

ULLENS NEWS

Volume IV, Year 5, January - March, 2011

Office of the Principal

"Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each."

~ Plato (BC 427 - BC 347)

Dear parents and guardians,

It is amazing how quickly the school year has elapsed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind support and continued assistance to make the school year very successful. We highly appreciate your dedication, time and energy to help your child's school to offer wonderful enrichment activities.

Our students worked hard and I am pleased with their progress and I applaud their tremendous success in studies.

I would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of our faculty members and administration staff through this newsletter. Without their continued support, we would not achieve our goals and stand where we are now.

I would also like to thank Dr. Barbara Butterworth, our school's advisor and Ilya Pratt for organizing several professional development workshops to our faculty members during this academic year. These workshops have been very fruitful in strengthening our curriculum and honing our teaching skills.

I look forward to the upcoming school year. I wish each of you a happy, healthy, and a prosperous New Year!

Sincerely yours,
Medin Lamichane
Principal

Congratulations, Welcome and Thank You Note

Congratulations!

Ullens School would like to congratulate our teachers **Suvekchhya Choudhary**, **Rupak Koirala**, **Sagar Mani Neupaney** as well as member of our transport staff **Dev Maharjan** on their marriage and wish them all the very best for a happy conjugal life.

Thank you!

All of the faculty and staff at Ullens School would like to thank **Dr. Barbara Butterworth** for the support she has given us for improving the quality of curriculum, instruction as well as programs and services at school. Barbara's focus this year was on development of instructional leaders/ teacher leaders, mentoring/ coaching the Executive Committee as well as the School Leadership Team on school management issues, conducting professional development workshops for teachers, advising on better utilization of ICT resources available at school as well as in leading discussions and helping with design for further development of comprehensive Physical Education, Arts, Music and Service Learning Programs at Ullens School. Her inputs have been extremely useful and we hope to apply her recommendations in the coming year and continue working with her in the future.

The faculty and staff at Ullens School would also like to thank **Ilya Pratt**, a special education and learning expert for her valuable input in developing professional capacity at school to attend to special needs in children where

Welcome!

Ullens School would like to welcome our new teachers Diki Sherpa, Arati C.P. Kunwar and Bin Shila Thapa into the Ullens School community. We look forward to working with you in the years to come to provide quality education to our students.

learning is concerned. **Ilya Pratt** is at Ullens School as part of Ullens School's teacher exchange program with Presidio Hills School, a well known progressive education establishment in San Francisco, California. She has worked intensely with Grade 2 teachers, the school counselor as well as in conducting professional development workshops for teachers. Upon the request of the Action Team for Partnership, Ilya conducted a parenting workshop for all of the parents of the Ullens School community on how to ensure success in their children. The workshops which were held separately for children of primary and secondary/ high school grade level parents were well attended and appreciated by the parents who attended.

Ullens School would also like to thank **Suzanne Heller** for her involvement in school life and the contribution she made to teaching and in special support classes as well as her specific contribution to English language instruction and play production for the students of Grade 2.

We would also like to thank **Meg Dyos** and **Rosalie Barnes** for their support to teachers of the primary levels in classroom instructions as well as field trips and performances.

News and Event Updates

Teacher Exchange Program

As of this year, Ullens School has initiated a teacher exchange program with Presidion Hills, a highly reputed progressive education establishment in San Francisco, California. While Ilya Pratt is one of the experts who came to Ullens School in the last term, **Mrs. Mumta Thakuri**, Grade 2 class teacher as well as **Mr. Mahesh Tripathy** secondary and IB English language faculty have gone to Presidio Hills for a 6 week immersion program at Presidio Hills. Mumta's internship at Presidio Hills will be on instruction at the primary grades level as well as in Special Education while Mahesh's focus will be on writing skills and middle grades instruction for the English language.

Herbal Garden Project Update:

Ullens School students and project leader **Mrs. Poonam Hamal**, Environment Population and Health teacher at the secondary level, have been involved in the Herbal Garden Project initiated by ICIMOD since June, 2010.



Ullens School came in second in the Inter-School Herbal Garden Upscaling Project competition. Ullens was one of the seven winning schools in the contest for developing herbal gardens inside the school campuses and will now further partake in the promotion and replication of such gardens in public schools, one of which would be a school outside Kathmandu Valley.

The runner-up award comes with a cash prize of Rupees 10,000 and a certificate.

At the next phase, Ullens School students will initiate, mentor and monitor student led Herbal Garden initiated in Shree

SLC SCHEDULE

March 24 (Chaitra 10)	English
March 25 (Chaitra 11)	Nepali
March 27 (Chaitra 13)	Mathematics
March 28 (Chaitra 14)	Social Studies
March 29 (Chaitra 15)	Science
March 30 (Chaitra 16)	EPH
March 31 (Chaitra 17)	OPT Math/English
April 1 (Chaitra 18)	Computer

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Center : Mahendra Adarsha Secondary School, Satdobato

GOOD LUCK TO GRADE 10 STUDENTS FOR THEIR UPCOMING SLC EXAMS!!!

Krishna Higher Secondary School, Dhapakhel; Namuna Machindra Higher Secondary School, Lagankhel and Bhawani Higher Secondary School, Kakani, Nuwakot District.

As a part of this program, Ullens School students attended the ICIMOD Open House on March 12, 2011 as well as took part in the British School Eco Fest on March 18, 2011.

Guy's Visit to School and the Annual School Dinner

Patron of Ullens School **Baron Guy Ullens** visited Ullens School for follow up and feedback on school's developments in the last academic year.

Guy held special interaction sessions with primary, secondary as well as IB students to get a sense of the level of learning children are getting through Ullens School. The annual school dinner which is held every year for all of the faculty and staff at Ullens School was held this year again in honor of Baron Guy Ullens. The evening was a great way to end the last academic year which has been incredibly rich in experiences of all of the members of the Ullens School community.

New Admissions

The admission process for incoming Grade 1 is over and we are excited to have selected a fresh group of active



young minds to be with us starting next academic year. In addition to grade 1 admissions, Ullens School made an open call for admission to students who had been waitlisted for other grade levels, albeit for very limited number of seats and are filling up those openings after due process of exams, short-listing, interviews and selections to operate school in full capacity in the coming academic year. We look forward to welcoming new children and parents into our school community and providing high quality education and care to our students.

ATP Update

The Action Team for Partnership organized a lecture event with **Mr. Rabindra Mishra**, senior journalist and representative of BBC in Nepal on the responsibilities of the citizenship in Nepal's context. ATP would like to thank Mr. Mishra on giving the school community his time and valuable insights on the topic.

In view of a Special Education and Learning expert, **Ms. Ilya Pratt** of Predisio Hills being at Ullens School, the ATP tool special initiate to organize parenting workshop for parents of primary as well as secondary grades. The workshops were well attended by parents and provided a platform for parents to discuss relevant issues related to the development of the child, pleasures and challenges of parenting in this day and age and strategies to move forward to help children be more successful.



Grade 5 Social Studies Presentation

As a culmination activity of Grade 5's Nepal unit, students of grade 5 organized a special 4 day celebration at the end of this academic year to celebrate different components of Nepali culture and society. Grade 5's "Nepal Week" was scheduled from 14th March, Monday to 17th March, Thursday during which children wrote poems, organized



Grade 1 End of Year Celebrations:

Students and teachers of grade 1 worked hard all year to present the best of what they had learnt during all of last year amid a special program designed to engage parents with their children at school at the end of this year. The program was attended by all parents and was incredibly interactive, where children showed reading, writing, art and other skills they had acquired during the last year.

Grade 2 and 3 Organize Talent Shows

Education at Ullens School focuses on development of a child as a whole. In order to exhibit skills in music, art, martial arts etc. that children have acquired over the last year at school,

children of grade 2 and 3 organized special programs to showcase their talents to their parents. The programs were well organized by different grades on different dates and well attended by parents, reinforcing the value we place on increasing parental involvement celebrating student achievements and school life in general.



recitations and quizzes for teachers and celebrated with a party of special food items to appreciate Nepali cuisine.

Trip to the Patan Industrial Estate

As a part of social studies curriculum, grade 2 students went to the Patan Industrial estate. The field trip was meant to enlighten children to be aware of what industries are and how they contribute to life in a city like Kathmandu.



Excursion to Khokana

At the end of the school year, children of grade 2 and 3 went for a special day-long excursion to Khokana, one of the oldest towns in the Kathmandu valley, which is also mapped on the list of UNESCO's World Heritage sites. Children



walked around the old town squares and alleys and observed the nuances of life in this old city. After spending some time in the main town, everyone went to Bungamati, where there is the main temple of Lord Machhendranath. Since children have read and studied about Machhendranath festival, it was an

interesting exposure to go to the lord's home town. A special discussion on the significance of Machhendranath, and why he is so important to the farmers was also carried out. At the end of the tour, children got special permission to eat lunch at a farm. The children enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Trip to an Eco-house

As a way to reinforce their classroom learning, children of Grade 9 were taken for a field trip to an eco-house at Kirtipur on Thursday, February 24, 2011. The eco-house belonged to our very own IB faculty of Environmental Sciences and Systems, **Mr. Bhusan Tuladhar**. Bhusan Sir is a well known environmentalist in Nepal, having worked extensively in



initiating innovative projects for sustained protection of the environmental as well as in advising the Kathmandu Metropolitan City on environmental management strategies.

During the field trip, students got to see rainwater harvesting, SODIS method to disinfect water, solar energy collection and conversion and its uses, gray water recycling, vermin-composting, eco-san toilet, biogas production and many other



examples to reuse, reduce and recycle for leading an environmentally sustainable lifestyle. Students were highly inspired and motivated to act in a similar fashion. We are thankful to Bhusan Sir and his family for their warm courtesy and being a role model for conservation of environment.

9th Grade field trip to National museum with Shweta

To reinforce children's learning about sources of history, the students of grade 9 were taken on a trip to the National Museum in Chhauni.

Trip to Vajra Academy - An Eco-friendly School

As part of their Environment, Population and Health curriculum, grade 6 students were taken to Vajra Academy on Feb 2, 2011. Located at Vajra Barahi, Vajra Academy is the first green and eco-friendly school of Nepal. While on the trip, students interviewed the principal



of the school, Mrs. Achala Thapa and interacted with the students there and were taken around to school for a school tour. Vajra Academy is also one of the schools that is working with us for the ICIMOD led herbal garden project. The solar steam kitchen, biogas, dairy farms



and organic kitchen garden were a source of great inspiration for our students. After some snacks, the children of the two schools played some sports together and connected on a friendly level.

Drama to reinforce Language Arts

As a part of the effort to develop a strong foundation in English language and help students develop confidence in communication skills, grade nine students developed a drama based on their understanding of the text "Twelve Angry Men" by Reginald Rose. The drama was read in class which motivated ninth graders to showcase their understanding of the text in stage performance- an informal, often spontaneous presentation.

After few weeks of preparation, with guidance from English teachers **Ekta Rana** and **Mahesh Tripathy**, and advice from IB theatre faculty **Hannah Lilly**, students invited their parents and teachers to enjoy and appreciate their initiative. The play was a good representation of the ease with which children are able to express in the English language at the grade 9 level and also, a good opportunity for refining their creative and public speaking abilities.



नेपाली सप्ताह समापन

नेपाली भाषा सिकाइलाई रमाइलो र रोचक बनाई सम्पूर्ण युलेन्स स्कूलका विद्यार्थीहरूमा सिकाई प्रति जागरण ल्याउने उद्देश्यले आयोजना गरिएको नेपाली सप्ताह यही २०६७ साल माघ २८ गते शुक्रबार विशेष समारोहको साथ सम्पन्न गरियो। उक्त कार्यक्रम अवधिभर यस स्कूलका छात्र/छात्राहरूका साथै सम्पूर्ण विद्यालय परिवारले शुद्ध नेपाली बोल्न प्रयास गरेका थिए। उक्त कार्यक्रममा विद्यार्थीहरूले नेपाली साहित्यका विभिन्न विधामा आ-आफ्ना रचनाहरू प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए



भने गीत गायन, कविता वाचनका साथै कक्षा ६ देखि ९ सम्मका केही छात्र/छात्राहरूले वक्तृत्वकला र हाजिरी जवाफ प्रतियोगितामा पनि भाग लिएका थिए। कार्यक्रम समापनका दिन विशेष अतिथिका रूपमा पाल्नुभएका बाल साहित्यकार रामबाबु सुवेदी ज्यूको आगमनले कार्यक्रमलाई अझै शोभनीय

बनाएको थियो। उक्त कार्यक्रमका प्रथम, द्वितीय, तृतीय र सहभागी हुने विद्यार्थीहरूलाई सोही दिन सम्मान स्वरूप प्रमुख अतिथिज्यू र यसै विद्यालयका प्रधानाध्यापक मेदिन लामिछाने ज्यूद्वारा संयुक्त रूपमा प्रमाण पत्र वितरण गरी कार्यक्रम समापन गरियो।

वक्तृत्वकला प्रतियोगिताका सहभागी र विजयी छात्र/छात्राहरू :

सहभागी: विशेष श्रेष्ठ, आर्यन बज्राचार्य, आर्या रिजाल, चिरनराज पाण्डे, सज्जा सिवाकोटी

प्रथम: श्रीयुक्ती शाह

द्वितीय: अस्मिता बस्नेत

तृतीय: फाल्गुणी बस्नेत

हाजिरी जवाफ प्रतियोगिताका सहभागी र विजयी छात्र/छात्राहरू:

सहभागी: सोनिया तिमल्सिना, संगीता पौडेल, पूजा वानिया, सुगत पनेर, सुशिल पौडेल, साक्षी शर्मा, आशिष उप्रेती, प्रभुती राणा

प्रथम समूह: सन्तोषी तामाङ, सर्मिन थापा, अभिजन चित्रकार फुयाल, अमिर लामा

द्वितीय समूह: काजि गुरुङ, आनन्दिता श्रेष्ठ, नविना गुरुङ, श्रेयन्द्रपुरुष ढकाल

तृतीय समूह: आज्ञा अवाले, सुएशा केसी, दीक्षा न्योहाङ

यस विशेष कार्यक्रमको आयोजना युलेन्स स्कूल नेपाली विभागका शिक्षक देवकी पनेर, तिर्थ कार्की, रूपक कोइराला तथा मिना लुइटेल्द्वारा गरिएको थियो।

IB Spirit Week

The students of IB celebrated a week long event called Spirit Week which they dedicated to coming to school in pajamas, dressing up as hippies, having funky hair, dressing up as twins, imitating a teacher among others. The event was organized by the IB Student Council. Here's what they looked like!



CAS Update:

The past three month's CAS engagements have been very dynamic.

For CAS Outdoors, students have gone rock climbing at Nagarjun twice and caving in Chobar. Caving was a new and exciting activity for most students and they thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.

In CAS Creativity activities, girls have also joined B-Boying dance lessons and we look forward to seeing their performance.

In addition, the photography, music and Model United Nations have also been going well. For photography, children have gone out of school for special photography sessions and with Model United Nations, students have been learning the rules and procedure of the UN and how one expresses while addressing the UN assembly. Students are working on different research topics based on their committee's focus and have been making presentations for peer feedback and refinement.

In CAS Action:

Students have been engaging in Basketball, Football, Wushu, Table Tennis and Lawn Tennis. The IB Student council also organized a street football tournament at school.

In CAS Service:

Children providing support to the Cerebral Palsy Center have been working with engaging children at the center in creative activities and just learning to engage with disabled people.

The Eco club has picked up quite well this semester since the paper recycling plant has been installed. The club has plans to increase the members from the middle school in the new academic year and impart the paper recycling skills so more recycled paper can be produced. They also have plans to donate recycled paper for the needy people to support their income generation; such as the elderly people in Dilshova Elderly Home. If the paper quality is good enough they plan to supply the recycled paper to the school administration for office stationeries and art classes. The club has also been spreading awareness raising messages for the conservation of energy and environmental issues and are presently working on building a composting pit for organic waste generated at school.

Children working at Dilshova's center have been working with elderly people as well as orphans. In addition, a special student led initiative has been initiated and students have installed a new water tank with a filtration device, to improve the drinking water quality for the center. Some other students from within the group have led a clothing and stationary drive to provide some help to the needy children of the center.

School tutoring: Moti Binakay Primary School, Sunakothi has become a partner and 4 IB students are currently helping children at different grade levels to improve their performance at school.

Basketball coaching: Two very skilled basketball players in IB 1 are coaching children from Shree Padma Prakash Secondary School on Wednesday afternoons. It's a great service our children are being able to give to children who otherwise do not have a sport facility at their schools.

IB Theatre for Service: The members of the Ullens IB's Theater for Service Program staged a street play to mark the annual World Cancer Day in Patan Durbar Square on Friday, 4th February 2011.

The student-directed play - showcasing some of the most common causes and misconceptions about the prevalence of cancer in Nepali society - featured eight IB first year students. The play, watched by more than a hundred people, also provided the student actors with an opportunity to engage and discuss various issues relating to socially responsible theater performances.

In addition to this, a special clothing and toys collection drive among all the students at Ullens School was organized by children of the group to take to children of Antardristi, a center for sexually abused girl children.

On the day of Shivaratri, children that are a part of this group went to Antardristi and performed a funny play developed by themselves, to bring some smiles to the faces of the children at the center. Students will now be working on developing a fundraising video for Antardristi that they can show to students in other schools to raise consciousness about sexual abuse among children in schools.

Children of Theatre for Service are also coming together with the group active at DilShova's center to work on an oral history and theatre project with the elderly in the second half of this semester, after project week.

Ullens School in College Theatre Festival

Ullens School IBDP Theatre students took part in the College Theatre Festival which was organized by the Pathshala Theatre Group, at Gurukul from 17 February - 27 February, 2011.

Written by an IB 1 student, the play titled Tears in the Fire, was performed on Wednesday, 23rd February, 2011 at

Gurukul's Sama Theatre, at 12 Noon and 5:00 p.m.

The play was 50 minutes long and used both Nepali and English languages.

The play was about two young students whose lives turn out to be a journey of battles over continuous chain of misfortunes that ultimately determines the shape of their lives.

Professional Development in IB

The IB Workshop for English B Teachers in Singapore from 28 - 30 Jan 2011 was attended by **Mr. Mahesh Tripathi**, faculty of English in IB and secondary grades at Ullens School.

The IB Workshop for CAS coordinators and TOK coordinators was attended by **Ivan Coursac** and **Shane Horn** in New Delhi from 12 - 14 February, 2011.

Project Week

Project Week is a core part of the IB Diploma Programme at Ullens School that provides a further opportunity for students to put into practice skills acquired

throughout the CAS and academic course during a week-long project outside of the Kathmandu valley. It also provides students an opportunity to learn about communities and environment of the rural areas in Nepal. Students are divided into groups as per the number of Project Week sites. They are expected to hold a presentation upon completion of the Project Week. Participation in the Project Week is compulsory for the first year of IBDP at Ullens School.

Theme

The Project Week covers the following components - Research, Education, Action, Development - also known as READ.

Project Week Schedule:

21 - 23 March, orientation at Sipadol;
24 - 29 March, project sites
Sites: 1. Chhebang, Dhading district (Tamang community); 2. Dhusa, Chitwan district (Cheppang community); 3. Sota, Chitwan district (Gurung community)

College Corner: University Preparations for IBDP students

The month of February was a busy one for the students as far as college preparations are concerned.

On 8th of February **Ms Suzanne Heller** a graduate of Bowdoin College and volunteer at Ullens school made a presentation about Bowdoin College and studying in the US. Bowdoin is one of the 25 new ivies colleges in the USA.

On 9th of February our students were invited to attend the US Education Fair at Lincoln School where 12 colleges were introduced by their representatives. It was a unique opportunity for students to meet college representatives directly and to exchange questions and information. It gave our students a better understanding on how to apply to the universities in US.

On 12th and 13th of February students attended the the UK Education Fair at UWTC in Tirpureswor. There they met 30 colleges which were introduced by their representatives

On 15th of February **Ms Nilofer Rashidova** - Senior International Officer of University of East Anglia came and made a presentation on education in the UK and in their University. UEA falls within the top 100 of European universities, and top 30 of UK universities, as per the Times League Table 2010. It was also the recipient of the "Student Choice Award" of the UK National Student Survey. UEA has also been ranked 19th overall in the UK by the Guardian newspaper in their University Guide 2011. A special

scholarship of £1,500 and £2000 to successful Ullens School students who score 34 points for up to a maximum of four years in total has been proposed for our students.

On 17th of February representative of Webster University, Thailand **Ms. Jaswani R. L. Rana**, Country Manager for Recruitment (Nepal) visited Ullens School and made a presentation on their programs with the students.

On 24th February **Mr. Patrick T. Kirby**, Ph.D. Coordinator, International Student Admissions Assistant to VP of Westminster College (USA) visited Ullens School for a presentation.

Kutumba Live Concert at Ullens

Highly acclaimed folk ensemble band Kutumba played a benefit concert at Ullens School auditorium to mark the end of the academic school year on Thursday, 17th March, 2011.

The concert was preceded by presentations from the representatives

of Sarvodaya Nepal, a well-known social organization, which has been collaborating with Kutumba in various fundraising efforts for social causes.

Ullens students were urged to take leadership in social actions, starting with co-operation in Sarvodaya's "Books and Bucks" campaign, which seeks to support a community school in Chapagaon, Lalitpur.



Tips for Parents

What can parents do to promote writing at home for children in primary grades?

1. Children can improve their writing by "reading like a writer." When your child reads, encourage him or her to notice what the author does to make the writing interesting, entertaining, or informative. Ask your child to explain that trait to you and to share how the authors use that trait in his or her writing.
2. Invite your child to write a new ending to a favorite story, television show, or movie.
3. Write a family newsletter together.
 - Have your child brainstorm what to include in the newsletter (Prewriting).
 - Ask your child to select an idea to write about, and have him or her write a first draft (Writing).
 - Read the draft with your child and discuss how to improve the writing by choosing more interesting words and improving the organization (Revision).
 - Work with your child to read the revised draft closely to check for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation (Editing).
 - Have your child prepare a final draft by rewriting the piece neatly or typing it on the computer. Finally, have your child share the newsletter with other
4. family members by reading it aloud, mailing it to family members, or posting it on the family billeting board or refrigerator (Publishing).
4. Word choice is an important writing trait. To help your child develop a good understanding of the importance of word choice, work together to keep a list of interesting words, phrases, and sentences from things you read together.
5. Provide access to a computer at home or the public library so your child can develop typing skills and easily write, revise, edit, and publish stories, e-mail messages, and other writing pieces.
6. Encourage your child to write, revise, edit, and publish a story online at this free web-site for children: www.kidscom.com/create/write/write.html. Your child can also read, vote on, and take the weekly challenge at this website.
7. Children love to write letters to pen pals or key pals (e-mail pen pals). To find a pen pal from another country, consult this kid friendly website: www.studentsoftheworld.info
8. Give your child a spiral notebook, composition book, or binder that contains notebook paper. Have your child decorate the book and name it. For example, some children may want to call it a diary or journal, and other children may want to call it an idea book or log. Encourage your child to write in the book several times a week. Some writing ideas that may interest your child are as follows:
 - Writing a story that includes several chapters
 - Writing about hobbies or interests
 - Writing about television programs, movies, or video games
 - Writing about a favorite sports team
 - Writing about a special event, holiday, or outing
9. Get your child involved in practical writing that adults do such as writing invitations, thank you notes, or directions.
10. Write a progressive story with your child or family. One of you will begin by writing the opening paragraph. Pass the story to the next person who will add a paragraph. Continue to pass the story from one person to the next until one of you writes an ending. Read the whole story aloud and enjoy.

Source:

Parent Involvement in Reading
By Laune Elish-Piper
ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL
JOURNAL VOL 38, NO 4
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A Center of Excellence in Education

Ullens School

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