



APRIL 2021



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL

- 9<sup>th</sup>: School closed\*
- 12<sup>th</sup>: School closed\*
- 13<sup>th</sup>: Public Holiday: Ugadi
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Start of CAIE Examinations
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Earth Day
- 30<sup>th</sup>: Start of IB Examinations

\*Please note that the school will be closed on Friday 9<sup>th</sup>, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April (Ugadi Public Holiday). Admin staff will resume work on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

### MAY

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Public Holiday: Labour Day
- 14<sup>th</sup>: Public Holiday: Eid-al-fitr \*TBC
- 15<sup>th</sup>: International Day of Families
- 20<sup>th</sup>: End of IB Examinations
- 24-25<sup>th</sup>: Mid-Term Break

### JUNE

- 11<sup>th</sup>: End of CAIE Examinations
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Graduation \*TBC
- 21<sup>st</sup>: Music Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: End of Term

Once again we find ourselves in confinement, worried about each other and eagerly awaiting a return to normalcy. This second lockdown has been difficult for many but I am happy to see that despite this, our staff and students have come together to finish the second term in great strength.

Our transition to online learning has been extremely smooth thanks to the support of our IT Services team and your support as parents at home. I do hope that we can return to school during the third term, but am also confident that even if we must continue working remotely, our students will be able to learn and progress extremely well with the guidance of their teachers.

As a school, we continue to overcome challenges and create new successes along the way. Our recent IB MYP authorisation is testament to this, and I congratulate everyone on this outstanding achievement. Implementing the IB Middle Years and Diploma Programmes allows us to take great strides forward in line with our vision of providing a holistic education and developing confident, responsible and active global citizens. We are very excited to see the benefits these programmes will bring for all of our students long into the future.

This edition of our newsletter is a bit different in that rather than sharing news on the various activities happen-

ing on campus, we have focused on the excellent learning that has been happening through our online lessons over the past month. I am very proud of the commitment and creativity our students have shown in their lessons as you will see from the samples of work included here. Fortunately, we were able to hold a few events before the closure, with our inter-school swimming competition proving a huge success - congratulations to all participants and the PE faculty for organising!

Finally, I would like to commend our examination candidates on the strength and determination they have shown over the past year. They have kept their minds on their goals and continued to prepare for their examinations through these unusually challenging circumstances. On behalf of our entire school community, I wish each and every one of you all the best during your revision and exams over the next months, and remember that your teachers, Heads of School and I will be here to support you along the way.



I am looking forward to seeing you all again at school as soon as possible. Until then, please take care and keep safe.

Phyllis Philogène  
Principal

*" I am very proud of the commitment and creativity of our students "*

# INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING GALA

Northfields hosted an Interschool Swimming Gala on Thursday 4th March. Le Bocage and West Coast International were the other participating schools. The quality of swimming was outstanding and the races were all closely contested. Going into the relays the scores were extremely tight with Northfields leading by only 7 points.

The relays didn't disappoint as all the swimmers swam their hearts out. The final results were as follows:

1. Northfields: 156 points
2. Le Bocage: 145 points
3. West Coast International: 92 points

Thank you to all the swimmers who participated and a special thanks to Le Bocage and West Coast for joining us in what was a very enjoyable day of competitive swimming.



# VISIT FROM METEOROLOGIST

On Thursday 18th February, the Geography department invited meteorologist, Mrs. Ganjur, from the Mauritius Meteorological Services to speak with our Year 10 Geography students. She is a well-known weather announcer on the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and local radio in Mauritius.

During her talk, she focused on key areas such as how weather data is collected, how the data can be used to describe the weather and also information on the different equipment used for measuring rainfall, air pressure, wind speed and sunshine hours. It was a good experience for our Geography students to interact with her and gain more understanding of weather stations and how predictions are made.



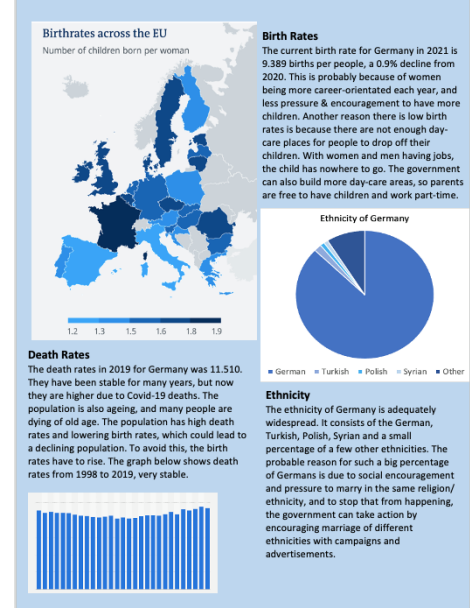
# REMOTE LEARNING

## GEOGRAPHY

### DEMOGRAPHICS

The IB's approach to individuals and societies includes a strong focus on inquiry based learning and investigation. Students are required to collect, describe and analyze data used in studies of societies, test hypotheses and learn how to interpret increasingly complex information, including original source material. This focuses on real-world examples, research, and analysis which is an essential aspect of this subject. This term, our Year 8 students completed the topic on "Human Population" and looked at the changes, processes and sustainable development to promote more equity in societies. They completed a number of activities to showcase their learning and understanding of the topic. Recently, they completed their summative task for this term to create Population Infographics.

Well done Year 8 for the excellent work!



**Human attractions**

Visited by more than a million people each year, many from overseas, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park (Hiroshima Heiwa Kinen Kōen) lies at the epicenter of the atomic blast in what was once a bustling part of the city. Here you'll find a number of important monuments, memorials, and museums relating to the events of that fateful day.

**Physical attractions**

- The Southern Ridges - a historical area connecting Mount Faber Park, Telok Blangha Hill Park and Kent Ridge Park
- Labrador Park - known as a treat for nature lovers, it offers stunning views of the sea, and is home to the only sea cliff on the main island of Singapore.
- Padang - formerly known as Padang Cricket Ground, Padang is an open stretch of playing field, and is mainly known as a place where both locals and tourists can sit, relax, go for a walk, or play games.

### YEAR 10 PRESENTATIONS

With online lessons being the new normal for children across the world, our Year 10 Geography students reflected on their own online learning via Microsoft Teams. The students learnt about Tourism during their online Geography lessons. They were then assigned a task; to create a PowerPoint on any one destination of their choice.

They reflected on their chosen geographical location, touristic activities including physical attractions and human attractions and also discussed why they thought the named destination became so popular with tourists. The students of Year 10 Geography were very interactive during the session and this in turn helped them develop collaboration, thinking, and communication skills.

**REFLECTION TERM 2 GEOGRAPHY:**  
Reflection is woven throughout the Middle Years Program. Being reflective is one attribute of the IB learner profile that we cultivate in our students. Reflection is central to building a deep and rich experience. Through reflection students examine ideas and consider how they might use prior learning in new contexts

Some of our Year 8 students reflected back on their learning and experiences in Geography for Term 2.

We are proud of you students!

**My Reflection**  
By: Michelle Nel BH

For the time we have been studying population and the characteristics of population, I feel that I understand the issues of society better.

This term in geography has helped me grow into a better 'geographer' and has exceeded my expectation of how much I learned just by using my communication and thinking skills

We have talked about: Population change, Human migration, Birth rate, Death rate, Life expectancy, Infant mortality rates, Demographics, What a megacity is, DTM: Demographic transition Model and Population Pyramid.

But those are just the topics we talked about. We digged deeper and actually understood the consequences of the rise and fall in some of those topics.

To understand what was going on in class, I had to be a good communicator, as we had a lot of group works where we had to work as a team to properly get the work done. I also had to communicate with my teacher when I had any queries.

Thanks Miss Dally!

Poster Maker

## HAPPINESS WEEK

During the last week of March, our students worked on "Happiness" during their PSHE lessons. Students from different year groups reflected on what makes them happy but also on what could make the world a happier place. They then shared their work through presentations, drawings and videos.



What can you do for this year's International Day of Happiness

- Do something that makes you happy (spend time with your family, see friends, exercise, go out, etc...)
- In this time of crisis, togetherness is important. Spread happiness around you and help when you can.
- Share with others the importance of being happy.
- Don't forget to smile!



What Makes Me Happy Is Rocky, My Dog

## SCIENCE

During the end of March, the students from Year 7V worked on a project on bread. Despite the lockdown, they have been able to have practical work done in the comfort of their homes by baking the bread. The aim was to show the importance of the living microorganism called yeast (fungus) to produce gas to make the dough rise while baking bread. Here are some photos of their work.



## IT LESSONS

During remote learning, our Year 7 students have been working on the unit 'Internet and Online Safety'.

They worked on designing digital posters during their lessons.

## FRENCH LESSONS

During their French lessons, the Year 8 students worked on "Health". Their theme was: Les précautions à prendre pour combattre le corona virus.

Students submitted videos, PowerPoint presentations and images to show the best ways to protect ourselves against the virus.

Good job everyone!

During the first week of lockdown, the students of Year 8 worked on presentations on "la distinction entre le participe passé des verbes du 1er groupe (é) et l'infinitif".

Students submitted PowerPoints, PDFs and even videos to their teachers on the subject. Here are samples of Paloma, William and Laetitia's work. Good job everyone!



## POEM ON LOCKDOWN

Our Year 12 student, Loic R. wrote a poem about the current lockdown we are all experiencing here in Mauritius. Enjoy reading, stay positive and stay safe!

"Let the lockdown commence,  
 Letting us sit here,  
 Looking at the world we fear,  
 Through a fence.  
 A barrier which we cannot leave,  
 For which was mandated,  
 Where we believe,  
 After 2 weeks we could become emancipated.  
 The world we fear is a world that is plagued,  
 A world we infect by ourselves,  
 With history we never learn from  
 our recklessness and actions we displayed.  
 This world of trouble, this world of infest,  
 Lead to a modern age of unrest.  
 This virus that adjoined the world,  
 Sent society in a topsy turvy twirl.  
 To whoever reads this, we are in a lockdown.  
 The world is a pretty bad place, I know,  
 But do know, this virus eventually will go.  
 So stay strong and settle down.  
 This virus won't stay around.  
 Hope is here, don't live with a frown.  
 Together, we can bring it down."

## DIGITAL DESIGN

This term, Year 8 students have been working on designing newspaper articles based on different themes during their digital design lessons. The students have exceeded expectations and here are some of their finest works.

## PI DAY

In Mathematics, the Year 8 students made presentations on Pi day. Some used PowerPoint while others amazed us with their home made videos. Well done to all!

My Pi Creation

- This is the small pancake, here as well I am measuring the diameter.



# IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)



We are delighted to announce that we have received formal notification that Northfields is now authorised to deliver the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme.

The MYP is a dynamic, inclusive, progressive framework of education that emphasises independent learning, real-world contexts and international mindedness.

Achieving MYP authorisation is the culmination of two years of challenging preparation involving all members of our community, and I would like to thank you for helping make the process such a success.

Becoming an MYP school is just the first step on a journey to ensure our students are equipped to meet the challenges of the next phase of their education and to equip them with life-long learning skills.

We are looking forward to continuing to develop the programme as we enter this exciting new chapter of Northfields' history.

Mr Harry Allen  
MYP Coordinator

**10 Reasons**  
why the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) encourages you to become a creative, critical and reflective learner

- Become a life-long learner**  
Learn "how to learn" using communication, inquiry, self-management, collaboration and critical thinking skills.
- Learn by doing and experiencing**  
Through the MYP community project you learn to service the community and connect what you learn in the classroom to "real life".
- The MYP encourages critical thinking**  
It teaches you to analyse and evaluate issues, generate novel ideas and consider new perspectives.
- Learn for understanding**  
Not just to memorize facts or topics and prepare for exams.
- Explore global challenges**  
The MYP helps you increase your understanding of the world by exploring globally significant issues and issues.
- Train yourself to:**
  - organize and plan your work
  - meet deadlines
  - concentrate
  - provide feedback
  - work peacefully.
- Subjects are not taught in isolation**  
You are encouraged to make connections between subjects.
- It empowers you to develop your talents**  
Feel empowered to prove what you know and earn the MYP certificate and MYP course results.
- It encourages international-mindedness**  
The MYP helps you critically appreciate and use culture and personal history, as well as the values and traditions of others.
- It prepares you for future education**  
Prepares yourself for the IB Diploma Programme or IB Career-related Programme delivered by IB World Schools globally.

Based on IB research - [www.ibo.org/research](http://www.ibo.org/research)

# EXAM PREPARATIONS

## MANAGING MY EMOTIONS

Dear students,

We are sure that you are all working hard in preparation for the final examinations. There is a lot to prepare for and given the situation of Covid-19, there is added pressure and stress. You will find below some tips to help you manage your thoughts, feelings and emotions. Please take a moment to complete the 4 pages and evaluate your understanding of yourself.

All the best. Good luck!

Mrs Rungasamy and Mrs Daby

**If you feel worried, anxious, or sad at school, you can talk to...**

Name .....

**ARE YOU FEELING WORRIED?**

Take a deep breath in, slowly breath out. Try this a few times.

Do you feel better?

**My Positive Toolbox**

Draw or write about the tools you have to help you positively manage your emotions.

For example: when I am worried I can follow a breathing exercise

**My Healthy Mind**

Write or draw your ingredients below to create a healthy mind.  
For Example: Eating healthy food

*Good luck to everyone!*

## LOCKDOWN AS EXPERIENCED THROUGH THE EYES OF A TEACHER

Lockdown 2021!!! Shock! Sigh! A brief moment of temporary insanity and disbelief! How would one describe it? A bit like a 2 year old playing hide and seek I would say. (Being a teacher I think this is quite a clever comparison). The 2 year old hides behind the lounge curtain. Fat little dirty feet visibly sticking out at the bottom, and the whole outline of the child can be seen. Yet, the 2 year old, is convinced that he/she is now invisible to the (adult) eye. "If I can't see you ... you can't see me." Basically, what I am trying to say is this: we all knew that the chances of another lockdown were always there. I just tried to pretend that as long as I carry on like normal (while wearing a mask and spraying my hands with sanitizer 50 times a day), lockdown would not become a reality again.

Monday morning, 15th March 2021 and the first day of online teaching is upon me. You can do this I tell myself as I switch the kettle on an hour before my own children (usually) wake up. I just need an hour to gather my thoughts. No such luck. On school days it takes bribery, threats and the odd promise of ice-cream after school to get my children out of bed. NOT DURING LOCKDOWN. During lockdown is when they wake up at 5am! (Lucky you if your children didn't get the memo).



I boil the kettle a third time after I have given the children a bowl of cornflakes and a packet of skittles (each). Not very teacher-like to feed the children skittles this early is it? They did promise however that they would NOT disrupt my online lesson and if this is what it takes, skittles it is! My 2nd (untouched) cup of tea is ice cold where I left it next to my laptop. I have twenty minutes before my lesson begins. I open my laptop and take a good look at my face in the camera. When did I get these frown lines? Do I always look like an exhausted panda? Wait I still have 10 mins... mascara will fix this. Perhaps the parents won't look. I smile. Soon I get to see my little pupils. It will be fine.

So the online lessons commence. Technology and I are not the best of friends. I want to throw my laptop (along with my cold tea out the window most days). Some lessons are better than others. Some are a royal mess. It's noisy. The children are tired of singing the days of the week-song, and I am tired of not being able to touch their sweet little faces. The frustration of trying to hear what they all have to say drives me dilly,

My' favorite' is when the camera freezes and I usually get caught yawning, rubbing my nose or simply looking like I won a face-pulling contest. My son makes the odd disruptive online appearance. No more skittles for that one. He runs around the background like someone who had 5 energy drinks before a party. Note-to-self: eat a few skittles before lessons for added teacher-energy.

March 27th 2021 "PING" goes the washing machine. I am so thankful that the children help around the home according to their learning packs. I feel less guilty about the child labour (children to be rewarded by being allowed to play a game on my phone). Again not very teacher like. Yet I feel proud! I think I have adapted to online teaching. I have managed to hang my washing during a meeting with the staff (don't tell the Principal), and I am an advanced lip-reader thanks to the odd technical glitches during lessons.

I am less worried about how old I look on camera and am starting to derive joy from putting on a pretty top and sporting my (unseen) pyjama pants at the bottom. I am now used to singing Twinkle Twinkle little star (actions included) to my laptop camera and the children sing along! Multitasking is now an advanced skill and I can read a book, eat 10 skittles, comment on a student's cool new background, while smiling. All in one go.

On a serious note. None of us as teachers enjoyed this much at first. We love our classrooms and having all the tools we need to educate your child. We love being able to give them a hug or to watch them play outside. Yet, we have all adapted to online teaching. We know that our students are healthy and that they are safe. I love seeing their bedrooms, their favorite toy or seeing the healthy snack they are having. I love the understanding smile from a parent who can see that your day too, has been tiring and long. Online teaching simply cannot be compared to having your students in your classroom with you, but for now it is the best we can do, and it is enough.

This will not last forever... and until lockdown is over, we simply have to do the best we can. One day, one handful of skittles, and one cold cup of tea at a time.

By Hane Visser



## INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mauritius Independence day is a national holiday marked by two key events which took place on 12th March which is the Independence from Britain in 1968 and becoming a republic nation in 1992. Despite being away from school, our students were eager to participate in National Day activities and learn more about Mauritius through projects, Kahoot quizzes, worksheets and craft activities. Students marked the day at home in many different ways and shared these with us through photos and videos.



## UNESCO MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

We marked UNESCO's International Mother Language Day in class on Monday 22nd February this year. As stated by the UNESCO Director-General, the theme of the day this year was "Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society, thus encouraging us to support multilingualism and the use of mother tongues, both at school and in everyday life. (...) This year, special attention was being paid to multilingual education from early childhood, so that for children, their mother tongue is always an asset." We brought this home to our students in circle times throughout the week by inviting our children and parents who speak a mother language at home, to share their experiences and emphasise their importance. Thank you to our visitors for fun and interactive sessions.

We would love Mother Languages to have a greater place in our school in future, so if parents would like to volunteer and share their knowledge and teach their Mother language e.g. Afrikaans, Creole, Spanish and more, please don't hesitate to be in touch.



## DR SEUSS DAY

*"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened" – Dr Seuss*

This year on the 2nd March our students marked what would have been the 117th Birthday of Dr Seuss. Throughout the week leading up to and including the 2nd March, our students loved getting to know the world famous Dr Seuss books and characters. Dr. Seuss Day is a full twenty-four hours to make a mess with the Cat in the Hat, dance around with the Fox in Sox, hear a Who with Horton, count the red and blue fish, help the Grinch see the error of his ways, and listen to Sam I Am's friend complain about his dish of green eggs and ham, the ungrateful hairball!



*"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?" - Dr. Seuss*

Theodor Seuss Geisel, commonly known by his pen name Dr. Seuss, was a writer, poet and cartoonist. Though best known as a children's author (he released a whopping forty-six books for tykes), his career also saw him work as an illustrator for advertising campaigns and a political cartoonist during the Second World War. March 2nd is a celebration of his life and works, as it was on this day in 1904 that he entered the world. Having lived eighty-seven years and made an incredible impact on numerous generations, he died in 1991 at his home in La Jolla, California. His many bizarre, colourful and zany tales are still cherished by young and old alike, and, having been translated into more than twenty languages, are read all across the world every single day.



## ARTICLE: THE STAGES OF PLAY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FANTASY PLAY

"Why don't you go and play?" ... probably some of the most important words you can ever say to your child. Have you ever just watched children at play, caught up in a game where they are a brave Pirate ... desperate to get away from a fierce dragon? Or your daughter dressed up in mom's oversized shoes playing the role of a mother or a lady sipping tea.

We often hear the words 'children learn through play' and indeed they do. To understand why play is so very important it is also imperative to understand the different stages of play.



### Stages of Play:

1) Unoccupied play - This stage of play takes place from birth up to three months. The child is not playing, just observing.

2) Solitary play - From birth to the age of 2 years; the child plays alone, focused on their own activity and unaware and uninterested in what others are doing.

3) Spectator/Onlooker play - This takes place from the age of two. The child will spend a great deal of time happy playing alone and observing those around him/her.

4) Parallel play - This stage takes place from the age of two and older. Do you remember taking your two-year old to a friend's for a play-date and watching the two sit alongside each other ... but each very involved in their own activity or game? The children will be happy to be close but will not engage in the same activity.

5). Associative play - This level of play takes place between the ages of 3 and 4 years. Your little one will START to interact quite a bit more and they will show more interested in the same ac-

tivity. This can also be observed when children are simply playing outdoors on the same equipment like the jungle gym.

6) Cooperative play - This stage of play takes place from the age of 4 and older. Children will be very interested in a shared activity and enjoy the company of other children! They will also attempt activities in order to reach a shared goal...teamwork!

Now that we understand the different stages of play, it is also great to understand why free-play is so very important.

Free-play is when your child is free to use their imagination to play or do a physical activity without being coached or instructed. The advantages to free play are wonderful and so important for 'normal' child development! Through play, children learn to regulate their emotions and act out different scenarios. Play contributes to the cognitive, physical, social and emotional well-being of the child. A lack of play will leave most children feeling anxious, frustrated and often being anti-social.

Fantasy play, pretend or imaginative play too, has many advantages. It greatly benefits the child's social and emotional development, language and communication skills, confidence as well as thinking and problem solving skills!

Don't feel bad for taking away the technology and sending your child into the garden or their bedroom with a box of blocks, dolls, cars or dress up clothes. The benefits to play are endless and your children will thank you for it in the long term!

By Hane Visser



## INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

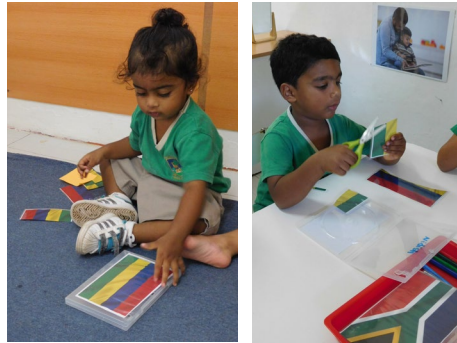
In living in a world that embraces the diversity of everyone, each family has its own unique history, heritage, and traditions. As an international school, we celebrate diversity through the students that we teach and the families that form part of Northfields. As a school, we celebrated "International Mother Language Day" on the 21st of February.

Our students were introduced to the flags of our international families of the Pre-Nursery. They learnt how to greet in Afrikaans, Congolese, Creole, English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Spanish, and Zulu. They took great delight in learning how to pronounce these words with the assistance of our parents, celebrating the languages of our world. As an extended activity for our students, they all took great pride in creating puzzles in the form of their mother tongue – country flag, which was taken home so the learning could continue.

As Maria Montessori stated, the development of language is part of the de-

velopment of the personality, for words are the natural means of expressing thoughts and establishing understanding between people. It is all about expression and communication.

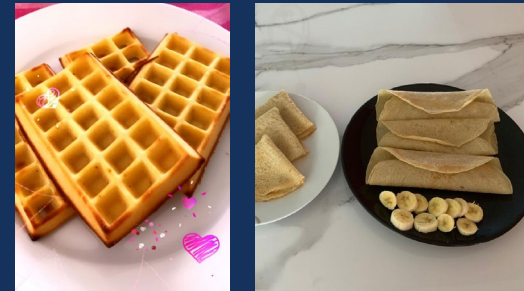
As educators, parents, and adults we are the role models, and it starts with us, by educating our children that while there are so many ways humans are similar, we can also be different from each other and those differences should be celebrated. It starts with us so we can make an impression on the lives of our children.



## INTERNATIONAL WAFFLE DAY WITH CRÊPES ON THE SIDE

International Waffle Day had originally been planned as a fun day at school. As the news came that we were headed into lockdown we looked at bringing the event to each of our family's homes. This was a fun event that got the whole family involved in the kitchen and creating special memories together.

As we were all home-bound and not everyone had a waffle iron, we incorporated crêpes into the day, giving everyone the opportunity to participate. Our families got involved in creating their waffles and crêpes at home and later shared their scrumptious plates at the end of the day with their teachers. Endless to say, we have little MasterChef's in the making here at the Northfields Pre-Nursery.



## INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE DAY

3rd March was International Wildlife Day and this year's theme and focus was 'Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet'. This is an annual event of the Pre-Nursery as we guide our students in becoming aware of all the species that we have on our planet.



Ultimately one day our children will be responsible for the lives of these creatures and the learning starts now. World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that their conservation provides to people. We used the day to raise some funds for the animals of Mauritius, a little help goes a long way. We asked our students to dress up as their favourite animal for the day. This year we had a few crocodiles, butterflies, bees, elephants, and giraffes that joined us on the premise of the Pre-Nursery.



We had a super day at school with children learning about the dolphin, giraffe, and butterfly in detail, naming all the animals that arrived at school for the day and learning to associate the sound to the correct animal. Later, in the morning we introduced silhouette art to our students. They embraced the learning and got excited in painting and sticking their animal of choice.



## SCHOOL AND ONLINE MEET

Our students have been working well in and out of the class. As we progress with each child's curriculum, we are so proud of the achievement that each student has achieved thus far. The Montessori methodology looks at a child's potential and aids in unfolding their capabilities through time, activities and building onto their curiosity. The last month of the second term, we all embraced the announcement and shifted into lockdown, something that we are familiar with and so knew what to expect, giving us the ability to process this a lot easier at this stage of the pandemic.

Our students learning did not stop but was interlinked with our parent's assistance at home, using ClassDojo and Teams as a platform, to enable each teacher to provide added guidance with each parent so our students progress could continue.

We look forward in continuing the progress that has already been created, so that our students are ready for their next stage in the academic career path at Northfields in our next academic year.