



UPCOMING EVENTS

August

- 18th: First Day for Years 9-13
- 19th: First Day for Pre Nursery—Year 8
- 14th: Graduation Ceremony
- 26th: Launch of School Cleanup Challenge and Keep It Clean Mauritius

We have finally made it to the end of the academic year and have been able to come through with flying colours despite the challenging circumstances. There have been so many compliments coming in from teachers on their students' engagement as well as messages from parents praising our teachers' dedication over the past months that we all must be very proud of what Northfields has been able to accomplish.

I would like to congratulate our students and teachers for their outstanding work during the third term with our on-line learning programme. The end of year reports show that their incredible adaptability and perseverance have allowed our students to successfully continue with their learning and complete their syllabi for the year.

We have also managed to incorporate a bit of our normal Northfields spirit in the last week of school with Music Day. I am proud that our teachers and students have been able to continue with this tradition in creative ways from home!

I am also extremely proud of our Year 11, 12 and 13 students who have endured a great deal of uncertainty regarding their examinations this year. We have just received the wonderful news of a 100% pass rate for our IB Diploma Programme candidates and I am confident that our Cambridge students will also see positive results when those become available in August.

The past months have been particularly difficult for our graduates who are now looking ahead

to beginning the next phases of their lives under unprecedented circumstances. We all wish we could have celebrated their final days at Northfields together as a whole school. We do look forward to the opportunity of formally recognising their achievements in their upcoming graduation ceremony.

This issue of our newsletter reflects the engagement our community has continued to show despite the nationwide lockdown. I

We have just received the wonderful news of a 100% pass rate for our IB Diploma Programme candidates

hope you enjoy the articles and work shared by our students and staff in these pages. I also hope you can join me in congratulating our new Prefects and Graduates as well as welcoming

several new members of our school community for the coming year. Much work is underway in preparing for our expanded campus offering in August and we look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Thank you for your support and enjoy a wonderful holiday.



CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate all the Year 13 IB students for their efforts, especially over the two years of the Diploma Programme. Even though the past few months have been very difficult to manage, the students have shown great resilience and determination. We are very proud of them and join their families in celebrating their wonderful achievements.

We are very pleased to announce that there has been a 100% pass rate for our entire IB cohort. This year it includes all Diploma Candidates, three course students completing their Extended Essay as well as three further course students who completed the CAS (Creativity-Activity-Service) programme by fully satisfying all the requirements.

We wish all students success in their future endeavours and look forward to hearing about their next journey and seeing them again soon.

PREFECTS

We would like to thank all 24 applicants who entered the election process for the position of Prefect. Following the voting process which took place at the end of Term 2, we are delighted to inform the Northfields community that the students elected to serve as Prefect for 2020-21 are:

Oliver
Babido
Caroline
CJ
Dillon
Erin
Girisha
Hassan
Michael
Kenza
Kushi
Mauricio
Nikolay
Ines
Andrew
Tom



SCIENCE

During the lockdown, our Year 7V, 9I, 9R and Year 10 Chemistry students performed wonderful experiments at home with the help of their parents. Their work was well detailed and well elaborated on with some even recording the entire experiment, showing hidden video skills.



YEAR 13

Friday 3rd April marked the last day of school for our Year 13 students. Whilst they would have normally gone on to spend Term 3 taking part in IB or AS/A level examinations, the cancellation of exams meant that their school year and indeed their time at Northfields had come to an abrupt close.

We take this opportunity to thank Year 13 for their unique contribution to the school and the community. Included in our thanks is the Prefect body led by Head Boy Haashim and Head Girl Aislin for their duty and service to the school. We are together with them in feeling the sadness of being unable to complete the term in the usual manner of leavers week celebrations but wish them well as they now navigate their way towards the next stage of university for the majority of them.



PSHE



PSHE is important as it teaches the skills necessary to navigate the wider world and stay safe. It is not just about the content being delivered but also about helping students develop skills and competencies which will help them navigate the modern world, one of which is critical thinking.

Learners of Year 10V learned Diversity in a different way, through an activity where they were asked to take photographs* or find pictures of six things that represent what diversity means to them."

MUSIC DAY

La Fête de la Musique or International Music Day was first celebrated in France in 1981 on 21 June, the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere - an especially long day to enjoy the wide variety of professional musical talents and an opportunity for local young aspiring artists to be recognised. It is also normally a time for people from all walks of life to come together and appreciate common interests without necessarily the need to understand the same language. This event is now celebrated in over 120 countries around the world every year. We have celebrated La Fête de la Musique at Northfields for a few years now and we didn't want to miss out a chance to showcase our talent this year as well despite the nationwide lockdown!

We enjoyed just over one hour of music and entertainment from almost 20 acts by our talented Northfields' students. Such a wide range of talents - singing, singing and instrumental, dancing as well as instrumental performances either as a solo, duo or trio act. At the end of the spectacular show, viewers were able to vote for their favourite contestant.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all participants as the show would not have been possible without their commitment. Special thanks also goes to our MCs, organisers and technical assistants as well as the entire Northfields community for the support shown.



GEOGRAPHY EXCHANGE SESSION

As part of the ongoing IB Geography program, there was an online exchange session for our students to commemorate World Environment Day.

Collaborative teaching transforms the classroom and therefore, collaborating with different schools globally is a very important aspect of the IB experience.

To encourage this, the Geography Department initiated a collaboration between the Incheon School of Science and Arts in South Korea and Northfields.

This presentation was led by students of Incheon School and Northfields IB Geography students. The topic was on 'Climate Issues' and was followed by a question and answer session.

This exchange of ideas and thoughts was a very meaningful experience for the students of both schools.

The students really enjoyed the session.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Our Year 10 Environmental Management students were busy studying our oceans and fisheries as part of the syllabus.

They designed flyers providing information on how we are exploiting our oceans.

As part of the task they were also required to provide some solutions to the problems they identified.



ART

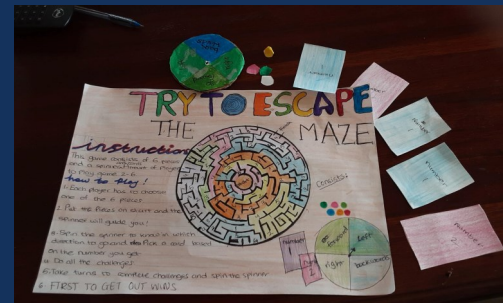
For Art, students from Years 5 to 9 were asked to draw 'A View From A Window'

Here are some of their wonderful pieces.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Our Year 9 Design & Technology students were asked to design a board game during the lockdown.



PHASES OF THE MOON

Our Year 5 students learnt about the phases of the moon during the lockdown.

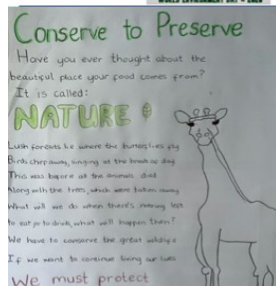


WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

On 5th June, we celebrated World Environment Day. This is celebrated every year and aims at encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment. The theme for 2020 is 'Time for Nature'.

To commemorate this day, our students of 6V used their homeroom lessons to discuss nature and the threats to nature. They also developed several themes which culminated into wonderful posters.

Our students from Year 7 also created some fantastic posters during their Geography lesson.



WORLD OCEANS DAY

In Geography, our Year 7 students focused on Global Context-Globalisation and Sustainability by exploring human impact on the environment. They linked this to the World Oceans Day, celebrated on 8th June, by looking at the importance of oceans in our lives and the future of oceans. They discussed their ideas and thoughts on how to make the oceans sustainable.

Learners created some posters to show their understanding and learning.



HYPERBOLE POEMS

The Year 6s have been creative in applying their knowledge of Hyperboles, using an overstatement to exaggerate a particular condition for emphasis, to write inventive poetry.

Hyperbole Poems Year 6

Welcome to my sleep poem....

Sleeping is the best thing on earth.
I can sleep for a million hours.
I sleep in a bed the size of my house.
I like to Sleep because it is the single best thing in the entire world.
I could sleep in space.
You can dream a billion things when you are asleep.
Sleep is the world's best thing to do.
I can sleep anywhere in the world.

By Scarlett A.

Welcome to the beach.....

It can get quite frantic,
Tons of people go there,
the ocean is gigantic.
The sand is so long, it stretches on forever.
The lifeguards are kind, the kindest one is Trevor.
Yesterday there was a shark, today it's a crab,
There are a billion surfers,
They all look quite rad.
There was a TV crew there yesterday,
to report on the mess,
a thousand people all playing chess!
I think you would like this beach,
many people do,
so next time I go there,
I'll be thinking of you.

By Kimberly F.

Hyperbole Poems Year 6

Welcome to my Hyperbole Indian Restaurant

Welcome to my Indian restaurant
Our chicken drowns in a delicious curry
For lunch our spices will light you up with fire
Here you will love the exotic food that will taste as a new discovery.
Our coconut water is as fresh as fresh fruits.
Our Barfi will make you dream of a supply of sugary treats.
The gallons of Rasmalai will make you float on a cloud.
Our pickles will make us here loud applause from the crowd.
Our Juicy juice milkshake will surely give you a smile.
We hope to see you soon!

By Aditi P.

Welcome to my GARDEN....

Leaves as green as lime
Flowers as big as the moon
Strong and spicy smelling thyme
Trees as tall as skyscrapers
Flowers at full bloom
Birds as fast as wind
Lavender like perfume
Grass green, soft and short
The trees harder, tougher than rock
Bees striped like zebras.

By Rhianna R.

Welcome to the Hyperbole School....

Our school is taller than the Eiffel tower.
Our cafeteria is bigger than the Empire State Building.
The food is so good, a tiger will eat it.
The homework is so easy that a mouse could even do it.
Our students die from boredom, at break time of course!
Our lessons are the funniest lessons in the world.
We always love new students,
So come and join the fun!

By Arina D.

Welcome to my city....

People would die to try our popcorn.
Our circus is the best in the world.
The clowns will make you die of laughter.
Nothing will matter as you feel your worries fade away.
You shall see the tallest trees.
Our cotton candy is as big as aeroplanes.
The rides you shall see are as big as trains.
And our nightmares shall haunt you forever
Our rescue animals will be the cutest thing you'll see we all hope to see you soon so come and join me!

By Mae H.

Welcome to my house....

Where everything is perfect
My lights shine like diamonds
My house is as big as a castle
I live like a prince.
I hope you will visit soon.

By Marcus J.

BEDTIME READING

With the added pressures of daily life and stress during the Covid-19 pandemic and a new dependence and discovery of technology for many children during lockdown, some of us have started positive new habits but others may have forgotten some valuable old ones. Increasingly, a daily bedtime story read by a parent or sibling is being replaced by a child falling asleep in front of TV or with a tablet in their hand. So, why is it so important for your child's development to read a bedtime story? Firstly, numerous studies show that prolonged screen time before bed disrupts the quality of sleep and this is key to healthy, normal development. Secondly, the ritual of a bedtime story is so important for young children as this daily activity creates routine and security and develops a strong bond between parents and children. Studies also show that listening to a regular bedtime story helps build a child's vocabulary and increases their imagination and can help create good habits and a love of reading. So parents, your holiday homework is to regularly read a bedtime story to your child!

For a more in depth article, go to <https://bilingualkidspot.com/2016/06/28/bedtime-stories-read-to-children/>.

PLAYDATE

On Tuesday 30th June, Children's House and Lower Primary teachers, parents and children got together at Pereybere Beach for a final goodbye and the opportunity to wish each other happy holidays. The sun was shining for us, the sea was warm, the local beach sculptor was working on a new creation, the ice-cream van was there and everyone was smiling. It was a pleasure to watch many of the children reconnect together and play as naturally as always, despite the fact that many children had not seen each other in over two months.



REMOTE LEARNING DURING TERM 3

On Thursday 19th March, we all heard the news that schools were to close. Looking back from that point, to the end of Term 3, the challenges we all faced and overcame successfully are a testament to the strength, resilience and adaptability of our children, the staff and the parent community at Northfields. The learning curve was steep for all involved. Parents were expected to become home-based teachers whilst still juggling housework, jobs, younger children and sourcing food; students could no longer go to school, socialise and see friends; staff had to learn a whole new way of teaching online, become video presenters, learn how to use new technology and all this whilst still juggling their own households and family's needs. But after an initial period of craziness and adaptation, we all found a new routine and the results were amazing. Of course the children really missed their teachers and friends, but the children's ability to adapt was phenomenal thanks to the guidance of their teachers and

parents. Despite the difficulties, learning at home also provided different opportunities for learning. Even our youngest learners could contribute to the running of their household by cooking, sweeping, hanging up laundry etc. both as meaningful work, but also as part of their essential development. As Maria Montessori stated: *The exercises of practical life are formative activities, a work of adaptation to the environment. Such adaptation to the environment and efficient functioning therein is the very essence of a useful education.*

During the school closure, the positive attitude, participation in online lessons and the quality of completed work was fantastic. The Children's House and Lower Primary teachers have no doubt that for the vast majority of learners, during the Remote Learning period, the students continued to learn and progress in reading and writing and increase their experience and knowledge in all subjects.

NEW BEGINNINGS

June 2020, not only marks the end of our 2019-2020 academic year, but we have also reached the end of an era. Northfields Nursery and Primary School started with humble beginnings under the name of Martin'Ecole Primary, in one building, with a handful of staff and just eleven students on the first admissions list. But the school grew and so did the children.

Some of those early students, such as Elliott and Uliana are still at Northfields and about to start Year 12! In the future, we hope to see more and more children progress through their sixteen years of schooling at Northfields from the Pre-Nursery all through to the Sixth Form.

The journey should be consistent and stable and allow our students to feel secure and confident. By giving them the opportunity every year to build on their academic skills, knowledge and achievements within a familiar and supportive community, we offer our students maximum opportunities for success.

It's time now to say goodbye to the Pereybere Campus, our home for seven years and to anticipate an exciting new

start as we move to the main Northfields Mapou Campus.

Renovation works are well underway to welcome the Nursery and Primary School in an enclosed area within the larger campus. Safety, practicality and the opportunity for excellence remain at the forefront of our minds during both the design and execution phases of this project. We will be thrilled to unveil our two new Lower Primary classes (Years 2-4) and two new Children's House classes (Nursery, Reception and Year 1) to you in August.

We are sure that all our students will thrive in our meticulously prepared and beautiful Montessori learning environments.

HOME BASED LEARNING

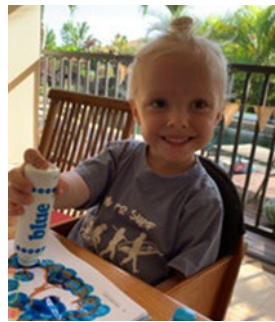
As a nation-wide lock-down was enforced, we worked on bringing our children to each other through on-line 'Morning Circles' and late afternoon playtimes such as 'Hello my Friend – Come Chat and Play!' through online platforms such as ClassDojo and Microsoft Teams. It was lovely to see how our students entertained each other with the assistance of technology. We ensured that we were still working through our Montessori curriculum through activities that could be sustained at home as a family, using the resources that our families had. Our teachers also got involved in leading activities, stories, songs and pre-recorded lessons that our working parents were able to utilise later, if time had been a challenge.

Helena, from Monkeynastix, also joined us in continuing her physical develop-

ment with our students by first sending pre-recorded videos that children from around the world had done. As the lock-down was extended, Helena joined us on Teams in doing live sessions. They were all so excited to see her and got involved in moving their bodies to the exercises that she was demonstrating.

A big thank you goes to all parents who worked with us to ensure that learning continued at home!

It was a time that no-one will forget and will be remembered for a generation.



GRADUATION

Our Pre-Nursery students have had a very busy year at school with our theme for the year: "Me and My World". As our students are absorbing from their surrounding environments, both in and out of school, we introduced them to themselves and who they are. They had a fun year learning "All About Me!", "My Family and My Home" and "Mauritius my Island". Our young learners were able to gain a concrete perspective on who they are and that we are all the same yet different and we all form part of a bigger world!

On the last day of school, 26th June 2020, in celebration of their hard work both in school and on-line learning during the confinement, we held a little farewell party in the morning with our students and teachers. Later we invited our Pre-Nursery parents to join us in an intimate graduation ceremony to celebrate their child's success in their milestones that they had achieved during the year. Our student's may be little but there is so much growth and development that occurs within the first

three years of a child's life. It is important to acknowledge where they have now come and where they are going.

It was hard to believe that the time had come for them to leave us. When they first joined pre-nursery, there was much separation anxiety for both parents and the children. Now that it's time for the children to move on, it is the staff who have separation anxiety instead! We will miss them more than you know but we smile through the goodbye tears because we are so grateful to have been part of their lives during this time. We thank you for sharing your amazing children with us and for allowing us to be part of your family during this year.



BACK TO SCHOOL

As June was approaching us it was announced that our children under the age of three years could return to school. The staff at the Pre-Nursery were thrilled as we were missing our students and couldn't wait to see them on the 3rd of June.

Our dedicated facilities team got involved in a deep clean and sanitization of the Pre-Nursery from roof to floor. All our staff members got tested for Covid-19 before they returned to work.

The first day back was a memorable one, seeing the bright smiles of our young learners as they walked through the gates and saw their friends. It was a day of chatting, playing and rekindling relationships.

The time spent at home had been a positive experience for our children as some entered into their 'explosion of language' phase, as all the words they had incarnated for the past years had finally been absorbed and now utilised as they got underway in telling each other what they did as a family.

During our first morning circle, we discussed why they had not been to school for a while. One answer received was "There was a virus and we could get sick!" another response was "Go and ask the grown-ups?". Needless to say our children were happy to be back at school.



TECHNOLOGY NEWS**E Textbooks**

Following the successful implementation of the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme this year, we are currently extending our range of e-textbooks on various platforms including Kognity, Kerboodle, Classoos and Snapplify. These resources allow for continual updates on content from the publishers and the integration of a variety of media resources. Teachers are also able to monitor student progress and collaborate on online using these resources.

Ed-Admin

In order to efficiently manage our internal processes and to better serve our community, we are implementing a new school management system called Ed-Admin. The platform will replace our iSAMS system and allow for the provision of new services to parents and students such as online canteen ordering, cashless payment system for students, mobile Apps for monitoring student attendance, discipline and other information just to name a few. Stay tuned for more!

ManageBac

We have the pleasure to announce that we are currently implementing ManageBac, which is the leading IB learning management system (LMS). By combining curriculum planning and assessment into one unified system with a consistent, modern and mobile-ready interface, ManageBac provides a seamless and integrated experience for coordinators, teachers, students and parents. ManageBac will replace Moodle and will be run in conjunction with Ed-Admin to provide an integrated online system for our students, parents and staff.

Network Enhancement

We are currently revamping our ICT network system by replacing old equipment to latest Aruba technology which besides providing better performance, will also be more secure. Our CCTV system is also being revised to improve coverage around the school for enhanced security of our community.

Data Privacy and Compliance

To be fully Data Protection and GDPR compliant, Northfields has appointed a consultant to review our processes in terms of Data Privacy and Protection. As part of this process, you will be required to review and update your personal data such as your name, residential and email addresses, phone numbers etc. online through Ed-Admin. More details will follow in due course.

We would like to congratulate our French teacher Mrs Duval on the birth of her son earlier this month. Our best wishes go to her and her family during this special time!

We are also pleased to announce several new staffing appointments throughout the school for the coming academic year:

High School**Nadia Fitzgerald**

Having so successfully taught and nurtured our Year 6 students over the past year, Ms Fitzgerald is now moving to the High School as a member of the English faculty. With over 20 years of experience in teaching, we are very pleased that she will be able to continue teaching with her high level of skill and care as an educator with our older students going forward.

Jayshree Babajee

Ms Babajee will be joining our Mathematics and IT faculty as our new maths teacher. She holds a BSc in Mathematics as well as a PGCE. She joins us in August with 7 years of teaching experience and is already contributing positively to the faculty planning and preparation for next year.

Ashley Gooljar

Mr Gooljar joined us nearly 4 years ago as an original member of our Year 5 and 6 team. He is extremely dynamic and has been key in helping the school in building the use of technology in the classroom and in carrying Northfields forward as an Eco School. He has been teaching across both the Prep and High School and is now keen to move fully into teaching more of our higher level courses as a member of our Science faculty in August.

Helen Keetarut

Mrs Keetarut has recently joined us as our new Library Resource Officer. She has settled in extremely well over the past weeks and is looking forward to setting up our new Library and helping us to foster a healthy culture of reading and research across the school.

Prep School**Keryn Thyssen**

Mrs Thyssen will be joining the school as our new Year 6 teacher. Keryn holds a BSc (hons) in Counselling Psychology, holds a PGCE and has more than 15 years of experience in teaching abroad and in Mauritius.

Fabienne Rivière

Mrs Riviere also will be joining the Year 5 and 6 team as our new teaching assistant. She has more than 9 years of teaching experience and previously worked at Ecole du centre, MEP and Martine Ecolette.

Nursery and Primary School**Ashwina Soyjaudha**

Miss Soyjaudha began her career at Northfields in September 2016 as a Pre Nursery Teacher and moved to the High School in 2018 to work as a Teaching Assistant. She will now be moving to our Nursery and Primary School to as a Lower Primary Teacher. She holds a BA in Childcare (level 5) and a Montessori Teaching Diploma (Level 6) from Ireland. Prior to working at Northfields, Miss Soyjaudha worked in Ireland as a Pre-Primary Teacher and a Montessori Teacher and has more than 13 years of teaching experience.