

SANSKRITI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

MONTHLY

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022





## NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**Dear Parents,  
Greetings and Namaste!**

I hope you are all well and safe! Let me start by sharing some exciting news. I am overjoyed and honoured to announce that SIS has been re-accredited for the British Council International School Award, 2021-2024. As we look back on our journey, we've learned a lot. In the coming days, we will continue to demonstrate better practices and provide excellent learning experiences, providing opportunities for everyone. I'd like to thank the entire school community, including our students, teachers, and parents, for their active participation in this wonderful journey. My heartfelt thanks to our national and international partners for their patience and collaboration in making our projects meaningful and successful. A big shout-out to you all!

While our learners were away for their winter break in January, we took advantage of this time to plan, train teachers, and organise professional development sessions for our faculty. When teachers have the opportunity to learn new teaching strategies through professional development sessions, they are able to modify these techniques to better meet the needs of their learners best practices, and provide feedback to one another as they grow together, personally and professionally.

After the winter vacation, although we had to start with our online classes initially due to the Government directives, the school opened physically in January for Grades 8 to 11 in the first phase followed by the reopening of the entire school in a full-fledged manner a week later. We began by opening the school in this manner with the safety of our learners as our top priority.

With the dates for the SEE and BEE Assessments for Grades 10 and 8 announced, it is critical that students are prepared for their upcoming exams despite the uncertainty about whether schools will continue to operate physically in the months to come. We are proud that even in these unsettling times, Sanskriti International School was able to conduct in-person preparatory classes for Grades 8 and 10 and provide feedback to the learners' about their final exam performance.

We are now happy to welcome our learners again in- person and continue the programs that we have in our school calendar. As always, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the entire school community. We would not be the school we are today without your continuous support and unyielding cooperation. Lastly, we are optimistic about our future endeavours and committed to continually doing our best!

**Best Regards,**  
Timila Shrestha

## Grade Wise Articles

### ► Exit point: "Going Places"

On February 25, 2022, Early Years celebrated our Exit stretch. Learners were thrilled to share their understanding of the unit, "Going Places." They started with a short introduction of the unit and got a deeper understanding of the content by exploring four different blocks. They were able to express their thoughts independently. Throughout the Exit stretch, they were actively engaged and enthusiastic about the topics they got. The purpose of the unit is to enhance their knowledge about the world, sea creatures, and different modes of transportation. Learners had fun during the Exit stretch through various activities.



## ► 'All About Air'

Human beings are in contact with air every second that they live. It is all around and it extends upwards for many miles as the Earth's atmosphere. On February 11, the learners of Grade 1 participated in the virtual science experiment on "Air" and enhanced their knowledge on its properties through experiments. They researched different facts like its weight, mass, volume, and discussed how it is required for burning. The experiments were conducted using materials like balloons, water, sticks, tissues, bowls, candles, etc. that were easily available to them. The experiments were fruitful and it was a joy to watch the learners participate with such eagerness.



## ▶ "Who Am I?"

Students should share their process and not just their product.

- John Spencer

When learners show their work, they communicate what they did and how they did it in a way that others understand. It becomes a chance to reflect on their work but also clarifies misconceptions that they might not see. On March 2, 2022, learners of Grade 1 celebrated their learning during the first Physical Exit Point of their unit "Who Am I ?" Throughout the unit, learners were keen to learn why we are different and were able to explain and showcase their understanding through their research. The young learners were confident and enthusiastic for their first physical Exit Point and also shared how the unit helped them to better understand themselves and to respect each other's differences. The learners were resilient, respectful, and empathetic while learning about the wider community.



## ► “A Day in the Life”

“Enter to improve, exit to explore. Enter and exit in life, either way, you gain experience.”

- Goutham Peri

On Thursday, February 17, 2022, second graders were excited and zealous to present their Exit Point of the IPC unit, “A Day in the Life.” The Entry and Exit points play a vital role in the success of our IPC unit. The main objective was to articulate their knowledge, skills, and understanding of the unit. The young little learners were resilient as they overcame challenges and presented their work amazingly in various ways. They showcased their creativity and solved riddles, designed Google slides and presentations, and played music videos as well as the Timeline on the History of Television. They took full advantage of the opportunity to exhibit their talent. They conducted the program with confidence and entertained the audience. Their performance in English and Nepali languages was praiseworthy. Hats off to them for their outstanding performance.



## ▶ Time Travellers

“We are travelling through time together, every day of our lives. All we can do is do our best to relish this remarkable ride.”

- Anonymous

Learners of Grade 2 were thrilled to engage in the activities during the Entry Point of the IPC unit, “Time Travellers,” on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. They had an exciting role-play session by being detectives where they explored different clues to solve the mysteries behind certain objects and pictures. Being archaeologists, they created their own paper badges and rummaged around the school looking for a good opportunity to search the hidden objects. These items were left behind in the school premises by a mysterious visitor. Thereafter, the learners investigated and delved further into the objects they found and finalised their findings through discussion and presentation. They shared their knowledge and understanding about the antique objects they had located which included photo frames, old newspapers, artefacts, clay pots, and metals. They also realised that these items might have historical significance or connections to important historical events. In the end, the learners synthesised their experiences, learned from this interesting Entry Point, and recorded them in a journal.



## ► Tailored Teamwork

"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships."

During their Entry Point, Grade 3 learners were divided into groups where they came up with their own team names and badges. They wrote down the qualities they possessed as a team. Learners were involved in a number of team-building games and challenges. These exercises made the group members work together and cooperate in order to achieve success. By completing these activities, they learned about the importance of teamwork, trust, and support.





## ▶ BACK TO SCHOOL!

In the first week of February 2022, virtual classes resumed after a month-long winter vacation. Grade 4 learners joined their classes feeling refreshed and exhilarated. Elated learners got engaged in a number of exciting back-to-school activities planned for the first week. They were welcomed with motivational messages followed by inspirational animated videos and delightful games. They reviewed the online netiquettes and had a collaborative agreement on following the rules and regulations responsibly. Learners also reflected back on their vacation and shared their enjoyable experiences with each other. They shared their projects and assignments through fun-filled activities. Learners enjoyed the tongue twisters, Kahoot Quiz, online games, mindfulness activities, energizers, riddles, breakout room activities, and many more activities throughout the week. They also deepened their understanding of the Personal Learning Goals, mainly focusing on being empathetic in various scenarios. They looked into their previous semester's Goal Setting and contemplated it. Considering and analysing the areas of improvement, they planned a SMART Goal for the fourth semester. Some important days like Sonam Lhosar, Martyr's Day, and Saraswati Pooja were also marked during the first week of online classes. The ebullience of the eager learners could be seen and heard through their active involvement, giggles, and laughs.



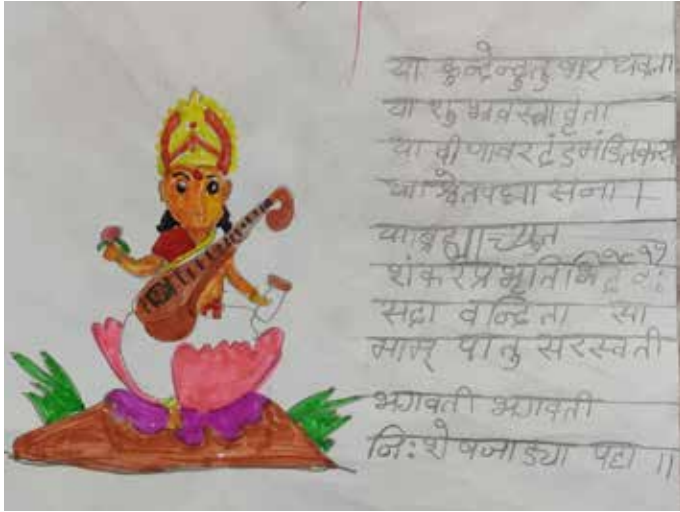
## ▶ 3-2-1 Blast Off!

Grade 5 learners made Balloon Rockets to test the force and energy used by the rocket. They had a great experience in the process while learning about the science behind the movement of the rocket. They were able to investigate what forces are acting on the balloon and how they work? By conducting this simple and fun science experiment, learners were able to gather first-hand information about Action and Reaction. Using simple items like balloons, straw, and string, they learned how the force of air moving in one direction can propel a balloon in the opposite direction, much like a rocket.



## सरस्वती पूजा

यही मिति २०७८।१०।२१ गते शुक्रबारका दिन संस्कृति इन्टरनेसनल स्कूलका कक्षा एकदेखि कक्षा पाँचसम्मका विद्यार्थीहरूले अर्चुअल माध्यमबाट नै विद्याकी देवी सरस्वती माताको आराधना गरे। विद्यार्थीहरूका लागि सरस्वती पूजा किन महत्वपूर्ण छ भन्ने कुराका बारेमा छलफल गरे। संस्कृत भाषामा लेखिएको सरस्वती वन्दना सुनेर त्यसको नेपाली अर्थका बारेमा पनि छलफल गरे। सरस्वती वन्दनाको नृत्यसहितको भिडियो हेरेर सरस्वती माताको विशेषताहरूलाई मनन गर्दै सरस्वतीमातालाई सम्भोले। यसै अवसरमा विद्यार्थीहरूले सरस्वती माताको सुन्दर तस्वीरहरू बनाए, सरस्वती माताको बारेमा उनीहरूलाई थाहा भएका कुराहरू लेखे। उनीहरूले पढेका किताबहरूमध्ये सबैभन्दा बढी मन परेको किताबको नाम प्याडलेटमा लेखे। सरस्वती माताको हातमा भएका साधनहरूको बारेमा चर्चा गरे। यसरी भौतिक रूपमा विद्यालयमा उपस्थित भएर सरस्वती पूजा गर्न नपाए तापनि अर्चुअल कक्षाको माध्यमबाट नै सरस्वती माताप्रति श्रद्धाभाव प्रकट गरी आफ्ना चाडपर्व तथा संस्कृतिलाई निरन्तरता दिइयो।



## ► Reminiscing Moments

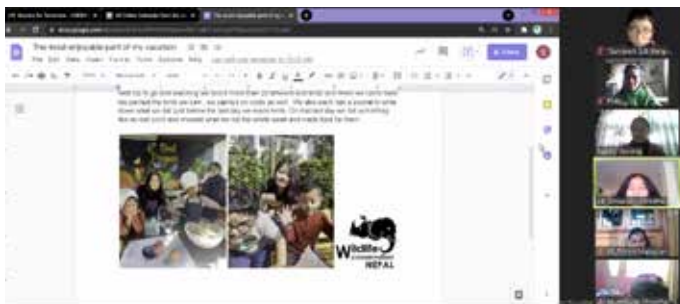
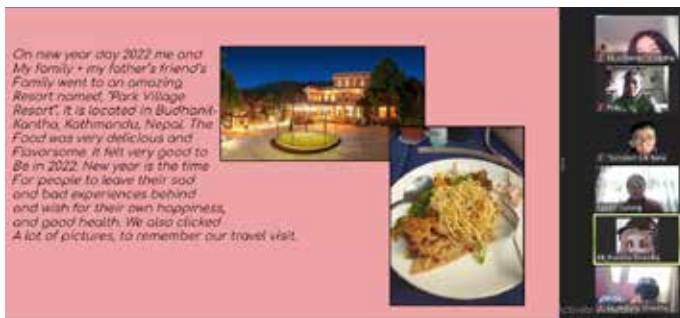
'Life isn't about finding yourself. life is about creating yourself'

- Pinky ma'am

The holiday season is the perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us. We resumed virtual classes after the end of our one-month winter break and to boost the learners' energy level, they reflected on their good memories from the vacation.

The learners of Grade 6 enjoyably recollected their best moments and reminisced and shared archives of photographs of family trips, creating a fun-filled class. They elaborated on their journeys and explained to us that it was not just about visiting places, but in fact, also about discovering their culture.

Some learners enjoyed helicopter rides, some created their memories by spending time with their family and friends, some enjoyed family get-togethers, did face painting, watched movies, and others went for short trips. We could see their happy faces and confidence while explaining their journeys. All in all, this activity increased their self-esteem and strengthened their social and communication skills.



## सेलिब्रेसन - एविजट प्वाण्ट

संस्कृति इन्टरनेसनल स्कूलको कक्षा ७ का विद्यार्थीहरूले आयोजना गरेको आई.एच. वाइ. सी. युनिटको सेलिब्रेसन अर्थात् उत्सव एकाइमा भर्चुअल एविजट प्वाण्ट कार्यक्रम बिहीबार सम्पन्न भएको थियो । उक्त कार्यक्रममा विद्यालयका प्रधानाध्यापक लगायत कक्षा सातका विद्यार्थीका अभिभावकहरूको सहभागिता थियो । विद्यार्थीले उत्सव एकाइमा कक्षाकोठामा सिकेका कुरालाई एविजट प्वाण्टमा विभिन्न प्रस्तुतिद्वारा संछेपमा देखाएका थिए । हरेक विषयसँग राष्ट्रिय पाठ्यक्रमको एकाइलाई आई.एच.वाइ.सी. एकाइको उत्सवलाई अन्तरसम्बन्धित गर्दै उत्सव के हो ? भन्ने विषयमा विद्यार्थीले अनलाइन कक्षामा सिकेका क्रियाकलापहरूलाई निकै रोचक तरिकाले प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए । विद्यार्थीले आफूले सिकेका कुरालाई निकै सहजता र आत्मविश्वासका साथ प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए । जसका लागि विद्यार्थीहरूले विभिन्न अनलाइन सामग्रीको सहयोग लिएर विभिन्न, रचनात्मक क्रियाकलाप प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए । करिब एक घण्टाको सो कार्यक्रममा विद्यार्थी, अभिभावकलगायत सबैको उत्साहपूर्ण उपस्थिति रहेको थियो । कार्यक्रममा विविध विषयको उत्सव शीर्षकसँग सम्बन्धित गर्दै भिडियो, वृत्तचित्र,भाषानुवाद पनि प्रस्तुत गरिएको थियो ।



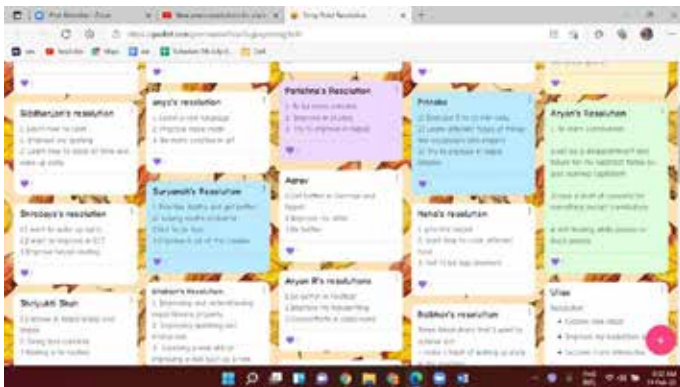
## रिजोल्युसन - एक्जिट प्वाइन्ट

यही मिति २०७८/११/१ का दिन कक्षा ७ को आई.एच.वाइ.सी. पाठ्यक्रमको रिजोल्युसन अर्थात् संकल्प एकाइको एक्जिट प्वाइन्ट क्रियाकलाप सम्पन्न भएको छ । दुवै कक्षाका विद्यार्थीहरूलाई एउटै जुम लिंकमा भेला गराएर विभिन्न समस्या र त्यसको समाधानमूलक मिडियो देखाइयो । त्यसपछि सबै विद्यार्थीलाई विभिन्न समूहमा विभाजन गरेर ब्रेकआउट रुममा पठाइयो । त्यसपछि उनीहरूलाई छोटो अवधिको र लामो अवधिको लागि एउटा लक्ष्य निर्धारण गर्न लगाइयो । त्यसलाई विद्यार्थीहरूले प्याडलेट, मिडियो र अनलाइन माध्यमबाट प्रस्तुत गरेर देखाएका थिए । रिजोल्युसन अर्थात् संकल्प एकाइको ब्रेन स्टोम, नलेज हार्नेष्ट गर्दै अब अध्ययन गरिने एकाइको अनुमान पनि गरियो । त्यसपश्चात बिग आइडियाको अर्थ के हो बुझाउँदै कुनै पनि समाजको एउटा घटना र त्यसको समाधानको बारेमा छलफल पनि गरियो । यसबाट विद्यार्थीहरूले यस एकाइको मुख्य विचार अर्थात् बिग आइडिया भनेको कुनै पनि समस्याहरूको वा विवादहरूको सन्तोषजनक समाधान हुनसक्छ वा गर्न सकिन्छ भन्ने कुरालाई राम्ररी बुझ्न सकेको देखियो ।



### Big Idea

Problems, disputes and contentious issues can sometimes be satisfactorily solved or resolved.



## ► Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

Learners of Grade 8 were engaged in various sets of physical training sessions as a part of their evaluation for Pre BEE Assessment for the subject, "Health and Physical Education." After a long break from physical classes, the learners finally got to take an active part in PE classes undertaking the necessary safety measures. Under the guidance of their PE instructor, the learners enthusiastically underwent various sets of physical training. Through the activity, the learners understood the importance of mindfulness, coordination, and collaboration while performing drills.



## ► Learning to Love Literature

“Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them off every once in a while, or the light won't come in.”

- Isaac Asimov

Literature is the key to catering to the needs of every child in the best way possible to enhance their creative ability and develop skills of critical thinking at the same time. It is all about communication with ample collaborative work. To emphasise the same, the English class has been including various activities to amalgamate all the areas of English to support the reading, writing, listening, and speaking as well as the vocabulary of our learners.

Learners have been involved in various reading and writing activities in the class. They expressed that activities help them understand the literary themes better. Creativity lies in the stories we grow up listening to, the imagery, and the ‘travelling-without-moving’ feeling is the essence that caters to all the 4Cs of 21st-century skills. It opens the mind to imaginations galore and heeds to all kinds of learners. Learners of Grade 9 have been listening to stories and analysing their plots via different illustrations and writing. These activities of reading and writing are integrated with the IMYC Unit, “Responsibility.” The theme centres around the big idea of the unit, “Each of us is in charge of the actions we choose.”







The month of February observed English classes inclusive of several differentiated instructions and multi-sensory classroom experiences to help learners improve their language skills. Learners were engaged in class read-aloud, independent reading sessions, and they also listened to the teacher read-aloud. They expressed their understanding via illustrations, reading response write-ups, Character Pocket Charts, etc. Literary texts used in reading and listening in the English language classroom have made the learners more aware of the language they are learning. This has helped them develop skills and strategies they can apply in many different situations and contexts. Learners have been critical thinkers and they depicted empathy with multiple perspectives and international mindedness. They are on their journey to being thoughtful global citizens which is evident in their writing and class discussions on Afghanistan, Nepal, and other warring zones and events around the world. The learning of the language has become enjoyable and interesting with an increasing trend in the number of readers. They have started making deeper connections to real-life situations and are liable to become critical thinkers.

## ▶ Getting Familiar with Nepali Art

On February 24, 2022, learners of Grade 9 went for a trip to the Museum of Nepali Art located in Kathmandu Guest House, Thamel. The architecture complemented the artworks of the various artists. The main focus of the museum was the art of Samundra Man Singh Shrestha. He is an artist who has risen to international standards with his cultural art. His Paubha paintings portray the culture of the Nepalese people and his forte was definitely his exclusive portrayal of Nepalese gods and goddesses.

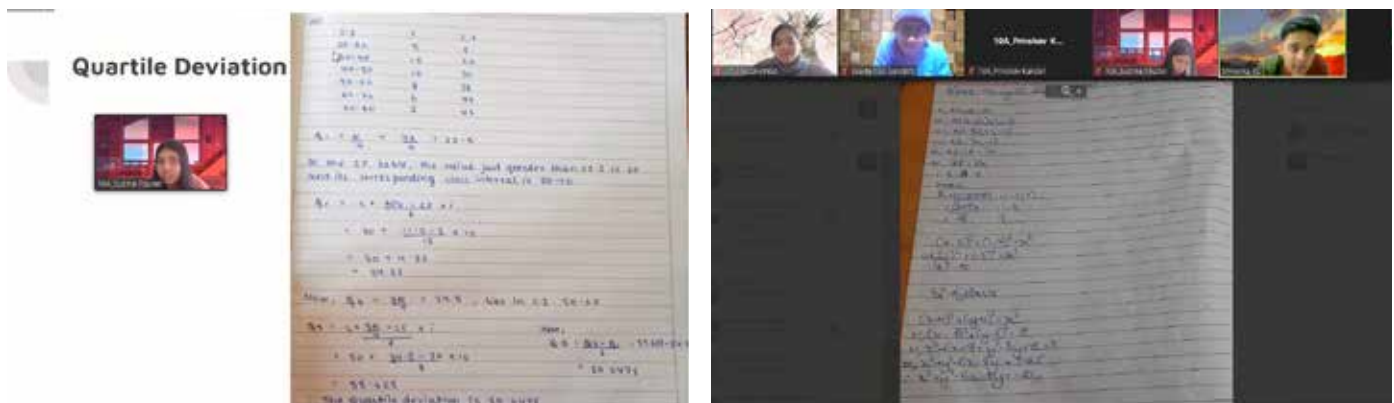
There were also other brilliant paintings of renowned artists such as Lain Singh Bangdel, Shashi Shah, Kiran Manandhar, Laxman Shrestha, Erina Tamrakar, Aasha Dangol, Ananda Muni Shakya, among others. We are grateful to the founder of the museum, Mr. Rajan Shakya, for creating this opportunity for people to learn about the traditional and contemporary artists of Nepal. The museum displayed amazing artwork leaving the audience in awe. Overall, it was a great experience and our learners were keen to visit again.



## ► Application of Jigsaw in class

On Monday, February 28, the learners of Grade 10 reflected on the past questions of Optional Mathematics. The learners were divided into 4 groups where they discussed questions assigned to them. In their different groups, they had to choose and analyse mathematical problems and find solutions. Each group had to solve 4 questions on their part.

After discussing their allotted topics, each group shared and explained their solutions to the class. The learners were also provided opportunities to ask their queries and clarify their doubts. The Jigsaw method has been an effective tool for the learners. The participants not only got a chance to learn and discuss but also learned through peer explanation where every member contributed.



10 a. If  $OA=2i+6j$  and  $OB=2i+j$ . Find the angle between OA and OB

Soln.  
Given,  
 $OA=2i+6j$   
 $OB=2i+j$   
Now,  
 $OA \cdot OB = (2i+6j) \cdot (2i+j)$   
 $= 4i^2 + 2i \cdot j + 12j \cdot i + 6j^2$   
 $= 4 + 6$   
 $= 10$



## Other School Events

### ▶ *ISA Reaccredited*

International School Awards (ISA) is a global accreditation of schools that recognizes the practice of integrating international dimensions in the learning process. Our school is proud to have been accredited with ISA 2020/21 awards for the second time.

The objective of ISA awards is to provide a platform for young learners to participate in a variety of activities to enable them to become global citizens. There were a total of seven projects which involved learners from Early Years to Grade 10.

The ISA projects aimed to give an experience to the learners where they collaborated with other learners of different schools inside and outside the country. The projects were done with in-country collaboration (Janasudhar School), collaboration with international partner schools (Shri. B.S.Mootha School, Chennai, and Mothers Mount Global School, New Delhi, India), and integration of local curriculum with an international dimension.



The learners got an opportunity to develop core competencies such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, leadership, and international mindedness with a variety of projects focused on topics like culture, tradition, global leadership, creative arts, economy, health, etc.

ISA 2020/21 was a great learning experience for the entire school community, and through this, we were able to share our best practices at school by integrating international mindedness with the national curriculum.

# Professional Development

## ▶ SEL

“Teachers need to take care of themselves in order to be able to take care of their students.”

- Carla Tantillo Philibert

A workshop on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) was conducted by the facilitators, Mr. Prashant and Ms. Chadani, organised by Vaav (Developing Socio-emotional wellbeing) at Brihaspati Vidyasadan School held on January 10 and 11, 2022. The workshop was attended by teachers of a few schools who mentored learners of different levels including teachers from SIS. The primary purpose of the workshop was to inculcate SEL in education along with an extensive discussion on how it impacts our personal life.

The highly motivated group of teachers had an in-depth discussion on ways to adapt wise minds to respond rather than react and not to make permanent decisions based on temporary emotions. Teachers were given sample questions and activity books that aided their understanding of Locus of Control, numerous cognitive distortions, and encouraged ruminating and learning from past decisions.

It was a highly enriching experience for our teachers who took back with them invaluable life lessons that would facilitate them in moving forward with fair verdicts in various situations.

## ► Six Big Insights from the Science of Learning

*'You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and by falling over.'*

– Richard Branson

Despite the challenges caused by the existing pandemic, Sanskriti International School has been providing various Professional Development sessions/workshops to its educators. On February 6, 2022, the educators of SIS had a great opportunity to learn, unlearn and relearn what they had been doing as teachers. An intuitive session by Mr. Umesh Shrestha proved to be a reflection and recalling forum for many. The primary idea was that what we attend, process and construct are what we learn at the end of the day. The whole PD session revolved around the six insights of learning:

Attention is the gateway to learning

We construct knowledge/meaning during the experience and reconstruct it during recall

Construction/Reconstruction of meaning is highly dependent on our prior knowledge

Our knowledge is organised in schemas- context/domain/hierarchy

Even when specifics or details are lost, the meaning remains

We can easily form false memories while learning.

In the end, the educators could understand that the idea of the session was to make sure that the learners are attending, processing, and constructing meaning around the learning objectives. What a great learning opportunity on the auspicious day of Saraswati Puja!



## ▶ Success Criteria

“The worst learning scenario is to be unaware of expectations or how your work will be judged and to have no guidelines about how to achieve the objective in the first place.”

- Shirley Clarke

On February 20, 2022, teachers of Elementary School received a refresher Professional Development session on Success Criteria by our School Principal, Ms. Timila Shrestha. Success Criteria is a pathway learners take to meet the learning intentions. It is a set of features that teachers want to see in a child’s work throughout a lesson. They are developed by teachers or learners and describe what success looks like.

The key takeaways:

When writing or developing success criteria, the points to be remembered are:

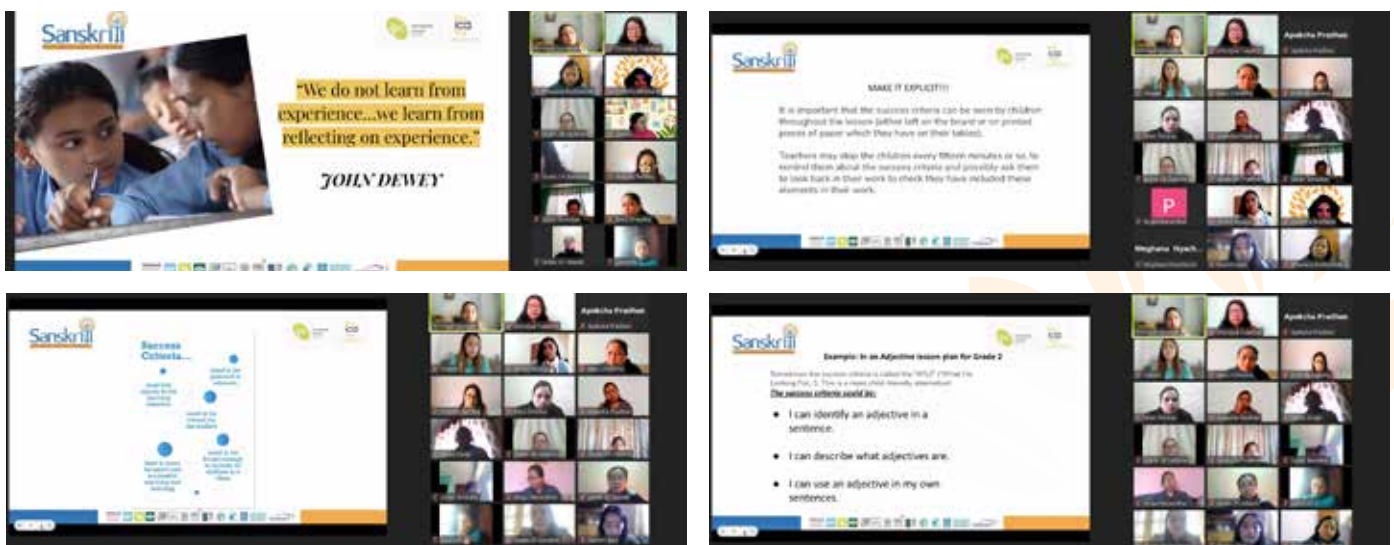
Learning Goals should refer to understanding, knowledge, skills, or application.

Success Criteria should be linked and aligned to the learning intentions.

Success Criteria should refer to a concrete learning performance—something students will say, do, make, or write to indicate they are moving towards the Learning Goal.

Success Criteria should be made explicit and needs to be owned by the learners.

This reflective PD session has allowed the teachers to explore and broaden their knowledge on Success Criteria. It has also helped them make judgments about the quality of student learning.



## TWD to Improve Learning - Primary combined article

### ▶ *'What Makes a Good Teacher Great?'*

As we look to facilitate the generation Z to generation Alpha, who will become our next leaders, inventors, and thinkers, we have to accept that we live in a globally interconnected world with cutting-edge technology and knowledge that flows from everywhere. We believe that until and unless the teacher—who is also a facilitator, a learning leader, a real hero in the classroom—is ready to unlearn and relearn, is clear, willing, and excited towards learning, they cannot bring in a meaningful learning environment in the classroom.

Effective professional development is key to refining the pedagogies required to teach the skills of developing mastery of challenging content, problem-solving, effective communication, and collaboration. It supports the complex skills teachers need to be prepared for further education and work in the 21st century. For the same purpose, on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, the teachers had a reflective session on 'What Makes a Good Teacher Great?' by Christina Tuladhar which covered several concepts to enhance our teaching-learning process. The session started with teachers sharing recent achievements they were proud of. The session mainly emphasised the qualities and skills that instructors require to become effective teachers. It was then followed by a quote, "A teacher loves to learn and inspire," by Azul Terrenoz, a Tedx speaker. The participants watched an informative video that discussed the responses of 20,000 learners. The video also focused on the speaker who shared his research on how to become an even better teacher. Considering the facts and our own experience, all the participating teachers worked collaboratively and came up with fantastic digital posters highlighting the skills of great instructors. At the end of the session, the teachers reflected on their journeys and made some action plans to enhance their expertise. Topics discussed included engaging classroom presence, valuing real-world learning, exchanging best practices, and encouraging a lifelong love of learning.



## ► “Maths in Real Life”

We have been using maths everywhere. Reflecting on our plans and activities was the motive of the session on Wednesday, January 26 by Deeksha Bhattarai. The session started with the question “What comes to our mind when we hear Maths in Real Life?” After the discussion, respective class teachers were divided into groups where reflection on our academic maths journey was done. Furthermore, planning was done on activities that could be implemented and come out as a product for the upcoming semester. As this is an ongoing process, sharing links, our ideas, and knowledge is still going on in the groups. Different strategies and activities are revised, updated, and conducted in our physical classes for better and deeper understanding.

## ► “Active Learning”

Without reflection, we go blindly on our way. It was a wonderful time to reflect on the teaching strategy to enhance the learning environment Thursday, January 27, 2022, by Trishna Rai and Pramila Tamang. The session was on “Active Learning” which offered all our teachers an opportunity to develop the knowledge and skill they need to address students’ learning needs. The session was focused on the four models of Active learning that could be implemented in the class to encourage maximum engagement of learners by thinking, discussing, investigating, and creating.

## ► “Why Social-Emotional Health Matters for Students”

It was an amazing experience of sharing the learning and teachers reflecting on their experiences on Friday, January 28 by Shreeti Khadka. The session began with mindfulness, followed by teachers sharing how they can make learners feel safe in the school environment using different methods. It was a session on why social-emotional health matters for students. This session emphasised how important a child's emotion is while the teachers are teaching them. It was focused on how teachers should know about the learner's behaviour which leads to an active learning process.

## ► Cultivating Reading Skills

“The more you read the more things you know. The more that you learn the more places you’ll go.”

-Dr. Seuss

Reading is fundamental in helping us find and convey information. It is a gateway to learning anything about everything. It helps you discover new things and educate yourself in any area of life you are interested in. You can find a book on just about any subject you can imagine, dive in and start learning. A book in its pure form is just words on a page, and our minds have to do the work, imagining the words coming to life. An amazing session was given on ‘Cultivate a Love of Reading’ on Sunday, January 30, by Jasmine KC. It started with mindfulness breathing exercises, beautiful quotes, book recommendations, and shared the favourite books of the teachers. The importance of developing a love for reading was discussed. The teachers watched an inspiring short video in Tedx by a young student ‘The Power of Reading by Luke Bakic-Pawlak which inspired all the teachers as well. The various strategies used in different grades and how we can improve and include various other strategies for reading was contemplated. A very interesting and effective model- The Readers’ Workshop Model by Lucy Calkins-Founder- Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University in New York was discussed. The teachers also went to various breakout rooms to discuss the various strategies used in their grades and presented their findings to everyone. And lastly, we recommended some tips on various ways to help the learners cultivate the love of reading. Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity for all of us to develop our skills in giving fruitful sessions to the teachers.

## ► Personalized Learning: Geared up for Group Work

On February 27, 2022, the secondary teachers at Sanskriti International School participated in a teacher training geared to discussing how group work can be made effective in the classroom. Led by Mr. Bishal Kumar Chhetri, the training was part of a series of Professional Development sessions (PDs) on personalised learning designed to optimise the teachers' facilitation and instruction skills. The training involved a presentation portion that outlined how collaboration and teamwork enhance teaching and learning for both the instructors and learners. Mr. Chhetri outlined the concepts and steps of the jigsaw classroom and spoke about the collaborative classroom practices of "think, pair, share" and "self-assessments and peer assessments."

The session also involved a practical portion in which teachers were broken up into three groups and were given a picture of a sport, such as hockey, volleyball, and basketball. All groups were asked to discuss how effectively, or ineffectively, the sports teams were performing in the images. The groups then shared their discussions and thoughts on how the sports analogy could be implemented in the classroom.

As was the case with prior training sessions organised by Mr. Chhetri on flipped classroom and project-based learning, this session was educational and informative. Teachers spent 2.5 hours on Sunday learning the theory behind collaboration and implementing it in action. This allowed the instructors to experience first-hand the many benefits of a collaborative work environment to ensure that learners become experts in their fields and better work with their peers in the days to come.



## ► Teaching Effective Writing

On February 27, 2022, ELA teachers from primary and secondary grades had a session with the Head of the Department of English, Ms. Shweta Malla, who elaborated on developing the reading and writing skills of our learners through exploration and research. She talked about how reading could be made a fun activity for different grades. For example, carefully focusing on the choice of books, making sure to work along with the learners, having book talks once a week, taking them for library visits to trickle down their genre of interest, helping them talk about the characters, and relating them to the environment around us.

She also spoke about ways to develop writing skills while focusing on the learners while doing so. For this, she suggested that the teachers pay attention to getting to know their learners individually so they are better able to understand where and how to input the knowledge for better output.

The participating teachers were also shown some handouts and a presentation on Teaching Effective Writing that was about writers' workshops, rubrics for different types of writing, and ideas that could be used in the class to enhance better writing techniques in the learners.

**THANK YOU**  
and hope you enjoyed reading!



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