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NORTHFIELDS NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we now enter the final weeks of this academic year, we can be very happy with the progress and achievements Northfields have made over the past months. This newsletter is dedicated to celebrating many of the great things that have been happening lately around the school, with contributions to academics, sports, culture and service that are always greatly appreciated at Northfields. I am very proud that we are always striving to ensure that such engaging opportunities are available to our students, and we have even more planned for the weeks ahead.

I would like to commend all of our students for their ongoing academic progress this year. While our Prep School students have already completed their formal assessments, our Senior School students are now preparing diligently for their end of year examinations. This is an important period for our older students as they learn to manage their time and to study effectively for cumulative assessment. Our IGCSE, A-Level and IB examination candidates have benefitted from this practice and it has prepared them well for the challenging external examinations which they have been sitting over the past month. We wish all of our Senior School students the very best as they complete their respective examinations in the coming weeks.

I also must commend the outstanding contributions our staff continue to make both in the classroom and in supporting our students through the amazing variety of activities you will read about here in this newsletter. Our teachers are committed to providing quality education and this includes continually building their own skills and incorporating the best in teaching practice. Our staff also have been working hard to develop our integrated IT systems to improve lesson delivery and communication. I am truly delighted that together we have been aiming high in bringing the school forward in all areas.

Finally, I am very pleased to announce that thanks to the hard work of our staff and the strides being made by our school as a whole, Northfields has officially been granted candidacy status for implementation of the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP). This is a great step toward our aim of providing a fully holistic academic programme, incorporating the strengths that both Cambridge Assessment International Education and the International Baccalaureate Organisation provide. With this important mark of progress, along with our ongoing efforts across the school we can look forward to many great things to come for all.

Phyllis Philogène
Principal

ART WINNERS

We are very proud to announce that Hannah B. won the first prize of the "International Museum Day 2018 - Painting Competition" - A painting competition for Year 12 and 13 of State and Private Secondary Schools. She received a cash prize, an award and a certificate. Her painting is presently displayed at the National History Museum of Mahebourg. We are also happy to announce that Kim L. and Ameydi C. were proud finalists in representing our school in the Sovereign Art Competition 2018.

ESU SPELLING BEE

Dylan L., Diotime P., Maria F. and Vidia H. took part in the ESU Spelling Bee Heats on the 3rd of May. Dylan made it to the third round and Maria was eliminated only in the final round - she got very close but failed her championship word.
Congratulations to Diotime and Vidia who won in their respective categories. They will be representing Northfields in the National ESU Spelling Bee Competition on the 5th of June

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY DEBATES

Northfields was approached by Middlesex University to participate in the their first ever Interschool Debate competition. Eight schools participated in the competition. It required students from all schools to attend a training session which involved valuable advice and suggestions on how to debate effectively. Students were shown the tools they can use to ensure they leave the biggest impact. Finlay H., Meghan A., Jordan M. and Alexis H. represented Northfields impeccably.

The 18th May 2018 was the knock-out round. Two schools went head to head to fight it out for a place in the semi-finals. Northfields were pitted against St Helena school and came out on top! The topic of their debate was 'Smartphones have hijacked our lives." The semi-finalists were then given an impromptu topic, 'Computers are better for learning than books.' They had 30 minutes to prepare their points and deliver their presentations. This time, Northfields was debating against St Andrews, who they successfully eliminated from the competition.

Friday the 25th May, was the final day of the competition. Their opponents in this round were students from Dr Maurice Curee. Both teams represented their schools commendably, and unfortunately only one school had to win the competition- it wasn't to be for Northfields this time round. However, our students have learned a lot from from the experience and still did the school proud by coming second in the whole competition. We hope this competition will become a tradition for Northfields and believe that next time we can go even further. Our participants now will be working with the younger students in the school to make them masters of debating! Look out for future successful debaters!

STEM FAIR

STEM Fair was a wonderful initiative whereby students had to use the Scientific and Engineering method in order to solve a problem. It was a half-term project where students had to work in groups in order to develop and research their questions.

This interschool competition allowed collaboration among teachers and students from Northfields, Telfair School and Alexandra House. Our parents Committee were a great support.

Our aim is to develop a STEM culture at school and to encourage innovation and creativity from a very early age. We want to create an enduring science culture at Northfields and it is only possible if we start at a grassroot level.
We were very proud to see the level of enthusiasm of our students.

NORTHFIELDS
Virtus et Honor

ECO MOVIE NIGHT

On the 20th April, Northfields community gathered to watch "Plastic Paradise", an engaging movie about plastic pollution in the oceans.

The event organised by the eco-club aimed to raise awareness about the big pollution problems that the oceans are facing.

Northfields would like to thank everyone who made the effort to come out to Northfields' first Outdoor Eco Movie Night! The weather was fantastic, and the amount of support and attendees was incredible. We look forward to seeing you at the next one!

YEAR 7 PROJECTS

During the last week of April, the Year 7 learners worked on student-led learning with their teachers as facilitators. This project week was based on integrated learning - a subject collaboration between English and Geography. In English, their literature focus was Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and in Geography, their learning focus was Africa.

The project is called 'Charlie Bucket Goes To Africa'. The learners are working together in groups to come up with a creative board game that will help to enhance their learning.

ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

We were blessed with gorgeous weather for our inter-house athletics championships on Friday 27th April. The day kicked off with the house parade and war cries. This seemed to set the tone for the rest of the day as the spirit on the stands and trackside was amazing. The standard of athletics throughout the day was incredible and we are so proud of all the athletes and supporters for their enthusiasm and spirit. Eagles showed great team spirit and were deserved winners of the Spirit Trophy. The day just got even better for Eagles as they too were the overall winners of the Inter-house Cup.

The final results were as follows:

1. Eagles 433 points
2. Phoenix 368 points
3. Dolphins 358 points

Junior Victrix Ludorum

1. Jenna R.
2. Victoria F.
3. Ilona K.

Junior Victor Ludorum

1. Sebastian K.
2. Christian D.
3. Damien de C.

Senior Victrix Ludorum

1. Pip S.
2. Annie H.
3. Katharina L.

Senior Victor Ludorum

1. Stephane D.
2. Michael D.
3. Hugo P.I

MSSSA ATHLETICS REGIONALS

The Northfields athletics team performed exceptionally at the regional athletics championships held at the Anjalay Stadium from the 16th – 18th May. There were approximately 14 schools in attendance and the competition was extremely tough. This seemed to spur our athletes on to perform at an even higher level. After 3 days of intense competition we had experienced one of our most successful regional events, winning more medals than ever before and also winning both the boys and girls Benjamin categories. Our Minim boys came 2nd in their category as did our Minim girls, by 3 and 4 points respectively. We effectively only had athletes in 2 categories due to exams, although a few Year 11 students did compete and we would like to commend them on making a special effort during a very busy and important time. Our athletes have acquitted themselves brilliantly with our team winning a record 52 medals in total, 17 gold, 20 silver and 15 bronze. We are so proud of our athletics team and wish those athletes going on to perform at Nationals all the best of luck!

NORTHFIELDS
Virtus et Honor

OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMPETITION

For the second consecutive year Northfields received a RS10,000 cheque for the school with the most finishers at the recent Nandos Open Water Swim at Pereybere on Sunday 29th April. This is something we would like to continue to win and is indicative of the strength and depth of our swimming at Northfields. Congratulations to the 35 students and teachers who competed.

TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over the last few weeks the Tennis Championships took place. It consisted of four categories: Junior Boy and Girl, Senior Boy and Girl and only singles was played.The players showed great motivation throughout and the standard of play overall was pleasing to see. The results of the competition are as follows:

Senior Girl
Winner: Britt H.
Runner-up: Rebecca F.

Senior Boy
Winner: Alexis H.
Runner-up: Lucas L.

Junior Girl
Winner: Ilona K.
Runner-up: Taylor A.

Junior Boy
Winner :Finn M.
Runner-up: Nicholas K.

It was an exciting time for the players and well supported by their classmates.

INTERSCHOOL SPELLING BEE

On the 16th of May, Years 5, 6 and 7 participated in a bilingual interschool spelling bee. Northfields competed against Ecole du Nord and Martin'Ecole in four rounds that required them to spell words in both French and English. Teams were awarded points for correctly spelled words and the Northfields team certainly made us proud! They were placed first and won a trophy as well as a cheque for Rs5000 to spend on new books for the school library.

All prizes were kindly sponsored by Curtin Mauritius. The winning Northfields team consisted of:

Year 5

Medha P., Nikhil S., Franziska E.

Year 6

Luqmaan N., Sonny H., Goncalo A.

Year 7

Lola P., Samuel S., Emmy N.

INTERHOUSE PUBLIC SPEAKING

During the first week of Term 3, the English Faculty held the Interhouse Public Speaking competition among each of the year groups. It was an extremely worthwhile experience as students honed their research, speech writing and public speaking skills. The topics ranged from preventing gun violence to Biocentrism. Congratulations to all the speakers who took part in the competition. It is commendable that so many students took part.

"Speech is power: speech is to persuade, to convert, to compel"- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Best speakers for Year 7:

Dolphin: Suryansh B.; Phoenix: Samuel S.; Eagle: Angeline D.

Overall Year 7 winner: Samuel S. (Phoenix)

Best speakers for Year 8:

Dolphin: Sarah B.; Phoenix: Sia H.; Eagle: Matthew P.

Overall Year 8 winner: Matthew P. (Eagles)

Best speakers for Year 9:

Dolphin: Gavin H.; Phoenix: Maria F.; Eagle: Amber F.

Overall Year 9 winner: Amber F. (Eagle)

Best speakers for Year 10:

Dolphin: Tom B.; Phoenix: Saphia P.;
Eagle: Olivia P.

Overall Year 10 winner: Saphia P. (Phoenix)

NORTHFIELDS
Virtus et Honor

GUESTS

Northfields welcomed students from Rabindranath Tagore Secondary School and Beekrumsing Ramlallah State Secondary School to deliver speeches around the theme 'Great Artists Have No Country'

Students delivered some inspiring speeches after which the audience were given the opportunity to ask questions to the speakers on their speeches. It was a pleasure to watch the confidence with which those young people delivered their speeches.

We look forward to working with them again in the future.

WORLD BOOK DAY

In keeping with the recent celebrations of World Book Day, on the 7th of May Northfields hosted a book sale at the school in collaboration with Editions de l'Océan Indien and Le Bookstore.

The event was in line with our ongoing activities to promote a reading culture among our students, putting at their disposal books ranging from youth fiction to non-fiction resources.

INTERHOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

The Northfields inter-house cross country event was held over two days. The Year 5 and 6 students competed on Monday 21st whilst the rest of the school participated on Wednesday 23rd May. The objective this year was to try and get all our students to participate. The format of the races was changed somewhat to allow the whole school to be available for the races to ensure our athletes enjoyed some vociferous support from the stands. Many of the races were extremely closely contested with the lead regularly changing hands. Well done to all the finishers as well as to the numerous staff members who also completed the course.

Congratulations to the age group winners

Poussin

Boys: 1st Stanislas L. (Dolphins); 2nd Luc M. (Dolphins); 3rd Lucien P. (Dolphins)

Girls: 1st Emma P. (Eagles); 2nd Mila K. (Dolphins); 3rd Isabella C. (Dolphins)

Benjamin

Boys: 1st Sebastian C. (Dolphins); 2nd Sam S. (Phoenix); 3rd Morgan G.

Girls: 1st Victoria L. (Dolphins); 2nd Calypso J. (Eagles); 3rd Cappucine P. (Eagles)

Minim

Boys: 1st Dillon S. (Dolphins); 2nd Christian D. (Eagles); 3rd Michael M. (Phoenix)

Girls: 1st Jill H. (Phoenix); 2nd Carla P.(Dolphins); 3rd Jade G. (Dolphins)

Cadet

Boys: 1st Marius L. (Eagles); 2nd Domenico S. (Dolphins); 3rd Michael D. (Eagles)

Girls: 1st Arissa D. (Phoenix); 2nd Kenya M.(Eagles); 3rd Olivia M. (Phoenix)

Junior

Boys: 1st Finlay H. (Dolphins); 2nd Alexis L. (Phoenix); 3rd Adam S. (Eagles)

Girls: Kayla M. (Phoenix)

ESS TRIP

The Year 12 IB Environmental Systems and Societies students along with the AS/A Level Geography students took part in the annual field trip to Post Lafayette Beach on the 23rd May. The focus of the trip was to investigate how conditions in water change near a mangrove area and along the adjacent coastline. The trip was posed in an environmental context and gave students the opportunity to gain hands on experience of the theoretical concepts covered in class, as well as to gain some practical experience that can only be gained on the field. An excuse to go to the beach and get in the water on a school day was, of course, a welcome bonus! The weather started out wet and windy but it wasn't long before the sun came up and we covered the length of Bras D'Eau public beach before the end of the afternoon. Great work, Year 12!

NORTHFIELDS
Virtus et Honor

EARTH DAY

Earth Day is observed on 22 April each year. The theme for 2018 is 'To End Plastic Pollution'.

At Northfields, our IB students, Leah C., Katharina L. and Adam S. organised various activities to mark the occasion. Adam gave a meaningful speech on Plastic, Leah choreographed a special song and dance for the Year 6 and Katharina organised the planting of endemic trees in our school. The trees were planted by Mrs Philogene and Mr McIlraith.

CODE CLUB

Moosaa M., Musharraf M., Sachi R., Coralie L.,Aiden B. and Rayan G. all represented the school on the 14th May for the 2018 edition of the Code Craft competition held at MIE, Reduit.

Taking part in the coding competition was an enriching experience for the students.

Special mention to the Prep School teachers who have been guiding the students during the Code Club at school.

U13 DANCE SPORT

Congratulations to Mila, Taylor, Annabelle, Esme, and Jessica who have been selected to represent DSSL Mauritius in the U/13 category at the Inter-provincial tournament which will be taking place in Durban, South Africa.

Well done girls! You are making Northfields proud.

MONKEYNASTICS & SPORTS DAY

The Nursery children had a lovely all though wet day on Wednesday 23rd May at our Monkeysnastix Sports Day. Helena from Monkeysatix came and the children were able to demonstrate to their parents how they have been using their gross motor skills. Caterpillar class then did an egg and spoon race and a ball relay. Butterfly class did 3 races: sack race, egg and spoon, and a flat running race. The children did so well and had so much fun. Even the parents got to participate in a mommy and daddy race. At the end of the sports day each child received a medal from Monkeynastix. We would like to say a big thank you to the Sports Club and Bell n Whistle for helping us with the organization.

SPORTING UPDATE

Northfields has experienced a successful time recently in the sporting area with our successes in Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming. We have also seen great achievements in other areas so far this term.

Netball

Our U13 netball teams are hard at work preparing for the International Festival in June and took part in a training camp over the mid-term weekend, along with players from Lighthouse School. These girls stayed overnight in the boarding house and participated in extensive drills and matches during the weekend. Our U14 girls provided match practice for them and they were all involved in practice matches on Friday 25th.

Football

The three Northfields 6-a-side U13 football teams have commenced their training for the festival in June and are working hard to be well prepared for the competition, which we expect to be highly competitive. Our senior team played a match against Lighthouse on Friday 25th at Northfields and won 5-0. Congratulations to all the players involved.

Tennis

Our inter-house tennis competition and the School Championships were completed recently. These were both highly successful events and congratulations must go to the successful players in each category as well as to Phoenix, the successful house. Both the inter-house and championship events will become annual fixtures on the Northfields sporting calendar.

Water Polo

Water polo training has been introduced on Monday and Thursday evenings and we hope this initiative will go from strength to strength. It is open to all ages and both boys and girls are welcome to attend. Students who have attended have thoroughly enjoyed the fun yet challenging sessions.

Collaboration with other schools

Sports directors from a number of schools across Mauritius were invited for a meeting at Northfields on the last week of May to discuss how schools can collaborate more in terms of playing more fixtures and festivals, share resources and work more effectively together to provide our students with more sporting opportunities. This was a highly successful meeting and all the visiting schools were very receptive to working a lot closer together in future. Each school has agreed to host various sporting events next year and dates will be finalised shortly.

Murray Botha
Director of Sports

NORTHFIELDS
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OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Northfields is proud of our staff and their commitment to ongoing professional development.

Qualifications - We would like to congratulate Miss Amber Korimdun for the recent award of her PGCE with first class honours, and Ms Sandhya Prayag for completing the SSAT Middle Leadership training programme (UK).

Online Training - We are excited that several members of staff are currently participating in on-line training for IB MYP implementation as we look toward candidacy status over the coming years. Many members of staff are also busy following short courses on Microsoft and other applications to promote wider and more effective use of IT in our teaching.

Workshops - This month we welcomed a representative from the British Council to host an afternoon workshop on supporting English as an Additional Language (EAL) students in all areas of the school. We also held a full day of First Aid training and qualification renewal, which several staff have completed during the mid-term break.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We would like to congratulate several members of our staff on their recent appointments to new areas of responsibility:

Mrs Rajeshree Kallee
Timetable Coordinator

Mrs Navishka Canakiah-Shiboo
Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) Coordinator

Mrs Tebogo Maneli
Special Educational Needs (SEN) Coordinator

We are very pleased to see that they have taken on these roles with great enthusiasm in planning for the upcoming academic year.

IT DEVELOPMENTS

The EdTech Group

Northfields has recently formed a dedicated EdTech group with the aim of organising regular workshops and sharing ideas on how the school can implement innovative IT applications to promote effective learning and teaching across the school. The EdTech group has now taken on a key role in driving the school forward as Global Microsoft School within the Microsoft Educator Community, which connects thousands of international schools around the globe.

Our Virtual Learning Environment

In our continued drive to provide an excellent service, we have built an online Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) through Moodle that contains key information on all of our school courses. Teachers are using this to provide outlines, set homework and add resources and links to support learning. We hope our students and parents will find this a useful facility and look forward to your feedback.

New Website and Parents Portal

We are proud to announce that we will be launching our new website in the coming days. You will see a new, sleeker layout with more information about our school. The new website will also feature access to our iSAMS Parents Portal, which will provide general information on upcoming events and important documents, as well as your own child/ren's teachers, timetable, attendance, discipline, and reward and conduct records. You will also be able to update contact information directly through the portal.

New Oliver Library System

We have recently started the implementation of the library system software Oliver, an interactive and up-to-date software that will allow students to access the library system resources, see the catalogues of available resources, check their library account and even write and publish book reviews. Once the system is fully operational, students will be able to more actively interact with our library resources and manage their library accounts. With Oliver also comes the opportunity for new media resources, including the incorporation of eBooks. This will allow us to digitally expand our library collection, and thus put more academic resources and fiction titles at the disposal of the students.

Driving the School towards Green IT

We care about our environment! The IT Services Department has been working towards implementing the best practices in Green IT for our school. One of the primary objectives is to redesign our IT infrastructure to minimise power consumption, decrease paper use and even reduce the release of CO2 by implementing a better virtualized environment with cloud solutions.

EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome five employees who joined us since the beginning of the term:

Mannan Mohamed, Head of Faculty - Science
Mr Mannan Mohamed is our new Head of Faculty for Science. He has taught Mathematics and Physics for 12 years and has served as Head of Department for both Mathematics and Science as well as other leadership positions in the UK. Mr Mohamed holds a BEng (Hons) Aerospace System Engineering and a Post Graduate Certificate in Secondary Education – Mathematics.

Clair-Marie Mohamed, Head of Subject - Geography
Mrs Clair Marie Mohamed is our new Head of Geography within the Humanities Faculty. She holds a BSc Geography with Drama and a PGCE in Geography. Clair-Marie has 12 years of Geography teaching experience and has also served as head of year in the UK.

Sandhya Prayag, Head of Subject-Economics
Ms Sandhya Prayag is our new Head of Economics within the Humanities Faculty. She has just returned from the UK, where she has been teaching Economics and has served as Head of Department. With more than 28 years of teaching experience, she has re-joined Northfields as a full-time Economics and Business teacher after four years abroad. She holds a BA in Economics, a PGCE in Business Studies and is due to complete her MSc in Education later this year.

Marie Pascaline Anabel Charlette, Mathematics teacher
Mrs Pascaline Charlette has joined our Mathematics faculty as a full-time teacher. She has recently arrived from Australia where she has been teaching the full range of high school Mathematics over the past six years. She holds a Bachelor of Computer and Mathematical Sciences, a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) and a Master of Teaching (Secondary).