in these areas already, and we look forward to rebuilding this important aspect of our school more as the year progresses.

A special thank you goes to our staff for their ongoing dedication, and to our students who so generously thanked them on Teachers' Day this year. This was a wonderful gesture that truly brightened the day for us all.

I am sure that you will enjoy reading about the special things happening in every section of our school as much as we have enjoyed sharing them!

Ms Phyllis Philogène  
Principal



## BACK TO SCHOOL

After months of silent hallways and empty classrooms, it was a delight today to welcome some of our students back to Northfields based on the staggered re-entry. The extensive preparation and planning put into making school re-entry safe and welcoming is a testament to the care and commitment of all Northfields staff.



Our aim for the first day back was to normalize the school day, have students reacclimatise to the campus, and reengage positive connections with other students and staff, all of which are essential for successful learning and growth moving forwards. This seems to have been a success, despite the masks and physical distancing. It really was quite wonderful to see shining eyes peeking over the tops of masks, as students arrived ready for the new school year today.



Thank you to all for helping to prepare your children for the first day of school as this had a huge impact on helping to make today successful.

## EVENTS

### PRESENTATION FROM NATGEO

On the 26th August, Northfields had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs Danielle Zelin, a NatGeo Certified Educator from ESU Mauritius, Mr Nicholas Von Mertens and Ms Audrey Athave from the US Embassy to invite the Year 12 to #jointheadventure.



Mrs Zelin delivered an inspirational presentation about how to tell impactful and compelling stories through photography, video, audio and graphics.

Students have also been encouraged to be part of the #GenGeo family by joining online. Northfields will now create its own GenGeo family to join the fun!

### CROSS COUNTRY FINALS

Congratulations to Northfields students: Luc M. U16 - Tiffany S. U16 - Giacomo M. U14 - Ameline C. U14 - Eloise C. U14 and Melody C. U9 for their excellent performances in the Mauritius Athletics Association Cross Country Finals held at Flic en Flac public beach, on Sunday 12th September.



Our students train with the Poudre d'Or Athletics Club at Anjalay Stadium. Thank you to their coaches for the training and support. Our students displayed perseverance, discipline and community throughout this season. The final was the last leg of three in this year's league and the overall league results were also announced on Sunday. Particular congratulations to Giacomo M. as he was part of the winning U14 Boys Team and Melody C. who became the National Cross Country Champion for U9 girls.



### TEACHERS' DAY

On Friday 1st October, our Year 12 and 13 CAS came together to organise a special treat for the staff of Northfields on the occasion of Teacher's Day, which will be celebrated in Mauritius on Tuesday 5th October. Staff were spoilt for choice with the variety of goodies available to make their special day sweeter!

We would like to thank all students for their contribution in making this day memorable.



## TOK EXHIBITION

The Year 13 IB students had the opportunity to share some of their work and understanding of TOK in an exhibition held on Monday 20th September.

TOK stands for Theory of Knowledge and as part of this Core Component of the IB Diploma, students are encouraged to question where their knowledge comes from and to think critically about issues surrounding knowledge.



They are required to explore questions such as 'what counts as good evidence for a claim?' and 'in what ways do our values affect our acquisition of knowledge?'

On Monday students addressed some of these complex questions, discussing their exploration with teachers and Year 12 students. They demonstrated a clear ability to consider different perspectives, frame arguments and find evidence for their ideas.



Well done to the Year 13s for successfully completing their first TOK Internal Assessment!



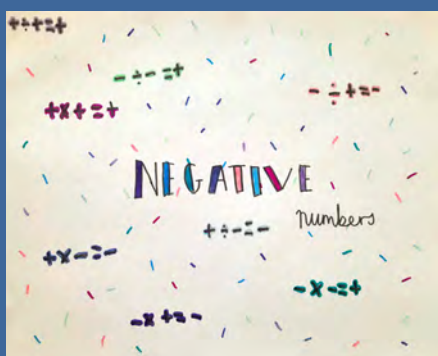
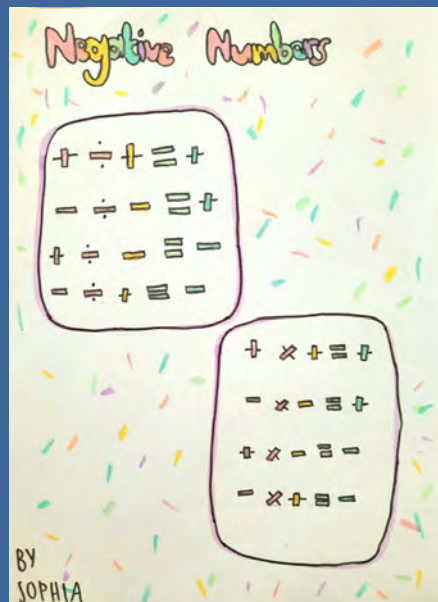
## MATHS LESSONS

In their MYP Mathematics class, Year 71 students created posters on the rules of negative numbers.

Everyone happily engaged in the activity and enjoyed being creative. The students found mathematics interesting, fun, and beautiful.

Through learning by doing, the activity also helped the learners

understand and remember better the rules of operations with negative numbers.



## BOOK DONATIONS

On the 26th August, the Librarian Helen, and two Year 12 students Jayden and Shena presented Nishta J., President of ZenfanvilaZ, and her husband Rigg N., pre-used books to be distributed to needy families in the northern region with children studying. They are also planning to make book nests in several localities throughout the northern region. For more information about their work please see <https://www.facebook.com/ZenfanvilaZ/>



Northfields was joined on the 23rd September by WFWP President Mrs. Mathur and representative Mrs. Chungto. They took away some of our old books that will be used to help students throughout the Island to further their studies. We look forward to hearing more about this initiative and hopefully more future collaborations.



## FAME LAB

Ashley Gooljar (Science Teacher) participated in this year's Famelab competition organised by the British Council and the British High Commission of Mauritius. FameLab is an international competition to find and support the world's most talented new science communicators. Participants have three minutes to win over the judges and audience with a scientific talk that excels for its content, clarity and charisma. Mr Gooljar's presentation was based on the science of chilies and the molecular pathway involved in the feeling they create. This research is not only relevant for us in how we appreciate our food, but also in opening new avenues of research for the treatment of disease. Mr Gooljar did a fantastic job and came up 2nd runner up in the competition. Congratulations!



## PEACE DAY, SIGN DAY & RECYCLING WEEK

In the Nursery and Primary, we use cultural, religious and world celebrations throughout the year to raise the students' awareness and increase international mindedness in an age appropriate way. These presentations and activities often lead to interesting questions and discussions about world events. They can stimulate further reflection and research for our older Primary students.

Recently, we celebrated Peace Day, which was based around the meaning of Peace and the understanding in child-friendly ways of the UN 2021 Peace Day Theme: Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world. We talked about kindness and forgiveness and what it means to live peacefully with each other in class, in the family and between countries. The Lower Primary prepared a beautiful display board. We used the opportunity of International Sign day to raise the children's awareness and educate them about the deaf community and the use of signing as a language of communication. The Year 2's and 3's learnt to spell out their names in sign. Marking events like this helps the children to become more socially aware and recognise the similarities and differences among us.



During Recycle Week (UK), the classes discussed the benefits of recycling as well as doing some recycling based crafts and activities. As an Eco-School, we recognise the importance of teaching the children good habits about recycling from a young age. The children loved the 'rubbish sorting relay race'. We hope that our school activities will be supported at home and that parents can get their children involved in similar initiatives at home too. These opportunities allow the teachers to link our Northfields School Values such as Community and Respect to direct action. Please ask your children about these events and encourage some discussions and actions in the home so that the students can develop compassion for others and further knowledge of the world around them. Future celebrations in the coming months include: Diwali, Dia de los Muertos, World Kindness Day, Anti-Bullying Week and Universal Children's Day.

## PROMOTING READING THROUGH ROALD DAHL DAY

Students both in school and online marked the birthday of the great author Roald Dahl on Monday 13th September. Roald Dahl's works have been translated into over fifty languages and they still hold an important place in Children's Literature across the world.

Our celebrations were marked with some fantastic and marvelous costumes: a few Willy Wonka's, Fantastic Mr Fox, many well-behaved Mathilda's, some witches, a Roly-Poly bird and even a Wonka bar with a golden ticket! Class activities centered around learning about the author's life, interesting quotes, reading texts and colouring pictures of famous characters.



We hope that through this celebration we have sparked some interest in Roald Dahl and that our more advanced readers and/or parents will pick up a Roald Dahl book at bedtime and enjoy the stories that have been entertaining children for so many years. A big thanks to Helen, the Library Officer who has been ordering some lovely new books to support us in this endeavor.



During our recent Reading and Spelling Workshop for parents, we also discussed the importance of introducing positive reading habits to our children at this time. Parents are role models therefore it is important that parents read in front of their children – we must read to them but they must also see you reading.

Please see below ten regularly identified

benefits of reading and we hope these will encourage you to get reading at home:

### Ten Benefits of Reading

1. Children who read often and widely get better at it. After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.
2. Reading exercises our brain. Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching TV, for example. Reading strengthens brains connections and builds NEW connections.
3. Reading improves concentration. Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.
4. Reading teaches children about the world around them. Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience. It makes children more empathetic; they can view the world from a different point of view.
5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills. Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.
6. Reading develops a child's imagination. As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.
7. Reading helps children to develop empathy. As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.
8. Reading is a fun. A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you take it anywhere so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag.
9. Reading is a great way to spend time together. Reading together on the sofa, bedtimes stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.
10. Children who read achieve better in school. Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

## MONTESSORI MATERIALS

In the Children's House, the Montessori methodology relies heavily on the presentation of and use of scientifically and mathematically designed educational tools.

We are pleased to have just received a large delivery of new classroom materials ordered from South Africa that will shortly be in the classes.



As Maria Montessori writes in *The Absorbent Mind*, p.25, 'He does it with his hands, by experience, first in play and then through work. The hands are the instruments of man's intelligence.'

The young child has a natural curiosity to explore the environment and therefore, in addition to being attractive and beautiful, all of Montessori's well-known teaching apparatus offers the child hands-on learning opportunities required for the child to develop his intelligence.



Practical Life activities including opening and closing bottles, threading, buttoning or pouring uses the hands.

The Sensorial Area is concerned with methods of improving the refinement of the child's senses through

the work of the hand and gives opportunities for concrete exploration and internalization of all visual and dimensional aspects needed to set a solid foundation for a mathematical mind; materials include the pink tower, broad stair, colour boxes and many more.

Language and Mathematics are both introduced with multi-sensory materials such as sandpaper letters and decimal golden beads and cards.

The self-guided learning and freedom for repetition with the materials separates Montessori from traditional learning centers and creates the optimal experience for natural development in young children.

And, more than a century later, neuroscience is filled with evidence of the strong connection between the hand and the brain.



We recommend the article 'The Work of the Hand' by Pat Ludick if you are interested in reading more about this topic.

The full article can be found at: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1077210.pdf>



## INTERNATIONAL CHOCOLATE DAY



The CH students celebrated International Chocolate Day on 13th September. The teachers spoke about the origins of chocolate, the cocoa plant and, as part of a practical life activity the children had fun preparing fruit to dip in chocolate and sprinkles.

We linked this to Roald Dahl Day and talked about the book, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

The children were all very keen and interested in today's activities and loved the eating part!



## BACK TO SCHOOL

We welcomed our pre-nursery students back on the 19th August. In our Walker class; our students were excited to be back after being separated from their friends and teachers for a long time. We also greeted our new students and families into our toddler class. As our littlest students of Northfields International School; this was a big step in starting school and learning to be away from their family during their day.

We are happy to say that they are making progress as it is about their journey as a student and a family. As we give guidance, care, and respect. We know in time they will get there, and it will be in their own time.



## INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

To commemorate International Peace Day, our youngest learners came to school on Tuesday 21st September all dressed up in the colour blue. On this day, we seized the opportunity to introduce two of our school values "Respect" and "Community" to our learners. We guided our learners in learning about friendship with "Love, Kindness and Respect" as well as how to look after their world by clearing their playground as a community. Later in the day we asked one of our walker class student's why they were wearing blue today and she replied, "My mum told me to".



## NEWS FROM THE PRE-NURSERY

From the start of our first month at school, the pre-nursery teachers worked with the developmental milestones of each learner.

A key area for our children is body awareness. Our students learn to recognise their facial features and name their body parts. Our students also learned about their image through mirror-work. They start to recognise their reflection and become aware that they have eyes, a nose and many other parts to form their own body image.



This learning is later extended as we will observe our students using these words in English and French as their communication skills develop through repetition of the work that they do at school. Our toddlers and walkers reach a major milestone when they confidently know their body parts and their facial features.

In September, our walker class studied a skeleton and learned how their body moves. They were also taught the importance of brushing their teeth, washing their hands, their bodies and the sequence in learning to use the toilet.

As a school we encourage our students in their abilities in learning that they have the skills to do things on their own, with the guidance of an adult near-by.



Before we headed into our mid-term break our walker class were introduced to some practical life skills in learning the importance of food preparation by washing their fruit and cutting it into small pieces so they could create a fruit salad to be enjoyed by all their friends.



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the key elements in young students is in developing their physical body, in transitioning from a baby to learning to walk and being stable on their feet. It is our young learners that are learning to control their large muscle groups through co-ordination, skills and repetition.

It is imperative that we give our students ample opportunity in learning these skills. The premises of the pre-nursery is designed as a whole to meet the needs of our youngest students of Northfields. As a school it is not just the focus on the classroom but the whole structure of the premises. It consists of the inside structure as well as the outside settings of the school. Part of our students routine is to spend some time outside learning about the movement of their little body. Our students outdoor space is specifically designed so that our students have ample opportunity

to run, jump, climb, crawl, swing and learn the skill of balancing. It is one of their spaces that brings sheer delight as it is seen on their expressions during their day at school.



We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to the Northfields Team this academic year.

## PRE-NURSERY AND JUNIOR SCHOOL



**KIMBERLEY PRAGASSA**  
**CHILDCARE PRACTITIONER**

Ms Pragassa has joined the Pre Nursery as our new Childcare Practitioner. She holds a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care from Curtin University through Charles Telfair Institute, Mauritius and has more than 5 years of experience working with toddlers.



**VINODA SOOKALOO (SIMLA)**  
**ATTENDANT**

Ms Sookaloo from the Facilities team is now working at the Pre- Nursery as an attendant. Last year she was working in the boarding facility in Pereybere, and we are happy to welcome her back on campus.

## NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL



**KHEEMLATA DEVI FAKUN**  
**UPPER PRIMARY TEACHER**

Ms Devi Fakun is our new Year 6 Maths and Science teacher. She holds a BSc (hons) in Chemistry from University of Mauritius and a PGCE from Mauritius Institute of Education. She has taught in Secondary Schools in Mauritius and has taught Mathematics and Science at Primary level in Seychelles.



**MEDHA SEETUL**  
**CHILDREN HOUSE TEACHER**

Ms Seetul has joined us as our newly appointed Children's House Teacher. She holds a BA in English and French from the University of South Africa and has 8 years of experience working with younger children in Mauritius and abroad.

## HIGH SCHOOL



**ASHLEY AUROOMOOGAPUTTEN**  
**MUSIC TEACHER**

Ms Auroomoogaputten has joined the Arts and Design Faculty as our Music Teacher. He holds a BA (Hons) Music from the University of Mauritius, a Teacher's Diploma in western Component as well as a grade 6 and 7 in Guitar from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM). He also has more than 12 years of experience in teaching within Mauritius.



**KATHERINE DALAIS**  
**ENGLISH TEACHER**

In September, we welcomed Ms Dalais to the Language and Literature Faculty. She has recently moved to Mauritius from South Africa, where she has taught English for 9 years as well as serving as the Information and Media Specialist for the past 3 years at her previous school.



**VIDOUSHI DAMRY**  
**LANGUAGE ACQUISITION TEACHER**

Ms Damry has been appointed as a Language Acquisition Teacher specialising in teaching English as a Second Language. She holds a BA in Humanities specialising in English and History from the University of Mauritius as well as a Master of Arts in TESOL from University of Nottingham, China. She joins us with 2 years of teaching experience.



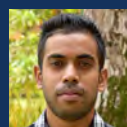
**KAREN HAMILTON**  
**ART AND DT TEACHER**

Ms Hamilton has joined the school as our new Art and DT Teacher. She joins us from South Africa and holds a Diploma in Education from the Boland Teachers Training College and a Diploma Commercial Art from the Intec College. She has more than 20 years of experience in teaching, mainly in South African schools prior to coming to Mauritius.



**JADE VANITA MYKOO – DARGA**  
**MATHS TEACHER**

Ms Mykoo-Darga is our newly appointed Maths Teacher. She holds a BSc (hons) Mathematics from University of Technology, Mauritius and she is currently completing her Master in Applied Statistics. She is very passionate about Mathematics and has developed many YouTube videos to share her passion with learners.



**DAREN MUNGAPEN**  
**DT TEACHER**

Mr Mungapen is our new DT teacher who joined the school in April 2021. He holds a BEd (Technology) from South Africa with additional honours studies in Educational Management.



**NATACHA JANZE VAN RENSBURG**  
TRAINEE GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCES TEACHER

Ms Janze Van Rensburg is a Northfields Alumna who is now joining us as a Trainee teacher whilst completing her PGCE. She holds BSc (hons) in Consumer Science (Food and Nutrition) and a MSc in Environmental Sustainability.



**JIHAAN BEEHARRY**  
SEN COORDINATOR

Ms Beeharry has joined the school as our new SEN Coordinator. She holds a BSc (hons) in Occupational Therapy from the University of Mauritius as well as a Master in Advance Occupational Therapy from the University of Salford. She has more than 9 years of experience working with students of all age groups through special education NGOs and Schools.



**JOELLE FELICITÉ**  
LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT (SEN)

Ms Felicité has joined the school as our new Learning Support Assistant. She holds a Diploma in Arts in Psychology from University of Massey and a BSc (hons) in Psychology from University of Mauritius. She has taught in secondary schools for nearly six years prior to moving to gaining 2 years of Learning Assistant experience in New Zealand.



**MELANIE SANDIFORD**  
SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Ms Sandiford is supporting the school as a full-time consultant School Counselor. She holds a BA (hons) in Psychology from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa and has more than 8 years of experience counselling internationally.

## NON-ACADEMIC



**HARRISH DALLIAH**  
CARETAKER AND MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Mr Dallah has joined the school as a Caretaker and Maintenance Assistant in the Facilities team. He has more than 20 years of experience in maintenance in a variety of sectors such as local ministries, international schools, construction and hospitality.



**SHARON GHOORBIN**  
LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Ms Ghoorbin has joined the school as our new Laboratory Technician. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Analytical Chemistry with Forensic Science from Curtin University, Western Australia. She has 2 years of experience working in laboratories in both Australia and Mauritius.



**RAJESH ROOKMIN**  
ACCOUNT SUPPORT CLERK

Mr Rookmin joined Northfields in May 2021 as our Account Support Clerk in the front office. He has completed an ACCA level 1 course and has more than 18 years of experience in the field of finance within the hospitality sector.



**PREETAM RAUMOO**  
FINANCE MANAGER

Mr Raumoo is our newly appointed Finance Manager. He holds an MA in Business Administration with specialisation in Finance from the University of Technology, Mauritius and is a fully qualified Accountant from the Association of Chartered Accountant (UK) as well as a member of the Mauritius Institution of Professional Accountants (MIPA). He also has more than 25 years of experience in finance in a variety of sectors such as construction, retail, pharmaceutical and medical.



**MARIE MICHELLE JULIANNE RATNA**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ms Ratna has joined us as an administrative Assistant to support the Library Services and the Examinations Coordination for the School. She holds a Diploma in Communication from the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and has experience working in several well reputed companies in Mauritius.